



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 12, 2022
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

Executive Committee Members Present: Greg Abbe, Jo Ann Bodemer, Amy Boyd, Emmett Lyne, Maggie McCarey

Executive Committee Members Absent: Dennis Villanueva

Other Attendees: Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, Rachel Evans, Paul Johnson, Alyssa Vargas, Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Kate Peters, Ian Finlayson, Brian Beote, Joseph Dorfler, Steve Menges

1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

2. Executive Committee Updates and Business

No Executive Committee members had updates to share.

3. EEAC Management

Follow-Ups from September EEAC Meeting

Lyne noted that the PAs planned to provide updates on winter price mitigation efforts, but there are no other follow-ups from the September EEAC meeting. Belliveau said that the Consultant Team (C-Team) did not have any follow-up items to address.

Councilor Term Updates

McCarey stated that five Councilors are approaching the end of their five-year terms, but all are eligible for reappointment through the DPU. The five Councilors with expiring terms are Cindy Arcate representing Massachusetts Non-Profits, Paul Johnson representing Energy Efficiency Small Businesses, Cammy Peterson representing Commonwealth Cities and Towns, Justin Davidson representing Massachusetts Realtors, and Tim Costa representing the Regional Electric Transmission Organization (ISO New England). McCarey said that the Department of Energy

Resources (DOER) developed job descriptions for all open Councilor seats that are not elected or pre-designated and the process for making recommendations to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) would begin in January, so Councilors should share the opportunities within their networks. McCarey said that organizations like ISO New England with pre-designated EEAC seats would provide documentation to retain current representatives or appoint new Councilors. For the elected Energy Efficiency Small Businesses seat, McCarey said DOER will run an election before the end of 2022 that will involve outreach to inform small contractors about the EEAC and solicit small contractor participation in the election. McCarey stated that the goal is to provide Councilor recommendations to the DPU in November.

Hybrid In-Person November EEAC Meeting

McCarey announced that DOER is working to secure a location in Boston for the in-person hybrid November EEAC meeting. Lyne said it will be good to see people in person.

4. EEAC Technical Consultant Request for Response (RFR) Update

McCarey announced that the EEAC technical consultant contract expires at the end of 2022, so DOER updated the procurement document for EEAC technical consultant services, which was shared with the voting Executive Committee members, Bodemer and Boyd, for review. McCarey said the RFR would be posted publicly and Executive Committee review sessions would be scheduled following DOER legal review.

5. October EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda

McCarey stated that the October EEAC meeting would include evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) updates from the C-Team, in addition to workforce development updates from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC). McCarey said the October EEAC meeting would begin at 12:00PM for an EM&V-focused lunch and learn with Ralph Prah, the C-Team EM&V lead who worked with DOER to identify relevant studies for Council discussion. McCarey added that MassCEC often tests new methods of building decarbonization, such as a long-term home decarbonization audit, through pilots and demonstrations which would be included in their presentation. McCarey suggested that MassCEC present updates at EEAC meetings semiannually to provide more visibility into their innovative pilots.

Lyne requested that the PAs be granted the opportunity to review the C-Team EM&V slides. Lyne also asked if MassCEC would cover workforce development efforts stemming from the annual \$12M Mass Save funding allocation. McCarey confirmed that MassCEC would be covering workforce development efforts, but building decarbonization work will be the primary focus of their presentation. Belliveau said the C-Team would be able to share EM&V content with the PAs tomorrow. Lyne commented that advance coordination on EEAC meeting material development has been very helpful for the PAs.

Bodemer asked if the November Executive Committee meeting would also be in person. McCarey said Executive Committee meetings have been working well remotely, so the plan was to hold just the November EEAC meeting in person. Bodemer agreed.

6. November EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda

McCarey noted that the November EEAC meeting would focus on Income Eligible program updates since it has not been a primary topic in any 2022 meetings, as well as environmental justice targets in the 2022-2024 Plan Term Sheet which remain to be set using baseline data from the PAs. McCarey said the PAs, C-Team, DOER, and Equity Working Group will meet in October to establish environmental justice targets for EEAC approval in November. McCarey said contractor pricing has not been discussed in a few months and recommended that an update be included in the November EEAC agenda.

Downey announced that Cape Light Compact would be refiling its Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering (CVEO) with the DPU at the end of this October. McCarey asked if the CVEO filing could be discussed in the October EEAC meeting. Downey replied that the DPU advised Cape Light to avoid speaking publicly about the CVEO prior to filing. Evans asked if Cape Light could announce the intent to file without discussing the substance or taking questions on the CVEO filing. Eidelman Kiernan said the update could be limited to announcing Cape Light's intent to file.

Jacobson requested to give a full Income Eligible program update in January instead of November, once guidance on federal funding is provided to LEAN. Jacobson said that federal funding triggers all the funding disbursed by the PAs. McCarey understood uncertainty around incremental federal funding, but asked why delays in federal funding would preclude LEAN from providing an update in November. Jacobson said LEAN would be prepared to deliver a 10-minute update on Income Eligible programs in November, then provide a more comprehensive update in January. McCarey suggested that LEAN give an update on federal funding in January and cover year-to-date Income Eligible program activity in November.

Abbe stated that the PAs give extensive presentations detailing how ratepayer funds are deployed to deliver programs, so LEAN should deliver the same level of content. Abbe said that as the Residential Representative on the Executive Committee he has an obligation to ensure updates on 2022 program performance are communicated publicly. McCarey said DOER and LEAN should discuss what the LEAN presentation will include, since an Income Eligible program-focused meeting should be held this year. Jacobson replied that Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) and Jerrold Oppenheim could coordinate the presentation content with McCarey. Jacobson noted that LEAN is currently preparing for evaluation while maintaining program delivery, so they would have more bandwidth for a comprehensive presentation in January. McCarey said an update on the affordable housing deep-energy retrofits would be suitable for November since the PAs want to launch the offering before 2023. Lyne said the PAs can support LEAN on providing an affordable housing deep-energy retrofit update.

Johnson commented that he heard from contractors that audit wait times are into January, weatherization volume is well below previous years, fiberglass insulation costs have increased 10%, contractors are only surviving because of direct weatherization offerings, and co-delivery of heat pumps and weatherization is challenging due to heat pump installer capacity issues. Johnson requested the PAs present year-to-date 2022 weatherization projects compared to 2021 in the October EEAC meeting. Johnson also said it is in the Council's purview to discuss the

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and contractors need information on IRA resources. McCarey responded that year-to-date weatherization and audit data can be presented with updates on winter price increase mitigation. Lyne and Peters confirmed the PAs could share year-to-date weatherization and audit data. McCarey also understood that audit wait times were between 4-6 weeks. McCarey said that the National Association of State Energy Offices is addressing many questions on the IRA and how delivery pathways will be developed under Department of Energy guidance. Johnson said updates on IRA guidelines should be provided as soon as available.

7. Adjournment

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:45 AM.