



## MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 17, 2017  
100 Cambridge St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Conference Rooms B & C  
Boston, MA 02114

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**Councilors Present:** Marie Abdou (for Jeremy Newberger), Cindy Carroll, Elizabeth Cellucci, Joe Dorfler (for Maura Healey), Maggie Downey, Eugenia Gibbons (for Larry Chretien), Frank Gundal (for Tilak Subrahmanian), Charles Harak, Betsy Harper (for Chrystal Kornegay), Elliott Jacobson, Paul Johnson, Judith Judson, Richard Malmstrom, Deirdre Manning, Laurie Pereira (for Trish Walker), Robert Rio, Peter Shattuck (for Amy Boyd), Michael Sommer, Brad Swing (for Austin Blackmon), Sharon Weber (for Martin Suuberg)

**Councilors Absent:** Michael Ferrante, Paul Gromer, Michael McDonagh, Andrew Newman, Victoria Rojo

**Consultants Present:** Eric Belliveau, Craig Johnson, Mark Kravatz, Margie Lynch

**DOER Staff Present:** Ian Finlayson, Matt Rusteika

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### 1. Call to Order

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM.

### 2. Public Comment

Ann Verrilli of the Citizen's Housing and Planning Association gave public comment to the Council. She commended the PAs and the Low Income Multifamily Advisory Committee on their recent work on affordable housing refinancing. She indicated that she would be happy to share the work that has come out of that effort with owners and stakeholders that her organization works with.

### 3. Council Updates and Business

*EEAC Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2017*

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

### ***EEAC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – May 3, 2017***

The approval of May Executive Committee minutes were moved to the June Council meeting because there were not enough Executive Committee members present.

#### **4. First Quarter 2017 Progress Report**

Melanie Coen and Steve Menges, on behalf of the Program Administrators (PAs), gave a first quarter performance update. In their presentation, they compared the first quarter of 2017 to previous years for program spending and lifetime and annual savings. They also gave a first quarter summary of participants, spending, capacity savings, and annual and lifetime energy savings. For each of those metrics, they compared the preliminary results to the annual goal at the sector level for both electric and gas. They also highlighted progress made on the three year plan goals as well as total benefits compared to goal. Lastly, they gave a summary of how the PAs have engaged on the Council's priorities in the 2016-2018 Plan.

Commissioner Judson asked if the PAs could explain why annual gas savings are down from previous years. Menges noted changes in codes as well as a slower start to the year than what is typically experienced as possible reasons. Cellucci added that the average savings per commercial project are down and that she had some concern about that. Gundal added that it's a similar story on the electric side, noting that the volume of projects has increased and the savings per project has decreased.

Referencing priorities 1 and 3, Johnson asked if the PAs could indicate how much they had spent on the renter and moderate income initiatives. Amy Vavak indicated that those were folded into the HES initiative and so she did not have that figure. Johnson also asked if the PAs could explain why the Cape Light Compact had so many more approved moderate income applicants than the other PAs. Vavak agreed that the numbers were low and indicated that the PAs are trying to look at the lessons learned so that they can improve the program.

Harak asked how the PAs count participants in a scenario where a landlord of a four-unit building is serviced and all tenants are moderate income. Vavak indicated that it would be counted as four units.

Commissioner Judson referenced the data transparency priority and noted that there had been some discussion about getting an update from the PAs about how the Mass Save database compares with the Council's request for a statewide database. She asked if the PAs had any thoughts about when they might present on that topic. Lyne indicated that they will be looking to give that presentation at a Council meeting in the summer.

#### **5. Low-Income Program Pressures and Opportunities**

Kravatz presented to the Council on the status of low-income programs as it relates to losses in claimable lighting savings. He began with a review of the low-income programs where he highlighted the significance of lighting savings to the sector's programs and what the impact would be of losing those savings. He also emphasized that there are significant time pressures to figuring out how to make up the lighting savings that will no longer be claimable in the future. Kravatz went on to talk about strategies for addressing the issue, which included defining key questions about the programs, conducting program evaluation, continued program innovation, and incorporation of additional non-energy impacts (NEIs).

Johnson noted that without lighting, the benefit cost ratio (BCR) of the low-income multifamily initiative would fall below 1.0. He asked what percent of the low-income sector is multifamily. John Wells indicated that it is about half. Johnson expressed concern about the future of the low-income programs.

Swing and Rio expressed concern that the low-income programs are becoming too dependent on increases in NEIs and not enough on actual energy impacts. Abdou indicated that the PAs have been studying NEIs for a long time and that NEIs have always complimented the total benefits that participants realize.

Weber noted that the DEP is supportive of health benefits being counted as non-energy impacts because they are conscious of the tremendous benefit that low-income folks receive from the health perspective.

Shattuck thanks the C-Team for flagging the issue and getting the process of adaptation under way. He added that the low-income programs are not running simply because they are cost-effective, but also because that statute specifies that a certain amount of program dollars need to go to low-income programs. Shattuck also posed some questions for Councilors to consider as it tries to identify ways to keep the low-income programs running cost-effectively. He asked if the programs would benefit from an extensive screening of measures with new NEIs, should fuel switching be considered, and how can NEIs from single-family be expanded or applied to include multifamily.

## **6. Overview of Key Drivers and Federal Funding**

John Wells, on behalf of the Low Income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN), presented on a variety of topics related to the low income programs. His presentation included an overview of the programs and their results and the key drivers and federal funding that is involved with the low income programs.

Commissioner Judson asked if Wells could elaborate on the causes of margin cost-effectiveness for air source heat pumps in buildings with electric heating. Wells indicated that well-insulated buildings can sometimes result in the measure not getting enough use to pass the BCR test.

Belliveau asked if LEAN examines cost-effectiveness at the measure or project level. Wells indicated that it depends on the project and suite of measures being installed. He added that if they are only doing one measure, then that one measure has to pass. Similarly, he noted that if

they are doing multiple measures, then some measures do not need to pass as long as the suite of measures does.

Harper noted that there are about 44,000 state-supported low-income multifamily units and that only 45% of those units have been served. She added that most of the remaining opportunity is in large developments with 70 or more units. Harper also noted that there appears to be a large discrepancy between National Grid and Eversource with respect to the amount of those types of customers being served. She recommended that Eversource should work with an engineering firm as National Grid does in order to improve their service of low-income multifamily customers.

Harak asked if Wells could talk more about barriers that LEAN faces as it shifts towards working on smaller buildings and single family properties. Wells noted that those types of properties do not always have the same knowledge base that a large multifamily would have. As a result, Wells indicated that it requires more work to “sell” their pitch to those owners.

## **7. EM&V Update and NEIs**

Kim Crossman and Chris Chan, on behalf of the PAs, gave an update on NEIs in the low-income sector. They began with an overview of recent and planned evaluation studies, including a high-level summary of the results of some of those studies. They concluded with a more detailed look at the results of the low-income single family health- and safety-related NEIs study that was completed in August of 2016.

Weber asked if they could provide some examples of items that were implemented as a result of the last process evaluation study. Crossman noted several examples that include the PAs providing savings goals to lead agencies, standardizing approval process for repair work, educational materials, and streamlining the quality assurance and quality control process.

Johnson asked when the planned process evaluation and market assessment studies would be completed. Crossman noted that they would be completed before the next planning cycle.

## **8. Low-Income Working Groups Update**

Amy Vavak and Cheryl Harrington, on behalf of the PAs, gave an overview of recent activities by the two PA/LEAN led low-income working groups. The two groups that they discussed were the Affordable Housing Energy Efficiency Working Group and the Low Income Multifamily Advisory Committee.

Johnson noted that he was happy to hear that the Low Income Multifamily Advisory Committee would be adding more case studies to its “Roadmap” document. He asked if there were networks of owners that the PAs could tap into and do workshops for. Vavak indicated that there are many stakeholders on the advisory committee where that type of networking occurs.

Commissioner Judson thanked the PAs for the update. She then welcomed Joanna Troy of DOER to give an update on the Affordable Access to Clean and Efficient Energy Initiative

(AACEE). Troy gave an overview of the initiative and the working group, as well as the recommendations that came out of it. She also highlighted a variety of grant initiatives that DOER would be running as part of the AACEE initiative.

## **9. Adjournment**

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:58 PM.