Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Councilors Present:

Voting	**Present (designee)**	**Non-Voting**	**Present (designee)**
James Colman	Sharon Weber	Derek Buchler	X
Martha Coakley	Danielle Rathbun	James Carey	Patricia Walker
Penn Loh	X	Penni Conner	X
Mark Sylvia	Tina Halfpenny	Alisha Frazee	
Debra Hall	X	Kevin Galligan	X
Charles Harak	X	George Gantz	X
Elliot Jacobson	X	John Ghiloni	
Jeremy McDiarmid	X	Paul Gromer	X
Rick Mattila	X	Andrew Newman	X
Robert Rio	X	Richard Oswald	X
Deirdre Manning	X	Michael Sommer	X
		Carol White	X

DOER: Tina Halfpenny, Steve Venezia
Consultants: Jeff Schlegel, Eric Belliveau, John Livermore

Present:

John Carlton-Foss	Jack Habib	Don Wells
Lisa Shea	Natalie Hildt	Jenn Kalley
Jeff Leupold	Darlene Lombos	Ben Spruill
Erin Malone	Danah Tench	Jeremy Newberger
Meera Reynolds	Bob Ruddock	Robert Coates Jr.
Lyn Huckabee	Mark Siegal	Tilak Subrahmanian
Alissa Whiteman	Li Mei Dong	John Ballam
Marie Harb	Jerry Oppenheim	Adin Maynard
Crystal Beauregard	Shaela Collins	David Minasian
Joe Walsh	Andy Mina	Monica Ibrahim
Sam Nutter	Katie O'Rourke	Emmett Lyne

I. General Updates

Halfpenny commenced the meeting at 2:03pm. She noted that the Council report to the legislature will be out shortly after Governor's office approval, and that there are a lot of successes to be proud of. She reminded Councilors that the Council consultant contract will be put out to bid in September. Venezia commented on the MTM process, noting that DPU will hold a conference call to decide on timing on the briefing. He noted that all have worked hard to get a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the PAs, and that the DPU has decided not to have hearings, which is a positive outcome.

II. Proposed Council and PA Schedule

Halfpenny distributed the proposed schedule, explaining that the annual report is going to DPU on August 15th, and that the 2012 MTMs are due at DPU on October 30th. She reminded the Council of the 45 evaluation studies currently in the field, and the EM&V presentation by Ralph Prahl a few months ago. Halfpenny distributed an inventory of the EM&V studies and noted that a summary of the studies will be provided by the consultants at the July meeting. Schlegel noted that a significant wave of new studies are in planning now.

III. Blackstone Gas 2011 Mid-Term Modification (MTM)

Newman presented a 2011 MTM on behalf of Blackstone Gas, explaining that the utility has a very small budget for GasNetworks, and would like to increase their budget from $27k to $57k. He also asked to increase the low income budget from $4k to $8k due to high demand for program services. Newman noted that he had submitted a letter to the DPU and EEAC in January, but that it has taken three months to get on the Council agenda due to other priorities. Schlegel said the consultants reviewed the MTM request and recommend approval of the draft resolution. Motion to vote by McDiarmid, seconded by Rathbun. Approved, with one abstention, the AG.

IV. Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Strategies and Progress to Date

Halfpenny reminded the Council that energy savings from the C&I sector is vital to achieving overall goals. Siegal presented a set of slides outlining the C&I program strategies for getting deeper savings. He noted the guiding principles the PAs are using to achieve the savings goals: gas and electric integration, consistent statewide programs, going broader, CHP, financing, going deeper. Siegal also discussed the additional strategies being employed, including: strategic energy management plans, upstream incentives, and codes & standards – adoption and enforcement/training. He emphasized the gas and electric PA philosophy of no missed opportunities with customers. Siegal and others noted the challenges of getting business to participate in EE programs in the current economic climate, including: many companies are struggling and are worried about staying in business; and decision makers in large companies can be located oversees. Belliveau mentioned preliminary results of the two major C&I EM&V studies that will be used to inform MTM planning, and noted that the slight reduction in savings will not have a significant impact on 2012 planning.

V. Hard to Reach Customers

Haggerty presented a set of slides updating the Council on the results of the Hard-to-reach/Hard-to-serve charette that took place on May 17-18. She explained that the objective was to generate conceptual program ideas to address HTR/HTS customers. Haggerty noted that multiple barriers often occur simultaneously, e.g. cultural, language, rentals, pre-weatherization, etc. She presented a list of potential solutions and explained that the costs must be weighed against potential benefits. Haggerty noted that the report from the charette will be ready soon and will be shared with the Council. Loh acknowledged the efforts of Haggerty and Conner, and suggested that there are some issues we might want to study in greater detail, including pre-weatherization and non-energy benefits. Haggerty noted that a major next step is to develop a HEAT loan expansion proposal for addressing pre-weatherization issues.

VI. Cost-Effectiveness, the Total Resource Cost (TRC) Test, and Avoided Costs
Schlegel presented a set of slides following up on the TRC test presentation from the May meeting, and updating on avoided costs that are used. He explained that the regional avoided cost study is done every two years. Schlegel noted that there is about a 5% reduction in overall avoided costs over the last electric study, and that the natural gas avoided costs are down about 30% from the last study. He explained that this is informational only and that no action is recommended at this time.

VII. Home Energy Services Implementation and Contractor Issues
Halfpenny gave a brief history of the formation of the Residential Steering Committee and the process over the past year to reinvent the HES program to be more inclusive of contractors and to better serve customers. She acknowledged that there is some pain associated with the transition to the new market model, and praised the formation of the new Best Practices group to improve bilateral communications between the PAs and contractors. Halfpenny asked the Councilors to approve posting the recent consultant report on HES set pricing to the EEAC website. Motion by McDiarmid, seconded by Rathbun. Unanimous approval. The EEAC acknowledged and accepted the consultant report, and directed the consultants to post the report on the EEAC website to make it available to the public.

Sommer briefly discussed the Residential Management Committee (RMC), the senior management group that will replace the RSC, and will have oversight responsibilities for all of the residential working groups. He clarified that the Best Practices group will report directly to the HES working group.

Kearney talked about the formation of the Best Practices working group and noted that it will be chaired by Paul Gromer and will include representatives chosen by the contractor community. He noted that the first Best Practices meeting would be a webinar on June 30th and that it will be an open forum for contractors to provide feedback and ideas in real time. Halfpenny asked that the regular Best Practices meetings be expedited, and that the group address the issues brought by contractors to the EEAC. Rathbun asked that the AG be included in the Best Practices group. Gromer expressed delight that the PAs are taking this step to formalize communications with contractors.

VIII. Public Comment
Halfpenny informed the Council that there would be 10 minutes for comments. Five contractors spoke, expressing some concerns about pricing and specific contractual language.

IX. Halfpenny adjourned the meeting at 5:14pm.