

Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council
 Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, August 22nd, 2013

Councilors Present:

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

DOER: Steve Venezia, Ian Finlayson, Mark Sylvia

Consultants: Eric Belliveau, Jeff Schlegel, Sam Huntington

Present:

Lisa Shea	Sam Nutter	Melissa Liazos
Jodi Hanover	Ellen Pfeiffer	Jayden Wilson
Natalie Hildt	Monica Kachru	Clayton Hale
Cara Mottola	Lynn Westerlind	Jessica Buno
Matt Nelson	Marie Abdou	Elizabeth Enos
Lyn Huckabee	Sharon Weber	Tony Barnes
Matt Zenni	Annette Tran	Elizabeth Glynn
Peter Shattuck	Chris Gregory	Emmett Lyne
Beth Lonergan	Katelyn Mazuera	Ellen Pfeiffer

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

Public comment

Halfpenny read a letter from the Local Initiative Support Coalition. The letter thanked the EEAC for expanded energy efficiency programs and noted that it was written in support of transparent, public data reporting. The letter explained how it would be helpful to know how the public funds were distributed geographically to understand who has and has yet to be served by the programs. It also noted that better transparency in data reporting could help leverage funding for efficiency. It concluded by asking for the council's partnership in advancing data transparency.

Halfpenny read a second letter, this one from the Donald Bianchi, the President and CEO of the Massachusetts CDC. The letter was also written in support of more transparent data reporting on efficiency programs. The letter requested that the state build a public database that could report by sector, explaining that the increased transparency would help verify reliability and predictability. It concluded by thanking the council for advancing energy efficiency.

Meeting Minutes

July 9th EEAC Meeting Minutes

Halfpenny introduced the minutes from the July 9th Council meeting. Swing noted a correction. Lyne commented that the PAs had reviewed and had no comments. Saunders motioned to approve as amended. No one objected or abstained, though Harak was not present. The minutes were approved as amended.

July 30th EEAC Executive Committee Minutes

Halfpenny introduced the minutes and explained that the meeting was concerned with today's council meeting agenda and the consultant team budget. Halfpenny noted that the consultant team budget was slightly ahead of target but that Belliveau had assured her it would come back down. Belliveau explained that this should serve as advance notice that the consultant team may go over budget. Saunders motioned to approve. No one opposed or abstained, though Harak was not present. The minutes were approved.

Aug 5th Database Subcommittee meeting

Halfpenny introduced the minutes and explained that the Council had received seven proposals, which everyone on the subcommittee had reviewed. She explained that interviews had been conducted with three of the respondents on Monday the 19th and that the subcommittee had chosen one firm to recommend to the council today. The winning proposal was from Energy Platforms, LLC. Saunders motioned to approve the minutes, with Swett in favor. No one opposed or abstained, though Harak was not present. The minutes were approved.

General Updates

EEAC Consultant Procurement Process

Halfpenny explained the process for procuring consultants to the EEAC. She outlined the following schedule for procuring a technical consultant to the Council

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- Oct 7th: the EEAC will issue an RFR via Comm-Pass the statewide procurement system
- Nov 6th: the deadline for proposals to be submitted.
- Dec 4th: the subcommittee will select a firm
- Dec 10th: the subcommittee will bring the firm before the council
- Jan 1st: the contract to begin services

AESC update

Schlegel updated the council on the Avoided Energy Supply Cost study. He explained that the study sought to develop avoided costs for the various fuels that efficiency programs save, and directed council members to a briefing he gave at a previous council meeting for further detail. He explained that the study was completed in July and that the next step was for states to formally adopt the study findings, or at least pieces of them. He explained that the consultant team would be doing some calculations to summarize the effects of the new costs on Massachusetts' programs.

Halfpenny asked if the council should assume the costs will be adopted in time for the 2014 program year. Schlegel responded that the intent is that the costs would indeed be implemented in 2014. He added that Massachusetts has options, for example about whether to apply certain values of DRIPE or carbon pricing. Chretien asked who had to approve the optional components. Schlegel responded that the DPU would have to approve them. Chretien then asked Halfpenny if this was an issue the consultant team should summarize and make a recommendation on. Halfpenny confirmed that it was, adding that the council was interested in seeing how the new values would affect the current programs.

Streamlining

Schlegel updated the council on streamlining efforts, noting that the key update was on the implementation. He explained that the latest thinking was not to complete an entirely new plan, but rather to update annual plans early in each of those years. He added that discussions with the PAs on this issue are still on-going, with the form and level of detail still to be resolved.

Consultant Report

Belliveau updated the council on the consultant team activities. He highlighted work on the statewide database, interim solutions to data tracking, the annual report, and changes to the TRM. He noted that the C&I group was working on bringing the HVAC program upstream and that multiple best practices papers were underway.

Halfpenny asked for a status update on the list of evaluation studies that were underway. Westerlind responded that they were working on a dashboard style document, similar to what Connecticut is doing. Belliveau added that the EEAC website had recently been updated to better navigate evaluation studies.

Selection of the Database Consultant

Halfpenny updated the council on the process for selecting the database consultant. She explained that fourteen proposals in total had been reviewed between the two rounds of proposals, and that the firm the subcommittee was recommending was called Energy Platforms – a small firm out of Minnesota. She explained that the subcommittee had narrowed down the bidders to three firms – Hitachi, ICF, and Energy Platforms – which had all been called in for interviews. She added that going into the interviews ICF had the highest score, but that after the interviews it was clear that Energy Platforms had the most transferable experience.

Swing added that while Energy Platforms was a small firm, the scoping process did not require a large company, and thus their size was not a limiting factor. A council

member asked when the project would start. Halfpenny responded that they were a couple weeks behind, but were still aiming for the end of the year. Seidman asked what the role of the working group was compared to the council. Halfpenny responded that the working group should be thought of as the “technical” users – people who interact with the database, query it, and analyze the data – while the council members would be predominantly “end users” – reviewing the analysis. Seidman asked who she should contact if she wanted to provide input on the database. Halfpenny responded that Ian Finlayson would be the main contact.

Halfpenny read excerpts of the resolution regarding the hiring of a consultant for the scoping phase of the statewide database. Seidman motioned to approve the resolution. No one objected and no one abstained, though Harak was absent. The resolution passed.

Sylvia congratulated everyone and thanked the database subcommittee for their hard work.

2nd Quarter Update

Abdou presented the second quarter update for the PAs, noting that it includes more information than the corresponding quarter one update, specifically greenhouse gas emissions and total resource benefits.

Halfpenny asked how the overall savings level compared with the previous year – “are we dependent on another rocketship?” Abdou agreed that they were in a similar position to the previous year. Seidman expressed concern that the residential numbers were so low, as well as noting that the under-spending on C&I was discouraging, though familiar. Abdou responded by noting that the ‘broad’ programs, such as lighting, were already showing up in the numbers, accounting for some of the lopsided participation levels relative to savings. White spoke up to agree that the council had a right to be concerned about meeting the current year’s target. She explained that they were getting themselves in a good position to achieve the three year goal – hiring more people, working on long term contracts – possibly at the expense of achieving the immediate year’s target. Winker asked if the NTG had changed for any residential measures. Nelson responded that it differed by program, noting that the primary residential program, upstream lighting, had not changed its NTG.

Abdou moved on to the gas update, showing budget and participation slides. Halfpenny noted the lag in C&I.

Lonergan took over the PA update when it switched to the qualitative review. She started by reviewing the residential whole-house programs, highlighting the recent enhancements including pre-weatherization, early boiler replacement, and efficient neighborhoods. Rio asked about the new building codes and whether the programs were merely bringing homes up to code, rather than exceeding it. Lonergan assured him that they were familiar with the code and were only paying for enhancements above code. Moving on to C&I she noted that CHP was a high priority.

Halfpenny asked why the municipal program, which was supposed to start in quarter two by the latest, had yet to begin. White explained how National Grid had misunderstood NSTAR’s proposal, resulting in two slightly different municipal programs rather than a single consistent program. She assured the council that next year the programs would look the same.

Primer on 2012 Annual Report

Schlegel updated the council on the 2012 annual report. He showed a summary slide of electric program advances in 2012, highlighting increased participation, nation-leading savings and benefits, growth in financing, and an increased focus on serving the low income sector. The takeaway message, Schlegel explained, was that the overall performance in 2012 was good, but fell short of reaching the goal. He switched to a similar summary slide of the gas programs, explaining that the performance was better than electric, but that was partially due to the fact that the electric programs were on a steeper ramp-up. Schlegel then showed a slide highlighting instances where certain PAs had exceeded their goals.

Halfpenny asked how a certain program achieved two and a half times the low income goal. White responded that their partners at LEAN were to thank. Hall added that they had to overachieve simply to reach their three year target. Schlegel explained that the takeaway message of the slide was that the goals are achievable, and are being achieved in some cases. Halfpenny noted that she appreciated the perspective, adding that the goals were nation-leading and the PAs deserved to be recognized for their efforts.

The next slide was a summary of spending in 2012. Schlegel pointed out that, while there were variations across the PAs, in total about \$100 million was left on the table in 2012.

Schlegel concluded by explaining that the consultant team needs more data to verify all of the PA's claims in the annual report, including savings, cost of savings, and benefits. Halfpenny noted that it would be helpful to understand what information the council could glean from the annual report that would help inform 2013. Cretien noted that if they continued to underspend on C&I they would have a hard time reaching their goals in the coming years. Lyne commented that the PA's provide a lot of information in addition to the annual report, including 08-50 tables, evaluations, end use data in PARIS, and best practices reports. He said they wanted to achieve the goals while providing sufficient information, but that they were still struggling to find the right balance of effort in reporting. Seidman responded that council members could assist the PAs in reaching their goals if they had a better understanding of what was going on.

Home Energy Services: continued presentation from June meeting

Ellen Pfeiffer continued her presentation from June on the HES programs. She gave an overview of what marketing tactics have been successful worked well and what lessons have been learned. She noted that direct mail had been the most successful, with internet and radio after that. She emphasized that word of mouth remains the primary source of new participants. She explained how the lead vendor process had improved, with more training and more resources to support contractors on site.

Shenk reminded the council that it was important to think about quality control around the quality of the job. Pfeiffer gave an overview of the evaluation studies that had been completed in 2012, including an impact evaluation, a study on the pre-weatherization initiative, an HPC process evaluation, and a study on air sealing and insulation realization rates. This year, she explained, they'll be doing an evaluation of the Efficient Neighborhoods initiative.

At the conclusion of the presentation Johnson noted that she had answered some of his questions, but not all of them – the cost of customer acquisition, for example, had been ignored. He added that he would work with the consultants to develop a list of

questions that the PAs could answer offline. After the PAs answered the questions, he explained, they would update the other councilors on the findings. Johnson asked the council if others would support that effort. Multiple councilors offered their support.

Adjourn

Halfpenny adjourned the meeting at 4:05pm