

Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council
 Meeting Minutes
 Wednesday February 25, 2015

Councilors Present:

Voting	Present (designee)	Non-Voting	Present (designee)
Austin Blackmon	Brad Swing	James Carey	Patricia Walker
Amy Boyd	X	Cindy Carrol	X
Larry Chretien	X	Elizabeth Cellucci	X
Maura Healey	Donald Boecke	Maggie Downey	X
Betsy Glynn	X	Michael Ferrante	
Charles Harak	X	Paul Gromer	X
Elliott Jacobson	John Howat	Andrew Newman	
Paul Johnson	X	Michael Sommer	X
Chrystal Kornegay		Tilak Subrahmanian	X / Frank Gundal
Dan Burgess	X	Carol White	X
Richard Malmstrom		Eric Winkler	
Deirdre Manning	X		
Michael McDonagh			
Robert Rio	X		
Martin Suuberg	Nancy Seidman		

Consultants: Eric Belliveau, Jeff Schlegel, Craig Johnson
 DOER: Ian Finlayson, Steve Venezia

Present:

Marie Abdou	Jonathan Goldberg	Christopher Long
Maria Belen Power	Harrison Grubbs	Maggie McCarey
JoAnn Bodemer	Tina Halfpenny	Steve Menges
Jessica Buno	Jodi Hanover	Cara Mottola
James Carey	Riley Hastings	Alex Papali
Melanie Coen	Lyn Huckabee	Aimee Powelka
Shaela Collins	Susan Kaplan	Lisa Shea
Dave Gibbons	Jeff Leupold	Tabitha Vigliotti
David Gold		

Burgess called the meeting to order at 10:12 am and welcomed everybody. He began by introducing himself and asked everyone around the table to briefly introduce themselves.

EEAC Roles and Responsibilities

Burgess introduced Boecke, Boyd, Gromer, and Rio as “the team” that worked on the review of the Council’s roles and responsibilities. Boecke introduced the task of reviewing the roles and responsibilities and why it was necessary. He noted that the team reviewed the statute and aligned the roles and responsibilities during the Three-Year planning phase and during the implementation phase. In particular, Boecke emphasized the coordination and collaborative nature of the language in the legislature.

With respect to the Three-Year Planning phase the team did not make any changes to the content of the By-Laws, rather, they reorganized the language so that it would be presented in a more logical way. There was, however, extended discussion about the language in the By-Laws as proposed as it related to data requests. Boyd noted that the PAs objected to the language that the team drafted regarding data requests, and that they presented a set of alternative language. She reviewed the two sets of language and opened it up for discussion for the Council.

Shaela Collins, representing the PAs, noted that this was the only language in the proposed By-Laws that the PAs had any disagreement with. She noted that the PAs preference would be to not have this language in the By-Laws at all, but in the spirit of collaboration they drafted alternative language. She emphasized that the PAs already do provide data and that she did not want the Council to come away from this with a feeling that the PAs will not ever provide data, but that this just did not seem to be the right place for this issue.

Swing noted that he did not think it would be productive to engage in a back and forth conversation on additions to the By-Laws as it relates to powers of the Council if what is really being discussed is the statewide database issue.

Harak noted that he thought there was already a process to resolve issues between the PAs and the consultant team and that he was not sure that putting anything in the By-Laws would actually solve the issue of members of the council or consultant team asking for information that the PAs believe is too burdensome to provide.

With regards to the PAs proposed language, Chretien noted that the PAs should be allowed to object to a request, but that the language suggests that Councilors cannot request data if there is an objection. He expressed concern that that would give too much veto power to one party. He also noted that if there was some kind of merged language that reached a consensus between the team and the PAs that he would try to support that. Venezia also supported this point and encouraged the PAs and the team to continue to work towards a consensus. Howat agreed that some sort of merged language would be ideal, particularly as it pertains to what type of information requests could be made.

Johnson objected to the PAs proposed language and noted that he preferred the language originally proposed by the team with regards to the Council's roles and responsibilities. Seidman also indicated that she was in favor of the team's language. Further, she noted that adding the information regarding the Council's ability to request data is important as it applies to their ability to carry out their obligations.

Downey expressed concern about having broad language as it applies to data requests, noting that the small PAs have limited time and resources.

Boyd noted that there is a provision in the By-Laws that says that any changes have to be given to the Council a week in advanced and so that if they were to adopt the PAs language, or some edited version of it, that the Council would have to wait until another time to vote on it. She concluded by noting that ability to request information is within the Council's powers and does

not need to be something which is specified in the By-Laws. As such, she proposed to drop the clause regarding information requests.

Harak made a motion to table and refer back to the team and PAs for discussion on By-Law 3.01C6 and otherwise vote on the balance of the By-Laws which are proposed. Chretien seconded the motion. All were in favor with the exception of Johnson who was opposed. The motion passed.

2016-2018 Cross-Cutting Issues

Schlegel began a discussion on cross-cutting topics for the 2016-2018 plan by introducing the issues and planning schedule. He discussed program penetration, participants and improved definitions, assessment of energy efficiency potential, and a savings goal framework. For each issue Schlegel and Belliveau presented material and allowed for Council discussion.

Program Penetration and Participants

Johnson noted that there is a large number of participants because every customer gets OPower and so he was curious as to what percentage of those participants actually get audits, and then from there what percentage of those that get audits actually get work done. Schlegel noted that the consultant team has had several discussions with the PAs on how to improve the participant counts and that the goal is to have this information available for the Three-Year Plan.

White noted the collaborative work that the PAs and consultant team have been engaging in. She noted in particular that it is important to have a better method of counting participants because it is difficult to project savings without a good baseline.

Harak asked if results from tracking studies lead to changes in program design. Schlegel noted that they do and that that point emphasizes why it is important to have an accurate and efficient way of tracking program participation.

Assessment of Energy Efficiency Potential and the Savings Goal Framework

Chretien noted that he would like to see goals set and tracked for demand, and in particular winter peak demand, as well as oil savings. He recommended ambitious goals for each but also noted that he would be comfortable with allowing some give and take depending on what opportunities exist. He also encouraged the consultant team to consider finding a way to normalize lifetime savings as a percent of sales. Swing also expressed support for an emphasis on winter peak demand and oil savings. Seidman noted that she was also in support of these points but also wanted to make sure that summer peak is also addressed since those days tend to align with days of poor air quality.

Gromer noted that it would be beneficial for the consultant team at some point examine how the addition of peak demand savings goals would affect program design. Rio seconded this point, noting that it is important to understand in the context of setting goals that the value of reducing energy demand on the peak is worth more than reducing energy demand at any other time.

Gundal noted that these types of studies are more of an art than a science. White also reminded the Council that when the PAs evaluate the benefits of the programs that they already take into

account lifetime savings, summer and winter peak demand savings, oil savings, and other co-benefits. She also suggested that they should not be so prescriptive with the program goals that it hinders the PAs ability to reach the high-level savings targets.

Schlegel concluded by reviewing the schedule for upcoming cross-cutting topics.

Burgess adjourned the Council for a lunch break at 12:03 pm.

The Council reconvened at 1:04pm.

Public Comment:

Tina Halfpenny (Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships) thanked the Council for a great experience during her tenure as Council chair. She emphasized how great the Council actually is and how important it has been in advancing energy efficiency, not just across the country, but across the world. She also encouraged council members to not underestimate each other as they would not be in the position they are if it were not for the collaborative work on the smaller details. She also congratulated the PAs on their success in 2014 as well as Emmett Lyne who was important to a lot of the success, but did not receive official acknowledgment.

Maria Belen Power (Chelsea Collaborative, representing the Green Justice Coalition) noted that it is crucial for program success to know where resources are being spent. She also noted that many tenants in her area are vastly underserved and that improved communication could help to mitigate this issue. She closed by thanking the Council for their hard work in meeting goals.

General Updates:

Transition

Burgess highlighted that finding a replacement for Halfpenny as Council chair is a high priority and that in the meantime he would be chairing the Council.

EEAC Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2014

Boyd motioned to approve the minutes. Glynn seconded. All were in favor, with no opposed. Burgess and Harak abstained. The minutes were approved by the Council.

EEAC Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2015

Seidman motioned to approve the minutes. Boyd seconded. All were in favor with no opposed. Burgess and Harak abstained. The minutes were approved by the Council.

EEAC Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2015

Seidman motioned to approve the minutes. Rio seconded. All were in favor with no opposed. Burgess, Harak, Howat, Johnson, and Manning abstained. The minutes were approved by the Council.

Executive Committee Minutes – January 7, 2015

Boyd motioned to approve the minutes. Boecke seconded. All were in favor with no opposed. Burgess abstained. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee Minutes – January 30, 2015

Boyd motioned to approve the minutes. Glynn seconded. All were in favor with no opposed. Harak abstained. The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee.

Winter Strategies

Finlayson gave an update on winter strategies. He noted that they established a demand response program with Nest and that more than half of the customers in Massachusetts with Nest opted into the program allowing Nest to micro-adjust their thermostats. He also mentioned the rebates that are available for cold climate heat pumps and that they have received 124 applications so far. He also noted that they have allocated another round of funding to LIHEAP agencies for an extension of wood pellet stoves and other renewable heating sources. Lastly, he noted they had proposed to put funding into efficient gas boilers and furnaces, but that they were not able to execute this initiative and were considering aborting it.

Consultant Monthly Report

Belliveau noted that the consultant team is looking for work to level out a bit because the avoided energy supply cost work ended up being more work than they had been planning. He also noted and emphasized the great collaborative work that they have experienced lately with the PAs.

Database

Finlayson updated the Council on the database issue and noted that it is still awaiting a decision from the DPU. He noted that in the meantime he was interested in identifying the best sources of data that could be used in the Three-Year planning process.

Workshop Update and Next Steps

Jonathan Raab updated the Council on the progress to date of the residential and commercial and industrial (C&I) workshops. He noted that the meeting summaries and recommendations would be posted to the EEAC website and that the recommendations would be incorporated into a council resolution that would be developed through the executive committee. Following his discussion on each set of workshops, Raab allowed some time for Council discussion or input. Council discussion was focused on how the recommendations from the workshops get incorporated into the Three-Year Plan.

Johnson suggested that time be made for Councilors to review the recommendations before they go to the executive committee so that they are clear what the recommendations are and so that they can provide any input if they disagree with a recommendation. Burgess noted that Councilors have prioritized the discussions at the workshops and that that is the place for those detailed discussions. Raab noted that these meeting summaries should be very clear about what occurred during the workshops and that he supports the idea of Councilors providing additional input on the recommendations.

Finlayson reminded the Council that this is a fast process for a big planning process and that getting behind early on will only create more pressure towards the end. He noted that based on feedback from the workshops that it is likely that additional workshops could be created after the

Three-Year plans are drafted so that Councilors could review how the plans address their recommendations. A sense of the Council agreed that they would be in support of this idea.

2014 Results

Marie Abdou of National Grid and Lisa Shea of Eversource presented an overview of the PAs preliminary year-end 2014 results. They noted progress within the current Three-Year plan and improvements in savings from year to year.

On the gas side, Shea noted that the 2014 results were significantly over as a result of a large project. White contributed that it was likely a once in a lifetime project in the city of Boston. She noted that they were unable to release who the project was with because the customer had not yet given them permission to do so. Glynn encouraged the PAs to get clearance from that customer as it would generate a great story for energy efficiency projects. For electric, Abdou highlighted that electric annual savings have nearly tripled since 2008.

Abdou also noted that the PAs are on track to meet their Three-Year goals going into the final year of the plan for both electric and gas. Swing asked if the Council should be concerned that they are on track, but that a significant amount of savings came from one big project. He also noted it would be nice to see where the savings would be without that large project. Abdou noted that the PAs are fully confident that they will meet the goals.

The consultant team also presented some of their findings with an emphasis on covering sector results by PA. One of the items that Schlegel noted was that the PAs have improved performance in the C&I sector where they had been struggling.

Seidman noted that what Massachusetts has achieved is really remarkable and that at a national level there is a lot of anguish about getting savings to 1.5%. She emphasized that having this data is important because it shows that it can be done, and done cost-effectively. Belliveau seconded this point, noting that as the consultant for the newly formed Delaware council, it is great to be able to point to Massachusetts as a success story.

Johnson expressed concern about the PAs reaching some of their goals without spending their full budget. He wondered why the PAs were not spending more money to achieve even more savings. Gundal noted that spending more money does not necessarily mean more savings.

Consultant Report, Workplan and Budget

Belliveau reminded the Council that at the beginning of the year they only know about 60% of what they will be doing and so they plan revisit and give an update on the budget in May or June. He also recapped the 2014 actual versus budget numbers and noted that the team completed all of its deliverables. He concluded by noting that he would be happy to answer any questions or talk offline if any of the Councilors wanted more detail.

Seidman motioned to approve the workplan and budget. Swing seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no opposed or abstaining. The workplan and budget was approved.

Technical Resource Library Presentation

Steve Menges of National Grid presented on a project to update the technical reference manual (TRM) to a technical resource library (TRL). He noted that as a result of this project, the TRM or TRL would be an online lookup rather than in a book which would improve its ease of use. He indicated that the plan is to have the online library up and running by the summer of 2015 and that this project is being executed for Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Burgess asked who should be the point of contact if they have any questions about this project. Menges indicated that at the moment he would be the point of contact, but that as soon as the project is completed each PA would have a point person.

Adjournment:

Burgess reviewed upcoming calendar and adjourned the meeting at 3:47 pm.