



## MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

100 Cambridge St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Conference Rooms C & D

Boston, MA 02114

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**Councilors Present:** Sam Alpert (for Elizabeth Cellucci), Eric Beaton (for Janelle Chan), Don Boecke (for Maura Healey), Amy Boyd, Sean Burke (for Cindy Arcate), Cindy Carroll, Justin Davidson, Maggie Downey, Paul Gromer, Frank Gundal (for Tilak Subrahmanian), Charlie Harak, Paul Johnson, Judith Judson, Richard Malmstrom, Ezra McCarthy (for Chris Porter), Laurie Pereira, Cammy Peterson (for Rebecca Davis), Robert Rio, Victoria Rojo, Michael Sommer, Mary Wambui, Sharon Weber (for Martin Suuberg)

**Councilors Absent:** Michael Ferrante, Elliott Jacobson, Deirdre Manning, Andrew Newman

**Consultants Present:** Eric Belliveau, Craig Johnson

**DOER Staff Present:** Rachel Evans, Ian Finlayson, Maggie McCarey, Emily Powers, Lyn Huckabee

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### 1. Call to Order

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

### 2. Public Comment

#### *Steve Cowell – E4TheFuture*

Cowell began by commending all parties involved for their work on the development and submittal of the 2019-2021 Three-Year Plan. Next, he urged the Council to support a recommendation that Councilor Gromer would be making on the Council's 2019 Priorities document. Cowell also expressed concern about the implementation of the large-scale heat pump program. He noted that he was not opposed to it, but that he did have some concerns about correctly sizing and selecting equipment technology. Lastly, Cowell noted that there was no

specific mention of solar in the Three-Year Plan. He indicated that E4TheFuture, along with Synapse Energy Economics, would be working on developing some introductory assessor and consumer education documents to help facilitate its inclusion in future plans.

### **3. Council Updates and Business**

#### ***Meeting Schedule and Topics***

Commissioner Judson noted that the 2019 meeting schedule and topics had been posted to the Council's website. She added that some edits were made based on feedback received at the previous Council meeting. Lastly, she noted that the February meeting would be rescheduled from the third week of the month to the second week of the month.

#### ***Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Update***

McCarey noted that at its most recent meeting, the Executive Committee (ExCom) decided to postpone the KPI agenda item to the February meeting to allow more time for the Program Administrators (PAs), the ExCom, and the Consultant Team (C-Team) to work on them.

#### ***December 19, 2018 EEAC Meeting Minutes***

Malmstrom motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Peterson seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed or abstaining. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Council.

### **4. Global Warming Solutions Act – 10 Year Progress Report**

Hong-Hanh Chu, the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) Implementation Program Manager at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, gave a presentation to the Council on the ten-year progress report of the GWSA. She began with an overview of the purpose and scope of the report. She then reviewed some of the reports main highlights, which included information on the economy increases with emissions decreasing, clean energy job growth, and data on planned, achieved, and projected greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reductions. She concluded with the reports recommendations for how to focus efforts for the next five years.

Johnson asked how they determine the vehicle miles traveled increase and associated energy use. Weber noted that they used data from the Energy Information Administration.

Malmstrom referenced the hashed bars on slide six of the presentation and asked if those represented actual savings that were not attributable to the GWSA. Chu indicated that that was correct. Malmstrom asked if those were anticipated. Chu indicated that in some cases they were and cited lower cost of natural gas as an example. Malmstrom followed up by asking if the success of the GWSA would be represented by the solid bars. Chu again indicated that that was correct.

Malmstrom also asked if they present any policy recommendations as part of the progress report. Chu indicated that they do not because the report is focused on an update on progress to date. She did say, however, that there would be policy recommendations included in the upcoming 2030 plan.

## **5. 2019 Council Priorities**

McCarey began by noting that the updated version of the priorities document that was drafted for the Council's December meeting. She noted that the idea of the priorities document is for the Council to set out what they want the PAs to report on during their quarterly updates. She then proceeded to walk through the priorities and requested Council input along the way.

### ***Priority 1***

Johnson requested that the PAs provide updates to the Council more frequently than on a quarterly basis as was proposed in the priorities document. Malmstrom disagreed and expressed concern that asking the PAs to do more frequent updates would detract from the time they could be spending on implementing the programs.

Gromer thanked McCarey for including a bullet that addressed new program enhancements, clean energy resources, and technologies authorized by An Act to Advance Clean Energy. He did, however, suggest a separate standalone priority as an alternative method. Gromer noted two main reasons for this. First, he noted that his language would call out two points that are not present in the existing draft of the priorities. Those two points were a focus on new things not covered in the current plan and a focus to changes in the cost effectiveness methodology. Second, he noted that it is important that the Council sees this forward-looking analysis as a priority. He added that the most difficult thing to do for a busy organization is to focus on the future and that the role of an advisory council is to force a busy organization to make time in their day to think about the future.

Malmstrom and Johnson noted that they supported Gromer's idea. Belliveau noted that it is often too late for big ideas when the PAs are in the planning process, and as a result there is a need for those ideas to be thought out well in advance. Boecke did not oppose Gromer's idea but asked if it could be added at the expense of one of the existing priorities. He expressed concern that at a certain point having too many priorities would defeat the purpose of calling them priorities.

Lyne noted that the PAs are concerned with the level of reporting they are already committed to doing. He added that under the statute, the quarterly reports where the PAs update on the Council priorities, is meant to be on the implementation of the Plan and not future efforts. Lyne stressed that he could not make any promises that the PAs would be able to engage on reporting activities tied to future efforts.

Gromer added that his proposal is focused on purpose rather than the mechanism. He noted that the purpose is that big ideas take a long time and that those ideas cannot wait until the planning process.

Commissioner Judson proposed that the Council postpone the vote on the priorities document to allow the ExCom to work on language that works for all parties involved.

### ***Priority 2***

Peterson requested that the second bullet include streetlights with controls given that those are the ones that really enable winter peak reductions.

### ***Priority 3***

Weber asked for clarification on the first bullet. She noted that she wanted to make sure that it would result in tracking on the type of fuel displaced and the fuel doing the displacing. Peterson shared support for this request. Lyne indicated that he understood the request and that the PAs would follow up before the next ExCom meeting.

## **6. Consultant Team 2019 Work Plan and Budget**

McCarey began by reminding the Council that the C-Team's work plan and budget was developed only through the end of their contract in August. She added that they would extrapolate the C-Team's budget out through the end of the year for the purpose of submitting their budget for the full year to the Department of Public Utilities.

Belliveau reviewed the C-Team's work plan and budget for 2019. In his presentation, Belliveau reviewed the timeline of the work plan. He also reviewed their planned deliverables, work areas, and the key topics that would be focused on. He concluded by reviewing the budget associated with the work plan.

Commissioner Judson noted that DOER had reviewed the C-Team's work plan and budget and that they were supportive of it. Boecke added that the ExCom had also reviewed it and was supportive of it.

Harak asked what type of evaluation, measurement and verification (EM&V) efforts would be undertaken for services to renters and moderate-income households. Belliveau noted that they do not have much information right now which is why renters and non-English speakers was used as a proxy in the planning period. He added that EM&V would try to understand those markets better so that in the future the Council would not need to rely on such proxies. Belliveau also noted that Ralph Prahel would be able to give and update and response to all those types of questions when he presents to the Council on EM&V activities in March.

Boyd motioned to approve the C-Team's 2019 work plan and budget. Weber seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed or abstaining. The C-Team's 2019 work plan and budget were approved by the Council.

## **7. Adjournment**

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:05 PM.