



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016
100 Cambridge St, 2nd Floor
Conference Room B & C
Boston, MA 02114

Councilors Present: JoAnn Bodemer (for Maggie Downey), Donald Boecke (for Maura Healey), Larry Chretien, Monica Cohen (for Elizabeth Cellucci), Betsy Glynn, Paul Gromer, Charles Harak, Elliott Jacobson, Paul Johnson, Judith Judson, Joseph LaRusso (for Austin Blackmon), Richard Malmstrom, Deirdre Manning, Thomas Palma (for Cindy Carroll), Chris Plecs (for Tilak Subrahmanian), Robert Rio, Nancy Seidman (for Martin Suuberg), Peter Shattuck (for Amy Boyd), Michael Sommer, Trish Walker, Carol White, Eric Winkler

Councilors Absent: Michael Ferrante, Michael McDonagh, Alana Murphy (for Chrystal Kornegay), Andrew Newman

Consultants Present: Eric Belliveau, Craig Johnson, Ralph Prah

DOER Staff Present: Ian Finlayson, Matt Rusteika, Arah Schuur, Steve Venezia

Others Present: Ryan Barry, Chris Chan, Kim Crossman, Jonathan Goldberg, Andrew Isaacs, Ely Jacobsohn, Tony Larson, Lourdes Lopez, Mark Luckos, Michael Rigney, Elizabeth Titus, Sharon Weber

1. Informal Session – The Role of Technical Progress in EM&V

Prior to the start of the full Council meeting, Ralph Prah gave attendees a presentation on the role of technical progress in evaluation, measurement and verification (EM&V). As part of his presentation, Prah discussed how improvements in technology and computing capabilities are creating opportunities for enhancements in data collection and analysis and the use of the term EM&V 2.0. Following his presentation, attendees engaged in a discussion about the value of EM&V from the varying perspectives of the ISO-NE, the program administrators (PAs), the consultant team (C-Team), and the councilors. There was also a brief discussion about the potential impacts of the Clean Power Plan (CPP) on the value and use of EM&V.

2. Call to Order

Judson called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

3. Public Comment

Elizabeth Titus of NEEP gave public comment to highlight a few resources for councilors and others to be aware of. She first noted that she is very familiar with EM&V and its issues and that her perspective is that there is a tremendous value to it. The first resource she informed councilors of was a recent NEEP paper – “A Review of Key Trends and New Industry Developments, and Their Implications on Current and Future EM&V Practices.” The second resource she discussed was a pilot study conducted by the Lawrence Berkley National Labs that is planned on being delivered in Connecticut. She noted that the pilot will look at how traditional energy efficiency evaluation techniques are applied to products and whole building metering. The third resources that she noted was one that ACEEE was launching to try to develop labeling for tools and technologies so as to create a qualified products list.

Michael Rigney of EnergySavvy gave public comment to introduce councilors and others about his company and their thoughts on EM&V. He first noted that they believe the ability to take data and run continuous analysis is important and relevant to the efficiency programs. He indicated that their software provides deep feedback, very fast, and that in a few short months they can provide insight on what is going on in a program at a level of granularity that has yet to be achieved at a large scale. He also noted that with quicker feedback comes the opportunity to correct and ensure that customers are having a satisfactory experience.

4. Council Updates and Business

EEAC Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2016

Johnson proposed to add language to the minutes to reflect his request for monthly updates from the PAs on their plans for making up any shortfall following the exit of Next Step Living. The minutes were amended to reflect Johnson’s request.

Malmstrom motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Harak seconded. All were in favor, with no opposed. Boecke, Judson, and Rio abstained. The minutes were approved, as amended, by the Council.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2016

Boecke motioned to approved the minutes as submitted. Malmstrom seconded. All were in favor, with no opposed or abstaining. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the executive committee.

2016 EEAC Meeting Topics

Schuur reviewed the proposed schedule and topics for the remaining 2016 EEAC meetings. Malmstrom asked if they could add a column for proposed and scheduled dates for the meetings.

Residential Contractor Working Group Update

Judson updated the Council on the residential contractor working group. She noted that a small group of contractors were asked to work on the group and that the goal was to have a proposal out this year with a pilot program to be run over the following two years. She noted that this effort was being funded by DOER. Judson also noted that they would be hosting a listening session on June 16th for interested parties and thanked Johnson for helping put that together. Schuur added that she would send out more details once a time was finalized. Johnson noted that he thought that contractors working outside the program should be allowed to participate and recommended that they reach out to them.

5. 2016 First Quarter Results

Riley Hastings, on behalf of the PAs, updated the Council on the results through the first quarter of 2016. The presentation included a comparison of first quarter results in 2016 compared to the first quarter results from each of the last two years. It also included first quarter actuals as a percent of annual and plan goals for participants, spending, capacity savings, and annual and lifetime energy savings. Her presentation also highlighted program benefits compared to goal.

Johnson asked why participant counts appeared to be so much higher than other metrics. Hastings noted that they count behavioral participants at the beginning of the year and that their savings lag behind the participant counts.

Glynn noted that for future presentations like this it would be helpful if the figures had complete labeling so that Councilors and others can better interpret what they are looking at.

Johnson added that the new format for the actual quarterly report is much improved and that it is easy to read. Malmstrom and Seidman agreed. Johnson asked if the PAs could include additional information such as close rates, customer acquisition cost, and marketing costs in future reports. Hastings noted that a lot of that information is on the MassSave data website. Malmstrom agreed with Johnson that the report is much improved and asked if the pipeline for the next quarter could be included in future iterations. Seidman asked that to the extent they exist, action items and next steps for meetings referenced in the report would be helpful to have on future versions. Chretien added that he would like to see an update on the moderate income and renter initiatives in the next report.

6. Home Energy Services Update

Ellen Pfeiffer and Bill Stack, on behalf of the PAs, updated the Council on the status of Home Energy Services (HES). Their presentation began by highlighting the success of the program in the 2013-2015 Plan. They continued on to show where the PAs are at after the first quarter of 2016 compared to the target for home energy assessments (HEAs) and weatherization jobs. They also discussed some of the unforeseen challenges that they have encountered and what they are planning to do to make sure that they still reach their goals.

Schuur asked how the first quarter of 2016 compared to the first quarter in 2015. Pfeiffer indicated that the first quarter looks to be on target compared to where it has been in the past.

Glynn asked if Pfeiffer and Stack could talk more about the trend of decreasing calls for HEAs. Pfeiffer noted that they typically observe a slump during the spring and that they usually pick back up again in the summer with new initiatives. She also noted that they are observing low volume across the state, regardless of whether Next Step Living was participating or not. Stack added that vendors outside of the programs are also observing similar volume decreases.

White assured the Council that the PAs are paying very close attention to what is going on this program. She noted that they looked into the exit of Next Step Living and noted that they have observed decreased activity in both areas where Next Step Living had and had not been participating. She indicated that that suggests that something else is driving the decrease in volume besides the exit of Next Step Living.

Judson asked if the PAs could at future meetings provide the HEAs and weatherization jobs data at a monthly interval instead of a quarterly one.

Gromer noted that his takeaway from the presentation and discussion was that the PAs have indicated that they are aware and concerned of issues in the program and that they have plans in place to address them.

7. Evaluation Results and the EM&V Framework

Ralph Prah from the C-Team led a presentation to the Council on EM&V. His presentation included a status report on current and planned studies, a situational analysis of the current strengths and weaknesses of the EM&V program, and a review of recent results. Prah organized his review of recent results into the following four themes:

1. Charting a path for lighting programming remains challenging
2. Non-energy benefits (NEBs) from low-income programs may be much larger than we thought
3. Whether enhancement of code-compliance can be a cost-effective intervention remains to be seen
4. Impact evaluation results continue to ensure that the energy efficiency resource is reliable

Council discussion was focused on the first two themes.

Theme 1 Discussion

Several councilors indicated that this theme goes to show that EM&V is worth doing. Chretien noted that his office recently retrofitted their lighting with linear LEDs and that he thinks the potential in commercial and industrial lighting is much larger than what they had originally planned and that the EM&V results show that.

Seidman asked if Prah or others could clarify the phase out of CFLs. Brandy Chambers noted that the plan is to stop supporting them when they lose their Energy Star label and that they think that will occur sometime in early 2017. Seidman noted that she did not understand what the

process was for the phase out and that she thought the Energy Star designation was an odd trigger. She further added that she thought that CFLs should be phased out sooner.

Theme 2 Discussion

Judson asked if the results for this theme are unique to low-income or if the results could be applied to other income groups. Prah indicated that that may be the case but since the study only used data from low-income groups, the results are only applicable to that group. Similarly, White asked if the results of the study could be attributed to multifamily. Prah again indicated that since the study only looked at low-income single family households that the results were only applicable to that group. White asked if they should consider doing more research on NEBs in the market rate group to see if benefits in that area are being underestimated.

Glynn noted that missed days work, asthma, and fire are big issues in low income communities and that she had been surprised how low the NEBs are for these communities. She noted that she has heard many stories of people who are now healthier after having weatherization done on their property.

Jacobson indicated that moving forward with research on NEBs in this area may suggest that the PAs should seek funds from the health industry.

8. EM&V to Program Feedback Loop

Marie Abdou, on behalf of the PAs, gave a presentation to the Council on how the results of EM&V studies are incorporated into the PAs program planning. Her presentation was focused on the stages of evaluation and how the PAs decide if and when to adopt and implement recommendations from the EM&V studies.

Johnson noted that he had wished that Councilors had been invited to the summit in January so that they could provide their input into this process. He also noted and expressed concern that he has read some studies where there have been very few, if any, recommendations. Abdou noted that the goal is to have recommendations be actionable, and so if that is not possible then there would likely be few or no recommendations.

9. Non-Intrusive Load Monitoring

Michael Goldman, on behalf of the PAs, gave a presentation to the Council on non-intrusive load monitoring (NILM). His presentation included a discussion of what NILM is, its different configuration options, how it works, the benefits of NILM, as well as how the PAs plan to use it in Massachusetts.

Judson asked if Goldman could clarify the timeframe. Goldman noted that initially they will be solely focused on residential and that they are currently developing a sampling plan for the initial phase of the project. Judson also asked how NILM works if there is a supply source on the meter, such as solar. Goldman noted that that had yet to be a consideration and that they would have to look into it.

Schuur asked if the option that the PAs are looking at – optical readers – have any issues with performance due to weather. Goldman noted that they can have issues with weather occasionally but for the most part they are viable and the best option.

Shattuck asked if NILMs have benefits that advance metering infrastructure (AMI) does not. Goldman noted that the frequency in which data can be collected is better and indicated that NILMs can collect data at sub minute intervals while AMI can only collect data on a quarter-hour to hourly basis.

10. Adjournment

Judson adjourned the meeting at 4:07 PM.