

**Electric Utilities Task Group
Thursday, October 8, 2015
Town Hall, Old Town Road
12:30 p.m.**

Present: Chair Barbara MacMullan; Members – Bill Penn and Everett Shorey. Also present were Cindy Wilson-Frias, John Bell and Allan Hall representing the Public Utilities Commission and the Division, and for the recording of the minutes, Millie McGinnes.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Barbara MacMullan at 12:37 p.m.

1. Public Input

From the audience, Bill McKernan thanked the group for their hard work; asked that more information be posted on the website; and suggested shielding the brighter new LED streetlights so they are not so blinding.

2. Approve minutes of meetings from August 24, 2015

Mr. Penn moved to approve the minutes of August 24, 2015. Mr. Shorey seconded the motion and it carried.

3 Ayes (MacMullan, Penn, Shorey) 0 Nays

3. Deepwater Update

Bryan Wilson of Deepwater Wind reported the following:

- Five jackets are installed in the water.
- Pile driving will be taking place until the end of October.
- They soon will be ready to install the next sections of the windmills.
- They are still on schedule for project completion in 2016.

Ms. MacMullan amended the agenda to move up agenda #5.

5. Discuss and act on Block Island School Plan to Add Solar Panels

Ms. MacMullan explained that the Block Island School received a grant to install solar panels at the school and the School Committee was looking for a letter of support from the EUTG. She noted that the grant will pay for the majority of the panel's costs and the savings should amount to 40%. Mr. Penn stated he was uncomfortable supporting the project without seeing the details.

Mr. Shorey moved to send a letter supporting the economics of the Block Island School solar panel project. Ms. MacMullan seconded the motion and it carried.

3 Ayes (MacMullan, Penn, Shorey) 0 Nays

4. Discussion of Rate Case Issues with Cindy Wilson Frias of RI PUC

Cindy Wilson-Frias explained the rate case process regarding BIPCO's transition to the mainland cable highlighting the following (presentation attached):

- The rate case should be filed July 2016, for new rate implementation in April 2017.
- The rate case will include net metering components that must comply with the current laws.

- BIPCO is going to file for a waiver to allow them to retain the authority to generate power. The waiver can be granted, denied or granted with conditions.
- Any planning and agreements that can be addressed now will make the rate case more efficient and save money in the end.

John Bell of the Division of Public Utilities reviewed estimates of the rate figures once connected to the cable (attached). His analysis showed no reduction in current electric bills. Ms. MacMullan stated that initial estimated savings have been reduced by: the major decline in fuel costs, dramatically lowering BIPCO's current fuel charge; the increase in the standard offer for power purchase; and back owed allowable returns payable to BIPCO.

At 2:15 p.m., with no further business to discuss, Mr. Penn moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacMullan and voted unanimously.

Millie McGinnes

Minutes Approved: