



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 3, 2019
100 Cambridge St, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Executive Committee Members Present: Don Boecke, Amy Boyd, Jodi Hanover (for Emmett Lyne), Elliott Jacobson, Judith Judson, Rick Malmstrom

Other Attendees: Eric Belliveau (via phone), JoAnn Bodemer, Maggie Downey, Rachel Evans, Frank Gundal, Charlie Harak, Craig Johnson, Maggie McCarey, Jerrold Oppenheim, Emily Powers

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:37 PM.

2. Council and Executive Committee Surveys

Powers reviewed the surveys that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) had drafted for the Council and the Executive Committee. She noted that the Council survey was broken up into three sections which included Council meeting logistics, the Council's website, and the Council's consulting services.

Malmstrom asked if there was a reason they used a one to five scale on some questions but not for others. Powers indicated that there was not a reason for that and suggested they could update the survey to be consistent.

Hanover noted that the Program Administrators' (PAs) quarterly reports, which were referenced in the surveys, would be different than what the Council had received in previous years. She suggested that DOER may want to hold off passing the surveys out until after the first quarter report was released.

Malmstrom asked what was meant by "councilor briefings" in the section about the Council's consulting services. McCarey indicated that they were meant to be the one-on-one phone calls

that the consulting team often has with Councilors. Harak asked that that be made explicit on the survey to avoid any confusion.

Harak suggested that the survey include a question box that asks respondents to indicate how they see the role of the Council.

Boyd asked what the expected outcome of the surveys would be. McCarey noted that DOER would use the surveys to better coordinate and run meetings. She added that it would also help in the development of request for proposals for the Council's consulting team.

Malmstrom asked how the surveys would be distributed and whether they would go out to all Councilors or just voting members. McCarey indicated that they would be delivered electronically and that they would be delivered to all Councilors.

3. May Meeting Topics

Commissioner Judson began by noting that the May meeting would be focused on updates in the low-income sector. She added that potential topics included results from the moderate-income demonstrations being run by LEAN, expected changes to the low-income programs for the upcoming three years compared to the previous three years, and an update on new measure offerings, including WiFi thermostats, for low-income customers.

Jacobson asked what the expectations were for LEAN in terms of amount of time presenting materials. McCarey indicated that the agenda and timing is still being assembled and that she would update him as soon as she knew more.

McCarey referenced the moderate-income demonstration results and asked if the PA's and LEAN could present something on how the demonstration results would be used to better serve that customer group. Oppenheim indicated that LEAN and the PAs have been in talks about that and have not yet come to any clear conclusions. McCarey asked that they at least report on what the discussions have included.

McCarey noted that next week's Council meeting would include a presentation on the low-income process evaluation and added that that would be a good primer for the May meeting.

4. Cape Light Compact and Eversource Negotiations Update

Commissioner Judson noted that the Cape Light Compact (CLC) and Eversource are in the process of negotiating an agreement about the CLC's active demand programs. She noted that if the two parties are not able to come to an agreement then the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) has directed the Council to provide a recommendation. She indicated that the best outcome would involve the two parties coming to an agreement and asked the parties to give an update on the status of the negotiations.

Bodemer began by reviewing the details of the issue that has necessitated the negotiations. She noted that Eversource had intervened in the CLC's Three-Year Plan as the electric distribution company that services Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. She added that their intervention did

not support witnesses, contained no discovery, and had no cross examination. She did note, however, that it included a reply brief that raised the issue that the CLC's proposed battery storage proposal could cause safety and reliability issues on Cape Cod and that as the distribution company, Eversource would be responsible for those issues should they occur. Bodemer noted that the DPU directed the CLC and Eversource to work together to mitigate those concerns so that CLC could administer their demand response programs. She went on to note that the CLC filed a motion for clarification and reconsideration with respect to its direct load control program, which had been running successfully and without issues for a couple of years. Bodemer noted that the CLC requested that the DPU allow them to continue that offering while the details around the battery storage proposal were being negotiated. She added that the motion for reconsideration is still pending.

Downey noted that following the DPU's ruling, Eversource had sent a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) to the CLC regarding the active demand response program and that the two parties went back and forth on it until they met on March 27, 2019. Downey indicated that at that meeting, both parties agreed to set the MOU aside while attempting to resolve a couple central issues. She noted that the two parties began discussing whether a shared or common vendor for the CLC's programs could be used and if CLC could adopt Eversource's dispatch plan. If that were to be the case, then the two parties might be able to come to agreement on the main issues in the negotiations. Downey noted that the CLC asked Eversource if their direct load control efforts could be removed from the conversation given that that program has run without issues for a couple of years. She noted that the CLC has not heard back from Eversource on that request. Downey also noted that the CLC requested that Eversource provide a draft of their dispatch plan to see if it is something that they could agree upon. She noted that the CLC has also not heard back on that request from Eversource. Downey concluded by noting that overall the two parties had a good meeting and that they just need to move through the next steps. Gundal, on behalf of Eversource, agreed with Downey's articulation of the negotiations so far.

Boyd asked if the CLC would be able to run programs in 2019 if the direct load control piece were to be pulled out of the negotiation. Downey indicated that if Eversource agrees to the CLC's proposal on that point then they could run their direct load control program in 2019 if the two parties notify the DPU of an agreement.

McCarey asked what the CLC's timing was for starting their program. Downey indicated that they would typically notify enrolled customers by June. McCarey asked if the CLC's proposal to Eversource was for just the direct load control customers or new ones too. Downey indicated that it would probably just be existing customers given that it would be unlikely for them to be able to enroll more customers at this point.

Boecke asked if the disagreement on the battery storage dispatch was caused by who would get to call the event. Downey indicated that it is more complicated than that which is why the CLC has requested to see Eversource's dispatch plan.

Boyd asked if using a common vendor and Eversource's dispatch plan, as proposed by the CLC, would be sufficient enough to allow the CLC to run their battery storage offering. Gundal

indicated that the engineers responsible for determining the answer to that question are looking into it.

McCarey noted that it is in the best interest of all parties, including the Council, for this issue to be resolved as soon as possible. Bodemer agreed and added that if there exists a non-starter issue that the two parties have identified, then there is no need to wait until the September deadline to make that announcement.

Boyd asked when Eversource would provide details on the parameters of the safety and reliability issues caused by the CLC's battery storage offering. Gundal indicated that it is already detailed in the DPU filing. Bodemer disagreed and noted that Eversource's statement indicated that it could impact safety and reliability, but that they had not yet defined what those issues are. Commissioner Judson, Harak, and Boyd all agreed that Eversource needs to define the potential safety and reliability issues.

Commissioner Judson noted that the ideal outcome is that Eversource and the CLC come to an agreement in their negotiations. She added that she did not feel it was the Council's place to be making recommendations about the PA's systems, but that they would follow the DPU's order and do so if necessary. She asked that Eversource and CLC keep ratepayers and end users in mind as they continue with their negotiations. Commissioner Judson concluded by noting that she expected the two parties to provide another update at the May Executive Committee meeting.

5. April Council Meeting Agenda

McCarey reviewed the agenda for the April Council meeting. She noted that it would be mostly focused on evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V). She added that there would be an optional brownbag pre-meeting on EM&V for any Councilors who were interested beginning at 12pm.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, adjourned the Executive Committee at 3:29 PM.