



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019
100 Cambridge St, 2nd Floor
Conference Rooms C & D
Boston, MA 02114

- Councilors Present:** Marie Abdou (for Chris Porter), Cindy Arcate, Amy Boyd, Elizabeth Cellucci, Justin Davidson, Joseph Dorfler (for Maura Healey), Mary Downes (for Cindy Carroll), Maggie Downey, Frank Gundal (for Tilak Subrahmanian), Charlie Harak, Elliott Jacobson, Judith Judson, Shan Li (for Janelle Chan), Rick Malmstrom, Deirdre Manning, Audrey Penna (for Michael Sommer), Laurie Pereira, Cammy Peterson (for Rebecca Davis), Robert Rio, Victoria Rojo, Mary Wambui, Sharon Weber (for Martin Suuberg)
- Councilors Absent:** Michael Ferrante, Paul Gromer, Paul Johnson, Andrew Newman
- Consultants Present:** Eric Belliveau, Craig Johnson, Margie Lynch, Ralph Prah, Bob Wirtshafter
- DOER Staff Present:** Rachel Evans, Ian Finlayson, Maggie McCarey, Emily Powers
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1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

2. Public Comment

Hank Keating – Passive House Massachusetts

Keating began by thanking the program administrators (PAs) for delaying the announcement of final funding calculations for the passive house incentive. He acknowledged that they are taking the time to reconcile the differences between various models and added that he hoped that that process would result in a resolution between the models that would be more closely aligned with the savings that passive house projects would generate. He also noted that he hoped that that process would take place as soon as possible given that there are many potential passive house

projects in the pipeline that are waiting for the details of the passive house program to be made available.

Keating also commented on the training aspect of passive house. He noted that he and others had requested that the 2019-2021 Plan include a commitment for \$1,000,000 of training over the three years. He noted that only \$200,000 was made available and that \$130,000 of that was devoted to Certified Passive House Consultant (CPHC) training. He indicated that that was good, but that it only left \$70,000 for training in other critical areas such as architects, developers, and structural and mechanical engineers. In lieu of additional funding being made available, he noted that his organization has provided a list of readily available programs across the country that could be procured. He also noted that his organization was working on a list of gaps in those trainings and that they would work with the utilities to develop a plan for filling those gaps.

3. Council Updates and Business

General Updates

McCarey notified the Council that an update on Columbia Gas' Greater Lawrence efforts had been posted to the Council website. She also noted that Councilor surveys would be going out soon and that she appreciated any feedback in advance.

February 23, 2019 EEAC Meeting Minutes

Dorfler noted that Councilor Boecke's name was spelt incorrectly throughout and asked that the minutes be revised accordingly. Boyd motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Manning seconded. All were in favor with none opposed. Peterson abstained. The minutes were approved, as amended, by the Council.

March 6, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Boyd motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Malmstrom seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Dorfler abstained. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Council.

March 20, 2019 EEAC Meeting Minutes

Weber motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Malmstrom seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Harak and Peterson abstained. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Council.

4. Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification

Ralph Prah and Bob Wirtshafter, on behalf of the Consultant Team (C-Team), presented on evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V). They began with a refresher on the Massachusetts EM&V framework, a status report on recently completed studies and studies in progress, and an update on impact parameters in the 2019-2021 Plan ("the Plan") and what is responsible for driving them down. For the majority of their presentation, Prah and Wirtshafter focused on four special topic areas, which included the following – (1) who is not participating and why, (2) low-income process evaluation recommendations, (3) tracking and forecasting the commercial and industrial (C&I) linear LED market, and (4) non-residential new construction

and the changing face of EM&V. They concluded by reviewing some thoughts on the future direction of EM&V.

Special Topic #1 – Who is not participating and why?

Boyd referenced a part of the presentation where it was noted that statistical analysis would be used to identify areas and communities with lower than expected participation. She asked for clarification on what was meant by areas and communities. Wirtshafter indicated that the analysis would be conducted at the census block level or about six hundred homes. He added that the EM&V team would sit down with the Program Administrators (PAs) and LEAN following the first set of results to determine if that level of detail coincides with their definitions.

Judson asked if they had any details on the types of demographic information they would be evaluating. Wirtshafter indicated that the census block level data has detailed information on languages spoken, percentage of renters, types and ages of homes, and number of people residing in homes. He added that the census block level data does not have indicators for moderate income, but that they would design questions to get at that data in phase two of the study.

Commissioner Judson asked if time of service availability was a barrier for participation. Wirtshafter noted that they would have survey questions in phase two of the study to get at that question. He added that to the extent it is a major barrier, they want to find out what can be done to enhance participation in light of that.

Lynch asked how many surveys they would be planning on sending out in the phase two study. Tracy Dyke-Redmond indicated that it would be in the thousands.

Special Topic #2 – Low-Income Process Evaluation Recommendations

Harak noted that the PA's have in the past indicated that they felt they were running into saturation issues and that it was getting more difficult to reach people. Harak asked if EM&V confirms that. Wirtshafter noted that the data would indicate that they have not reached saturation. Jacobson noted that the studies collect five years' worth of information, but that LEAN has been provided services for the last thirty years and that the data should consider that.

Special Topic #3 – Tracking and forecasting the C&I linear LED market

Peterson noted that she found it interesting that about three-quarters of the linear LED market was made up by TLEDs that do not have the opportunity to add controls. She noted that with the window closing on claimable savings from linear LEDs, now is the time to push integrated fixtures into the market instead of TLEDs. Belliveau noted that some TLEDs do have limited control options, but not as much as the fully integrated fixtures. Prah agreed with the observation.

Weber asked if the issue around expected useful life (EUL) would affect the current plan or if it would not show up until the next one. Prah indicated that they do have new estimates of C&I LED EULs that would apply to 2019 and beyond. He added that current quantitative EUL estimates might not get used, but that there definitely would be new ones generated.

Special Topic #4 – Non-residential new construction and the changing face of EM&V

Harak noted that reference to focusing more on the overall markets as opposed to the individual programs and asked what that would mean for the overall program. Prahm indicated that it would mean that programs might not try to quantify savings from individual initiatives. He added that it might also result in richer and more realistic program impacts but with less granular detail.

Boyd asked Prahm to expand on what the code technical support initiative meant. Prahm noted that the PAs can choose to promulgate on any kind of code changes that they wish to under the initiative. Finlayson added that the base building code in Massachusetts just recently changed and that it would take effect in January of 2020. He noted that as part of that, the PAs had proposed an update to C&I lighting power density and new residential requirements for efficient heating, cooling, and water heating. He indicated that those incremental changes to the base code would be things that the PAs would like to evaluate attribution to.

Future Direction of EM&V

Harak asked if they would be sharing the interim report on non-energy impacts. Prahm indicated that they would share it once it was finalized. He added that he could share draft reports with the Council.

5. Commercial and Industrial Program Evaluation

Chris Chan and Tony Larson, on behalf of the PAs, presented on recent results and new research activities and approaches in C&I evaluation. In their presentation, they reviewed how the PAs are using evaluation and research to improve C&I programs, improve and correct savings estimates, and capture additional program benefits.

Commissioner Judson asked how businesses that received energy efficiency upgrades but later closed are treated with respect to realization rates. She asked if they were treated as zero percent and if that in turn brought down the realization rate for the entire program. Chan confirmed that that is how it works. Commissioner Judson reassured the PAs that they would not try to disincentive them from trying to work with struggling businesses.

Downes noted that baseline adjustments that reflect industry standard practice (ISP) can contribute to barriers to serving some struggling businesses. She added that if a business is below or can not get to the ISP then the PAs can not serve them.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:33 PM.