

Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
Tuesday, December 10^h, 2013

Councilors Present:

Voting	Present (designee)	Non-Voting	Present (designee)
Nancy Seidman	X	Elizabeth Cellucci	X
Martha Coakley	Matthew Saunders	James Carey	Trish Walker
Penn Loh	X	Tilak Subrahmanian	X
Mark Sylvia	Tina Halfpenny	Michael Ferrante	
Debra Hall	X	Maggie Downey	X
Charles Harak		Cindy L. Carroll	X
Elliot Jacobson	X	John Ghiloni	
Christina Dietrich	X	Paul Gromer	
Robert Rio	X	Andrew Newman	X
Deirdre Manning	X	Michael Sommer	Robert Gyurjan
Brian Swett	Brad Swing	Carol White	X
Michael McDonagh	X	Eric Winkler	X
Paul Johnson	X		
Larry Chretien	X		

DOER: Steve Venezia

Consultants: Eric Belliveau, Jeff Schlegel, Sam Huntington

Present:

Frank Gundal	Matt Nelson	Monica Cohen	Emmett Lyne
Natalie Treat	Jeff Leupold	Cara Mottola	Lyn Huckabee
Jeremy Shenk	JoAnn Bodemer	Lynn Westerlind	Jim Stapleton
Lisa Cascio	Josh Kessler	Jayden Wilson	Clayton Hale
Kim Dragoo	Barry Perlmutter	Shaela Collins	James Carey
Manny Gonzalez	Tony Barnes	Lawrence Masland	Aimee Powelka
Patricia Coleman	Sharon Weber	Cindy Chen	Staci Rubin
Amy Vavak	Mike Davis	Marie Abdou	Beth Lonergan
Elizabeth Terry	Ian Finlayson	Alex Pollard	

Note: the councilor sign-in sheet was never returned

Halfpenny called the meeting to order at 1:10pm and welcomed everybody.

Public Comment

Amy Vavak, of MassEnergy, read a prepared comment where she expressed her organization's support for the statewide database, highlighting the value of having different levels of access. She described the value of including data by zip code, and suggested that it could be done in a way that accommodated privacy concerns. She also bemoaned the anticipated failure to reach C&I savings goals, adding that MassEnergy was particularly concerned about small businesses and non-profits. She offered to assist the PAs in any way possible on behalf of her coalition.

General Updates

Halfpenny noted that the day's agenda would be slightly different from other meetings in that the council would spend more time engaged in dialogue on potential improvements to council planning and work processes, and less on specific topic presentations.

November 12th EEAC meeting minutes

Swing noted a correction in the minutes regarding his comments on the Partners Healthcare presentation. Saunders motioned to approve and Swing seconded the motion. All were in favor. No one objected or abstained, though Harak was absent. The minutes were approved as amended.

<At this point the consultants were asked to leave the room as the council discussed procurement>

Statewide Database Update

Finlayson updated the council on the progress of the statewide database working group. He explained that broad agreement had been reached on the design approach, but that many details still needed to be sorted out. Key design elements of the database included the separation of public and private data, and the link between PA data and the TRM. He noted that a preliminary design concept would soon be circulated by the database consultants, while a draft specification would be delivered on January 13th, with a final meeting set for February 4th.

Finlayson explained that the PAs' chief concern was the initial level of effort needed to get data into the database. Lyne confirmed that the PAs were still working on providing comments. Subrahmanian raised the issue of governance – who would house the data and be liable if there was a data breach? Finlayson responded that the PAs would likely house the data. Johnson asked when the database would be operational. Halfpenny said some modules would be ready before others, and that the whole effort should be completed by 2015. Belliveau reminded the council not to confuse the database with the underlying data, noting that the information they wanted could be gathered independent of the database.

DOER Updates

Halfpenny introduced Alex Pollard, a new employee of the DOER. She highlighted his background in energy efficiency and commercial real estate.

EM&V Strategic Plan Update

Westerlind delivered a brief update on the EM&V strategic plan, noting that all the comments she had received from councilors would be addressed in due course. Key updates included the lengthening of the planning horizon, and the new channels the EMC was exploring for communicating evaluation results to the council.

Johnson asked a series of questions about the purpose of evaluation. Westerlind responded by noting that many of his concerns were incorporated into their planning efforts, while others were outside of their scope. Subrahmanian added that an important aspect of evaluation was to ask questions in an unbiased way, and that many of Johnson's questions were inherently biased.

Year End Review

Nelson and Abdou presented the year-to-date data dashboard through October 31st. Annual MWh were at 49% of goal, roughly the same as the previous year. Annual MMBtus were also tracking roughly the same as the previous year. Annual MWh were projected to reach 80-89% of goal, while annual MMBtus were projected to reach 86-93% of goal. Nelson noted that spending was tracking closer to savings than in previous years, which he attributed to better planning.

Rio asked if the programs were encountering a ‘fatigue factor’ – if businesses seemed less interested in energy efficiency than previous years. Gundal responded that customers were generally committing to similar levels of investment, but that the associated projects were expected to yield fewer saving than previous years.

Halfpenny raised the issue of forecasting, commenting that it could be useful to see projections earlier in the year. A discussion ensued between the PAs and council members on the merits and limitations of forecasting. The PAs offered multiple examples of how forecasting could be unreliable, while councilors expressed their desire for better and earlier year-end projections.

Halfpenny asked each PA to comment on their year-end results. Representatives from each PA reported where they expected to end the year relative to goal, and described a few select program highlights. Asked to respond to the PAs’ explanations for missing goal, Belliveau commented that projects ‘slipping’ into January was an insufficient explanation since the PAs presumably counted projects that had slipped from previous years. Schlegel added that falling to reach goal while also leaving money unspent was problematic.

Halfpenny asked the councilors to think about how the council could use the data they get to act as a more effective body; how could they gain confidence that there are strategies under development or being deployed that would deliver higher savings and address various market issues.

2014 Planning

Halfpenny distributed a memo on strategic planning items and council priorities. She asked the councilors to comment on the degree to which those priorities were being achieved. Multiple councilors commented on the difficulty of tracking the stated priorities and the need for a more systematic reporting structure. Halfpenny suggested the idea of council subcommittees to monitor particular priorities. She described how subcommittees could be an effective way to process and distill the large volume of information related to each topic. Winkler commented that the council currently operates in a very reactive manner, and that the subcommittees could add value by creating more transparency. He described the system used by the NE-ISO that allows for prescriptive tracking and reporting on specific issues, and suggested that a similar system could be of use to the council. Loh cautioned that different priorities might require different systems, and recommended that the council start by investigating a few high-priority issues. Halfpenny directed the councilors to send her their top three priorities by the following Monday.

Adjournment

Halfpenny adjourned the meeting at 4:14pm.