



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 1, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Executive Committee Members Present: Don Boecke, Amy Boyd, Emmett Lyne, Joseph Dorfler, Maggie McCarey, Elliott Jacobson

Other Attendees: Joana Abreu, Eric Belliveau, Maggie Downey, Adrian Caesar, Gretchen Calcagni, Audrey Eidelman, Rachel Evans, Jonathan Goldberg, Jerrold Oppenheim, Emily Powers, Paul Johnson, Frank Gundal

1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

2. Executive Committee Updates and Business

McCarey provided an overview of changes in meeting practices related to the Governor's Executive Order that modified the Open Meeting Law. Evans said Executive Committee and Council meetings will be conducted virtually, with a roll call being taken at the start of each meeting. To capture votes, roll calls will also be taken as opposed to asking which Councilors are in favor or opposed. Lastly, Councilors who disconnect from meetings for any reason will need to email Emily Powers at ma-eeac@mass.gov to document it.

3. Mass Save Program Update – Implementation efforts during COVID-19

Lyne described key efforts to continue program implementation, build a pipeline of post-COVID-19 projects, and work around other limitations caused by COVID-19. These efforts included a mitigation working group consisting of numerous stakeholder representatives, vendor resources portal on the Mass Save website, acceleration of payments to contractors, enhanced training and workforce development opportunities, virtual home energy assessments, and consideration of measures whose installations pose no health threats to customers or contractors. Lyne clarified that not all of the strategies have been implemented, and there is still much collaboration between the program administrators (PA's), Consultant Team (C-Team),

Department of Energy Resources (DOER), Low-Income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN) and contractor community. He added that other jurisdictions will likely adopt similar strategies to Massachusetts as the Commonwealth is a leader in energy efficiency.

Boyd asked if the COVID-related changes would lead to a mid-term modification or adjustment of savings goals. Lyne said he had not heard any explicit mention of a mid-term modification, but believed it may be a future consideration. As it related to savings goals, Lyne hoped the pipeline of projects and efforts to work around COVID-19 will keep programs on track to meet savings targets.

Jacobson expressed concern about the potential misallocation of federal funds; when the funds become accessible during the coming weeks, he feared PA's may not be prepared to allocate them effectively. Jacobson recommended there be a plan in place to ensure the federal relief funding is applied to the appropriate areas.

Johnson commented that the implementation strategies were creative and asked if they could be posted publicly. Belliveau indicated the C-Team and other stakeholders have been developing a matrix of ideas, and Lyne added the PA's would be receptive of any ideas from Councilors.

Johnson provided strategic insights from the contractor community. He suggested that many contractors will have difficulty resuming business after COVID-related restrictions are lifted, so startup loans should be considered. He also appreciated the workforce development efforts, and recommended they have training particularly for furnaces and boilers. Gundal indicated that grants will be provided by the federal government that would help vendors recover. Boecke said using ratepayer money to finance contractor businesses would not be a prudent use of their funds. Lyne added that all private, state and federal grants accessible to contractors will be shared in the vendor resources portal. In addition, Lyne said the PA's are working on a branded webinar for the contractor community that will focus on the Cares Act and all other worker relief efforts. McCarey commented that feedback should be obtained from contractors to determine whether the government funding is sufficient, after which they might discuss other sources of funding.

Gundal disconnected from the meeting at 10:52AM.

4. Consultant Team Quarterly Priorities

Review of Q1 Quarterly Report and Q2 Priorities

Belliveau and Calcagni reviewed the Q1 Quarterly Report, which focused on Daily Dispatch, Columbia Gas efforts in Greater Lawrence, potential study RFP review, and strategic planning for the future. They also listed the Q2 priorities, which have shifted to include continued implementation and assessment of programs while maintaining public safety. Belliveau indicated the C-Team will track all deliverables and progress related to COVID-19 impact mitigation strategies, Cape Light Compact's Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering (CVEO), the Avoided Energy Supply Cost (AESC) 2021 study, the MMBtu Report, and other topics.

Johnson asked if there is a report available on the Residential program redesign. Belliveau indicated that the C-Team have been collaborating with the PA's, but a report is not yet available. Downey noted that COVID-19 has actually accelerated some strategies, such as virtual audits. Johnson also asked if the workforce development study was available. Calcagni answered that the study was posted on the Council website under the Studies section.

Joana Abreu joined the meeting at 11:08 AM.

Q2 Priorities Discussion

5. EEAC Temporary Virtual Meeting Procedures

McCarey clarified that the April 1st webinar on the Non-Participant Study would not be a formal meeting, so discussion of the results would be postponed until the April 15th Council meeting. Powers stated that the full set of virtual meeting procedures would be sent out to all Councilors prior to the next Council meeting.

6. April EEAC Meeting – Agenda Finalization

McCarey listed the agenda items for the April 15th Council meeting, which included a 2020 Council Priorities review and vote, review and vote on Cape Light's CVEO, Non-Participant Study Results presentation and discussion, update on behavior programs, and a COVID-19 impact on Mass Save presentation. She also asked whether the 2020 Council Priorities should be voted on or adjusted to address COVID-19.

Boyd questioned whether they should modify the Council Priorities since they would have been approved before, but also saw the need to incorporate COVID-19 into the Priorities somehow. McCarey said they could add COVID-19 impact mitigation efforts into the Priorities. Downey noted that CLC would prepare a very brief presentation on the finalized CVEO Resolution for the Council vote. Eidelman added that Austin Brandt sent out the most updated CVEO resolution already.

7. May EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda Topics

McCarey discussed potential agenda items for the Council's May meeting, including a performance incentive presentation, Non-Residential New Construction redesign, C&I implementation update, Q1 Report, and 2019 Year-End results. Jacobson asked if the June Council meeting would still be focused on low-income, and McCarey confirmed that it is still planned to be low-income focused.

8. Adjournment

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 11:25 AM.