



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 6, 2019
100 Cambridge St, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

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

Other Attendees: Eric Belliveau, Maggie Downey, Audrey Eidelman, Rachel Evans, Frank Gundal, Jodi Hanover, Craig Johnson, Jerrold Oppenheim, Emily Powers

1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

2. Council Resolution Planning

McCarey noted that there were several potential resolutions coming up over the next few months for the Council. For each proposed resolution the Executive Committee reviewed the topic area, timing and who would be responsible for drafting the document.

2019/2020 Council Priorities

McCarey noted that the goal was to have a draft of the 2020 Priorities completed in time for the Executive Committee to review at its December meeting. She added that edits to the Priorities would be made based on feedback in December with the goal of having the Council vote to approve them in January. McCarey added that she was thinking of the Priorities as a resolution that looks backward on the status of the 2019 Priorities and forward for 2020. McCarey added that the Council and the Department of Energy Resource (DOER) would be responsible for drafting the resolution.

Daily Dispatch

McCarey noted that the Program Administrators (PAs) would be delivering an initial presentation at the November Council meeting and that the resolution would be drafted in December and reviewed by the Executive Committee at its January meeting. She added that the feedback would be incorporated in January with the goal of having the Council vote to approve

the resolution in February. McCarey noted that the PAs would be responsible for drafting the resolution.

Cape Light Compact Cape & Vineyard Electrification

McCarey noted that the Executive Committee would be receiving a presentation from the Cape Light Compact (CLC) later in the meeting. She noted that the resolution would be completed in time for the Executive Committee to review at its December meeting with the goal of having the Council vote on the resolution at its December meeting. McCarey added that the CLC would be responsible for drafting the resolution.

Council/Consultant Role

McCarey noted that as a result of the Councilor surveys, DOER has engaged in a process to reassess the role of the Executive Committee, the Council, and its consultants. She noted that the plan was to discuss this resolution at the Executive Committee’s January meeting and vote on it at the Council’s February meeting. She added that she felt that this resolution could get pushed back to March give the number of other time sensitive resolutions. McCarey noted that the Council and DOER would be responsible for drafting the resolution.

2016-2018 Term Results

McCarey noted that the goal was to have a resolution drafted in December, with discussion occurring at the January Executive Committee meeting and a vote occurring in February. She added that the Council and DOER would be responsible for drafting the resolution.

Boecke asked what the Council typically does for this resolution. McCarey indicated that it can be a supportive document and that it can be used by the Council to weigh in on any results that it might not agree with or raise concerns about. Boecke indicated that he thinks the Council would need to have a presentation from the consultant team in order to develop a resolution.

Department of Public Utilities Budget Request

McCarey indicated that DOER would begin drafting a resolution on the Council’s budget request soon. She added that the goal would be to have a vote in January or February. McCarey indicated that DOER and the consultant team would primarily be responsible for drafting the resolution, but that Executive Committee members should feel welcome to participate if they wished.

3. Cape Light Compact Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering Overview

Downey, on behalf of the CLC, gave a presentation to the Executive Committee on its proposed Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering (CVEO). Downey began with a snapshot of solar installations on the Cape and Vineyard and the original motivation for the CVEO offering, which includes solar, battery storage, and electrification. Downey then reviewed the DPU’s initial ruling to not approve its CVEO offering in the 2019-2021 Plan and the changes made since then. Downey then gave a summary of the new proposed offering, including its objectives, potential average bill impacts for customers, third-party ownership design considerations, and funding sources. Downey concluded by discussing the CLC’s next steps.

Downey indicated that she hoped to present again at the December Executive Committee when she would have more information on benefit cost ratios, bill impacts, and policy direction. She added that she wanted to make sure that the model would have the support of the Council, and specifically the Attorney General's Office, before bringing it to the DPU. Contrary to what was discussed in the Council Resolution Planning section, Downey requested that CLC present on CVEO in December and vote on a resolution in January.

Belliveau asked if all the solar installed would be roof mounted. Downey indicated that it would be. Belliveau asked if the third-party ownership design was similar to Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE). Downey indicated that it was similar, but that it was rate-based, not tax-based. Belliveau asked how CLC would treat battery storage lifetimes. Downey indicated that CLC would replace battery storage units when they reach the end of their useful life.

Malmstrom asked if there would be a single third-party owner or if each installation would be able to pick from a list of potential third-party owners. Downey indicated that they had not yet determined that, but that it would depend on the number of responses they receive.

Jacobson asked if CLC had any considerations for the long-term effects of the plan. He questioned whether it would be appropriate to change expectations for customers once expectations are set. Downey indicated that the types of technologies they were exploring are well developed and established. She indicated that her biggest concern for the future of the offering would be about the maintenance of the technologies, more than the technologies themselves. She added that they planned to build those potential costs into their plan.

Boyd indicated that she was excited to hear about the CLC's CVEO offering and added that she felt that that type of offering was exactly what the PAs should be striving to do under the new amendments to the Green Communities Act. She asked who would be responsible for the potential need to upgrade electrical panels. Downey indicated that she believed that potential panel upgrade costs were included in their offering but was not sure what the costs were.

McCarey indicated that DOER was still in the process of reviewing the information. She suggested that her primary concern that the program would be paid for using energy efficiency dollars was largely addressed. She expressed appreciation for the work that the CLC did to leverage other funding opportunities in order to minimize the use of the energy efficiency dollars. McCarey asked if the offering would impact CLC's active demand program agreement with Eversource. Downey indicated that she believed it would. Gundal indicated that he would have Michael Goldman and Eversource's manager of interconnection review the offering to ensure that there would be no issues.

4. November EEAC Meeting Agenda

McCarey reviewed the agenda for the November Council meeting. She noted that as a result of discussion earlier in the meeting that CLC's CVEO update would be removed from the agenda. The remainder of the agenda included updates from the PAs on its active demand reduction efforts, a presentation from the PAs on new program enhancements not included in the 2019-2021 Plan, and a review and discussion on Council priorities.

Active Demand Reduction

McCarey noted that she felt that two minutes for updates on the winter plan did not feel like enough time. Lyne indicated that the PAs were trying to fit everything in the time slot they had and that they could probably expand time spent on the winter plan if needed. McCarey suggested that they could add some time to the time slot to accommodate that.

New Program Enhancements not in 2019-2021 Plan

Lyne reviewed the PA's draft presentation outline. He noted that the presentation would include a review of the process by which new measures are considered as well as a review of new technologies and enhancements. He added that the second half of the presentation would include information on enhancements that are already being implemented or in the process of being implemented, enhancements that have been reviewed but that do not currently screen as cost-effective, and enhancements that the PAs are contemplating.

McCarey asked if the new measures process would be geared towards traditional energy efficiency measures or if it would include things beyond that. Lyne indicated that it would include things that are truly new to the programs. He added that they are looking for new measures that go beyond what would be considered traditional energy efficiency. Belliveau asked if it would go beyond measures to include programs or approaches. Lyne indicated that the PAs were not currently planning on doing any new programs, but that it could include discussions on suggestions coming out of the unsolicited proposal process.

McCarey noted that the outline appeared to be heavily focused on the residential sector. She asked if there would be any discussion on the commercial and industrial (C&I) sector. Lyne indicated that the PAs were looking for areas to include discussion on C&I.

McCarey asked if any of the PAs that work in other states could speak about what is being done there. She noted that she did not want too much of the presentation to be focused on things the PAs are already doing. Gundal noted that one of the challenges is that Eversource in Connecticut and New Hampshire are catching up to Massachusetts. Lyne indicated that he would follow up with the National Grid team to see if they can bring anything from New York to the table. McCarey indicated that she wants to hear some new and innovative ideas, even if they are not completely fleshed out yet. Boyd agreed. Lyne noted that the focus of the presentation would be on the new things that the PAs are planning to implement during the 2019-2021 Plan that they were not presented as part of the Plan itself.

Council Priorities

McCarey noted that DOER has worked with the consultant team to review the 2019 Council priorities and assign them a ranking based on what level of completion they have achieved. She added that the presentation and discussion would then shift to what priorities the Council would like to set for 2020.

McCarey also noted that some of the 2019 priorities were hard to assess and suggested that the 2020 priorities might need to be more concrete so that they can be assessed more easily.

5. December EEAC Meeting Agenda

McCarey reviewed the list of potential agenda items for the Council's December meeting. The agenda topics included an update from the PAs on their third quarter key performance indicator report, an update on enhanced efforts in the Greater Lawrence area, a preliminary year-end forecast, a presentation from the consultant team on lessons learned from the planning process, and a discussion on 2019-2020 Council priorities. McCarey noted that the meeting was originally scheduled to have a vote on the CLC's CVEO but that that would be moved to early in 2020. She added that CLC would still give an update presentation on the CVEO.

Lyne indicated that the PAs had a request earlier in the year to present on the C&I tool. McCarey suggested that that could happen early in 2020. Lyne also noted that the PAs would like to do a lunch and learn early in 2020 on data and benefit cost models.

6. Executive Session

Evans noted that the Executive Committee needed to enter into an executive session in order to have a preliminary screening of responses to the consultant team request for proposals. She added that voting members of the Executive Committee would need to vote to enter into the executive session at which time all non-voting members in attendance would be asked to leave.

Boyd, Boecke, Jacobson, Malmstrom, and McCarey as voting members of the Executive Committee voted to enter into an executive session. McCarey noted that they Executive Committee meeting would not re-open to the public at the end of the meeting.

7. Adjournment

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the public portion of the Executive Committee at 11:30 AM.

The Executive Committee entered into an executive session at 11:34 am.