MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 5, 2026
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Councilors Present:	Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony, Greg Abbe, Brian Beote, Kyle Murray, William Rose, Sharon Weber, Brooks Winner, Martijn Fleuren, Cindy Carroll, Margaret Song, Kate Peters, Steve Menges (for Amy Vavak), Kim Dragoo, Paul Johnson, Mary Wambui, Tim Costa, Meg Lusardi, Robert Rio, Audrey Hettinger, Emily Audet (for Alexis Washburn), Jillian Winterkorn
Councilors Absent:	Daniel Leary, Steven Miller, Tim Costa
Equity Working Group Members Present:	Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony, Jo Ann Bodemer, Brooks Winner, Kim Dragoo, Sonakshi Saxena, William Rose, Doug Quattrochi, Kyle Murray, Adrian Caesar, Mary Wambui, Charles Harak, James Collins, Cindy Carroll, Kyle Murray, Kate Peters, Margie Lynch, Margaret Song, Emily Audet (for Alexis Washburn)
Equity Working Group Members Absent:	Andrea Nyamekye
Consultants Present:	Adrian Caesar, Gretchen Calcagni, Griff Keating, Margie Lynch
DOER Staff Present:	Jo Ann Bodemer, Ina Dasso, Rachel Evans, Susannah Hatch

1. Call to Order

Bodemer, acting on behalf of the Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM.

Virtual Meeting Procedure
Bodemer reviewed the virtual EEAC meeting procedure:

1. The Council meeting will be recorded, for administrative purposes only.
2. All attendees except for Councilors and presenters will remain muted for the duration of the meeting.

3. Councilors should hold comments until the end of presentations, but Councilors and other participants should speak instead of using any chat function.
4. Councilors who disconnect from meetings need to announce when they rejoin.
5. All Council votes will be taken by roll call.

2. Council Business and Updates

Commissioner Mahony welcomed the Council and the Equity Working Group to the 2028-2030 Three-Year Plan Pre-workshop meeting and explained a high-level overview of the objectives for the meeting and the planning process. Commissioner Mahony said that the Council is building on the successes of the last plan and the last several years via the collaborative nature of the group.

Hatch introduced herself as the workshop facilitator and explained the timeline of the planning workshops and overall process for the 2028-2030 Plan, as well as the procedure and intended discussions to be had during the meeting.

Bob Rio joined the meeting virtually at 9:49 AM.

3. 2028-2030 Mass Save Three-Year Plan Guidelines

Council Discussion

James Collins joined the meeting in person at 10:10 AM.

Hettinger, Murray, Commissioner Mahony, and Rose shared out the primary themes that their small groups identified within the ideas that the Councilors proposed for executing each of the guiding principles.

Rio said that he agreed with prioritizing resistance heat given the significant benefits to consumers, noting that these types of prioritizations will need to be considered if the programs move forward with budget reductions.

Murray asked about the recommendation for considering full displacements versus partial displacements, stating that he is comfortable with this as long as there is some sort of guardrail that ensures customers use their systems as intended. Murray continued that worst case scenario would be that a customer uses their backup heating system all winter, and the programs subsidize heat pumps effectively as air conditioners. Murray said that the goal is to decarbonize heating and added that the different parties who engage in this work across the Commonwealth need to do a better job of collaborating and communicating, both across the programs and overall decarbonization efforts.

Commissioner Mahony said that heat pumps are more efficient than alternatives year-round, and the Council should not shy away from the summertime savings. Commissioner Mahony explained that heat pumps are more efficient in homes and commercial buildings than central AC or window AC units, and more people will want air conditioning to be comfortable and healthy

as summers continue to become hotter. Murray agreed that heat pumps provide energy savings in the summer, and he clarified that he wanted them to achieve their full potential by displacing fossil fuel heating systems.

Murray asked about the recommendation to move away from the turnkey model. Rose clarified that he questioned whether the extra effort that the turnkey model requires is worth the additional benefit. Commissioner Mahony agreed, stating that she is looking for opportunities to save money. Commissioner Mahony said that the turkey model is very dynamic in the Income Eligible sector, but it is not yet clear whether it is worth the cost in the Residential sector.

Winner proposed assessing how much money would be saved if quality assessments were only conducted on a subset of datapoints.

Bodemer stated that the Program Administrators (PAs) and the EEAC Consultants will gather these data points to provide to the Council to support informed decisions during planning.

Murray said that he was interested to hear about current and projected benefits and costs for Residential turnkey, noting that administrative costs typically decline overtime.

Fleuren said that areas of over and undersubscription should be considered in decisions around turnkey programs.

Peters clarified that Moderate-Income turnkey has rolled out statewide, and the PAs are planning further rollout in Market Rate later in the term. Peters said that these discussions are timely because they can inform the PAs' decisions in the remainder of the current term in addition to planning for the next term. Winner asked for a description of turnkey in additional programs. Peters replied that turnkey refers to a full-service delivery model where the customer is coordinating a full project with a single vendor, adding that it includes 100% incentives in the Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI) programs. Peters continued that the PAs are paying for all installed measures in LMI turnkey, so they have an elevated level of oversight that will not be present in the market rate version. Peters noted that there are customer decision points on pricing in Market Rate turnkey that have not yet been fully fleshed out.

Wambui suggested that the Council should discuss other ratepayer-funded programs such as the Non-Pipeline Alternatives Initiative, noting that they are all part of the equation in terms of lowering costs to ratepayers.

Hatch highlighted the themes across all four small group discussions, including improved data reporting, education, rightsizing benefits, targeted heat pump deployment, prioritizing weatherization, prioritizing affordability, improved transparency, and pooled delivery. Hatch continued that several groups mentioned broader coordination across other initiatives, time-of-use rates, advanced metering infrastructure rollouts, and how to best coordinate the decisions of the Council with external factors.

Winner said that affordability is a theme across all of the guiding principles, but the Council should not limit its planning based on legislative uncertainty. Winner said that he rejects the

framing that energy efficiency is the cause of high energy costs in Massachusetts, and the Council needs to promote the message that energy efficiency saves customers money and delivers real savings. Winner added that the Council should consider how much money is collected from ratepayers and whether those funds are fairly and equitably distributed to different customer groups, but he reiterated that the pending legislation should not stall Mass Save's momentum.

Murray agreed with Winner and said that energy efficiency is a readily available cost control tool in a time when renewable energy and oil prices are volatile, so the Council needs to keep pushing.

Commissioner Mahony said that what is going on in the legislature presents an opportunity to share the long-standing, demonstrated successes of the Mass Save programs in delivering affordability.

Bodemer encouraged the Councilors to share additional ideas they may think of after the meeting via email in the following weeks.

Johnson thanked Winner for his comments, adding that it is important to ensure that all ratepayers are confident they have been adequately informed about the benefits of the programs. Johnson said that customers need to feel that they have been treated fairly and the program is administered efficiently, noting that the programs will be easier to defend if ratepayers are proud of them.

4. Adjournment

Bodemer, on behalf of the Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.

Meeting Materials:

Commented [DI1]: Please add link to brainstorm outcomes https://ma-eeac.org/wp-content/uploads/5.5.26-Pre-Workshop-EEAC-EWG-Meeting-clean.pdf

- Official Meeting Notice
- Meeting Link
- Agenda
- Draft Guiding Principles
- Draft: EEAC 2028-2030 Planning Priorities and Identification of Planning Ideas