



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017
100 Cambridge St, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Attendees: Eric Belliveau, JoAnn Bodemer, Amy Boyd, Joe Dorfler, Ian Finlayson, Betsy Glynn, Jodi Hanover, Craig Johnson, Judith Judson, Margie Lynch, Emmett Lyne, Richard Malmstrom, Jeremy Newberger, Alex Pollard, Matt Rusteika, Arah Schuur, Lisa Shea, Rachel Winter

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:51 PM.

2. April Meeting Agenda

Rusteika previewed the agenda for the April Council meeting. He noted that the meeting would be focused on residential topics and that it would include an update on the renter and moderate income initiative with presentations from the PAs and the C-Team, presentations from the PAs and the C-Team on air-source heat pumps and electrification, a presentation from the PAs on evolving new construction program incentives, and an update from DOER on the residential contractor working group.

Newberger asked for clarification on the focus of the fuel switching topic. Rusteika noted that there have been recent discussions around heat pumps as they related to the residential conservation services (RCS) regulations. He added that some questions have come out of that process and that they wanted to have as a point of discussion at the Council.

Lyne noted that the PAs were appreciative of the continued effort of early outreach from DOER, the C-Team and others involved in putting together materials for Council meetings.

Belliveau requested that a short amount of time be allocated to the C-Team so that they can update the Council on their budget and scope of work.

3. May Meeting Agenda

Rusteika previewed potential topics for the May Council meeting agenda. He noted that the meeting was originally scheduled to be focused on evaluation, measurement and verification (EM&V) but that they had to push that back a month because Ralph Prah, a key presenter, would not be available. He indicated that the May Council meeting would instead be focused on low-income topics. He highlighted a progress report on non-energy impacts, an EM&V update, a Low Income Multifamily refinancing working group overview and update, and a comparative look at the measure mix of low-income single-family and multifamily projects as potential presentation topics. Rusteika asked that if anyone had any feedback or thoughts on other areas of interest for presentations.

Malmstrom indicated that he would be interested in hearing a high level overview of what makes up the low-income sector with information such as how many customers there are and how many are served. Glynn added that she would be interested in getting a sense of what percentage of the low-income population in the state is effectively or permanently on the R2 rate. Lyne noted that the PAs could do something to touch on those points.

Lynch indicated that at the previous Council meeting, Councilor Chretien had noted that the PAs indicated declining sales to low-income customers and asked for supporting data. She asked if the PAs would have any update on that. Lyne indicated that the PAs would look into it.

Newberger asked if there would be any interest in looking at the impacts of reduced WAP funding. Schuur expanded that question to include the impacts of all federal funding cuts and how they impact the programs. Lyne indicated that could be a good idea, but that they should keep in mind that potential impacts on budgets have to do with a plan that is proposed and not finalized. Commissioner Judson noted that the basic idea would be to look at the question of how program budgets use federal funding and how that affects the programs if it were to go away.

4. Council Workshops

Schuur noted that Councilors had indicated positive feedback about the workshops during the last planning cycle and that they wanted to start discussing those for the next planning cycle. Rusteika noted that the draft proposed schedule would include seven workshops that would occur on adjacent weeks, running from mid-September through November. He added that the workshops would be sector focused, and that no sector would have its workshops on back-to-back weeks. Schuur added that these would be half-day workshops.

Hanover asked if they were planning to use an independent moderator as they had before. Rusteika indicated that they were and that they are in the process of putting together an RFR for that.

Malmstrom suggested that the workshops should have more of a macro focus so that topics discussed at the workshops can be more easily incorporated into the plan. Hanover suggested that each workshop could end with a prioritization of the top three points made. Newberger and

Boyd agreed. Glynn added that she would not want the workshops to result in a large bulleted list that included some things that might not have even captured what someone had said.

Boyd indicated that she felt the high-level goals for the plan were left out of the workshops last time and that she would like to see something around that incorporated this time. Belliveau indicated that they could do a workshop in the late winter or early spring once the PAs have completed their potential studies and the C-Team has completed its assessment of potential.

Members of the Executive Committee as well as the PAs and C-Team suggested that seven workshops in consecutive weeks might be too burdensome. Schuur suggested that they schedule six meetings occurring every other week, with an additional two or three meetings in the late winter or early spring. A general consensus was that that would work much better.

5. Adjournment

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