

# **ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**Minutes-February 9, 2012**

**Conference Room C, Second Floor-DOA**

**Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ryan at 3:35 PM**

**Members Present: Dan Justynski, Paul Ryan, Joe Cirillo, Chris Powell, Joe Newsome, Abigail Anthony & Marion Gold**

**Consultants Present: Scudder Parker, Mike Guerard & Richard Faesy**

**Staff Present: Pat McCarthy & Charles Hawkins**

**Others Present: Matthew Schweich, Bert Cooper, Gary Bliss, Jeremy Newberger, Michel McAteer, Gail Esben (by teleconference), Danny Musher, Peter Asen, Dave Jacobson & Mark Kravitz**

**Acceptance of Minutes: Dan J. made a motion to accept the January minutes, it was seconded by Joe C. and passed unanimously**

**Discussion & Vote on the EERMC's 2012 Work Plan & Budget**

**Paul R. announced that he was going to take up Agenda Item 4a dealing with the work plan & budget at the start of the meeting. He**

**asked if anyone had any questions about the budget numbers.**

**Dan J. asked about Budget Item 2, which earmarks \$90,000 to the Office of Energy Resources (OER) for staff support. He did not object to the total, but he would like to amend this item to talk about the type of billing and the mechanics of what OER does on a monthly basis, instead of just a generic amount of \$90,000. Abigail A. said that the invoices go directly to NGrid. She suggested that they be cc'd to the EERMC Budget Sub-Committee going forward. Chris P. asked if the invoices have work hours included so the Council could keep better track of how rate-payer funds were being spent. He wondered if the budget could be amended to insure that the invoicing is done monthly with tasks included for more transparency. Marion G. agreed and wanted to know how to turn this suggestion into an amendment.**

**Dan J. proposed a motion to adopt the proposed EERMC Work Plan & Budget as amended. Paul R. said that you had to move the amendment first, before you voted on the budget. Marion G. offered a motion to amend the budget to say that all invoices from OER will include tasks performed, time, materials, and labor rates; and invoices will be sent to National Grid with a copy to the EERMC Budget Sub-Committee on a monthly basis for review. It was seconded by Chris P. and passed unanimously.**

**Paul R. requested that two conditions be put on the motion to approve the budget. These conditions would be that the budget**

would be subject to funding and that it be subject to any legislation in effect at the time of performance.

Chris P. said that if this legislation has not been passed, why is the Council concerned. Paul R. said that it was because the Council budget spans two fiscal years in a one year budget. The Council is all set for the 2012 fiscal year which ends on 6/30, but they are not set for the next fiscal year. Joe N. thought the work of the Council was always subject to funding. Paul R. said that the Governor's budget has eliminated all of the Council's funding with it going to the OER. The Council would not even be able to buy the digital recorder it needs.

Jeremy N. said that the PUC approves the Energy Efficiency Program Plan (EE PP) and the EERMC's administrative budget is part of that. They have approved it for the whole calendar year. Chris P. said that this is ratepayer not taxpayer money. Paul R. cited the Deepwater case where they were denied by the PUC and the General Assembly changed the legislation. Chris P. said that that was an issue for the PUC, not the Council. Paul R. said he would be comfortable with whatever amendment the council would like to vote on.

Abigail A. made a motion to approve the 2012 budget as amended today. It was seconded by Dan J. and passed by a vote of 6-0. Paul R. abstained from voting.

**The OER's Pat McCarthy wanted to convey a message from the DOA's Director Licht and Associate Director Mahoney that they plan on being at the March meeting to answer any questions Council member's may have.**

### **Presentation on the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI)**

**Gary Bliss of the Providence Planning Office and Bert Cooper of the GHHI were introduced to explain this initiative. This Initiative is sponsored by the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, and supported by USDOE, EPA, HUD, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the US Conference of Mayors. It improves the integrated delivery of housing interventions, like EE, WAP and lead reduction, to create healthier and more cost efficient homes. The Providence pilot partners include: the City of Providence, RIOER, the RI Foundation, the Childhood Lead Action Project, Apeiron, Building Futures, the Housing Action Coalition and the Providence Plan.**

**GHHI realized it was hard to make various funding sources work together. Lead abatement went to HUD; Low Income Weatherization to ProCap and this winter to RI Housing. The idea was to create a single intake portal to reduce inefficiencies. The strategy is to Align-Braid-Coordinate. GHHI is currently doing work in 15 cities and with 2 Indian tribes. Two burdens of unhealthy and energy inefficient homes are the \$54.9B spent on home-based childhood environmental disease and the fact that low income homes spent 14% of their**

**income on energy compared with only 3.5% for other households.**

**GHHI establishes a comprehensive assessment and intervention process through aligning housing and health programs. Workforce development is also a key component. It can result in 25% in EE savings. GHHI is interested in seeing if Medicaid can pay for some of the interventions, especially with Asthma triggers.**

**On the local level, GHHI was approached by OER's Ken Payne to see if you could increase weatherization enrollments with a comprehensive neighborhood campaign that tracks performance and has an educational component. You try to get 100% participation and make it as easy as possible for participants. You also include health issues in the assessment. Ken P. felt that Providence was only getting about 50% of the weatherization work they should and that there was a pattern of discrimination in weatherization contractors. He also brought flexible funding into the mix.**

**GHHI is committed to doing 250 homes in Providence with a goal of 125 completed by the end of March. The target area is the Valley Street neighborhood near the Coke Plant and Olneyville. They were chosen because they had a high level of need, a high likelihood of success, and had instances of blood poisoning and other health & safety factors. They also had a strong network of neighborhood organizations that were trusted by the community. Apeiron & the Childhood Lead Action Project are training resident educators to do**

continuous neighborhood outreach to help people understand the goals of the programs and understand what will happen to their home.

The process includes a \$300 whole home retro-fit audit and then it is followed-up with a \$300 post retro-fit audit. Marion G. asked if GHHI was looking at addressing home nutrition needs with food stamps, which is a large chunk of federal funding. Bert C. said that they would like to look at it but they can only take on so much. Joe N. asked who were doing the audits. Gary B. said an RFQ was issued to identify contractors who met the higher GHHI standard. Two were identified: Beten Engineering & Ocean State Energy Audits. GHHI then used USDOL stimulus funding to provide 12-15 contractors \$5-6,000 in pre-training to get those firms BPI certified. They were also business, confined space and OSHA trained. They identified the firms that has an experience gap and they filled it. Scudder P. asked if the new contractors were blower door trained. Yes, and for contractors who don't have one, loaners will be available.

To further expand the contractor base, Providence went out for a second RFQ and held workshops to walk contractors through the bid process to get a more diversified contractor base. As a result 12 more contractors will be added. The goal is to get them work experience so you can go to the CAPs and do weatherization work. OER's Pat M. asked Gary B. to forward to him all of the new MBE graduates. Joe N. asked if these contractors were considered to be certified. Gary B.

said they were certified GHHI contractors and GHHI will work to get them on the RI Approved Contractor List. Right now there are two certified GHHI contractors, next week that will grow to 14. They are now waiting for the BPI test results which took longer than expected. GHHI would like the OER to communicate to the CAPS that there were now 14 new MBE certified firms ready to do weatherization work. Abigail A. wanted to ascertain that these contractors will also be trained to work for RISE in the EnergyWise Program.

GHHI will provide a \$25 gift card if the resident can get their paperwork done completely in three days. Scudder P. asked about the opportunity to save water. Yes, the Providence Water Bo. is involved. Jeremy N. asked about the timetable for evaluations. Bert C. said this will be done at three months. They would like to go out to a full year but the funding is time limited.

Next steps will include expanding beyond the two pilot neighborhoods. They would also like to take a look at what the model will look like when it is expanded and how funding will be addressed. Joe N. asked about the timeline for doing the next 125 homes. Bert C. said by the end of the year. Scudder P. asked if there was a way to track Medicaid interventions. Neighborhood Health Partners were helping to track some of this data. Joe C. asked if unsafe stairs were being looked at. Bert C. said that GHHI could improve stairway safety by fixing runners or putting in new threads, but they can not build a new stairway.

**Abigail asked how the NGrid EE PP & the OER can play a role in GHHI. Bert C. said that GHHI nationwide was working with utilities to leverage additional resources. Joe N. asked who GHHI's liaison with OER was. Since Ken P.'s departure, Barbara Cesaro has been the primary contact. Marion G. asked if GHHI was working with HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative. Yes, but more on the national level, with Pittsburgh & Providence as a model. Bert C. said that GHHI was able to get better traction in Providence than either Philadelphia or New Haven. Abigail A. wanted to compliment the work GHHI has done and the progress they have made to date and is glad NGrid has been an eager partner in the process.**

#### **NGrid Presentation on the 2012 EE Marketing Campaign.**

**NGrid's Gail Esben gave the presentation via teleconference. The objective of this year's campaign is to build awareness for RI's EE PP via a comprehensive program to drive participation. They will create a communications umbrella using mass media to continue to build awareness by creating a halo effect for the direct marketing communication efforts implemented for the individual programs. They will also drive all communications to their website via a unique URL for each tactic used in the campaign to measure effectiveness and monitor participation form downloads as a measure of intent to participate. They expect to have at least five radio commercials. ProJo newspaper campaign will begin on 2/13 with their winter ads. This year's campaign will start earlier and end later. They will be**

dropping door handles starting in March with a goal of reaching 190,000 homes. They will also use the social media.

Dan J. asked if NGrid had looked into using stickers on the front page of local newspapers. It was really popular with advertisers in the Barrington Times. Gail E. said that NGrid used it on Long Island for gas conversion marketing. Gail E. likes the idea of having the sticker and the ad. Scudder P. asked if NGrid would consider a state identity for RI EE programs like “Mass Saves” to help with the marketing. Gail E. also works on “Mass Saves” and the challenge with that campaign is a disconnect for the customers about what “Mass Saves” is as opposed to the other utility programs. After three years of “Mass Saves” people still are not aware of the concept and trust their utilities more to deliver EE savings.. The lesson learned is that you have to spend more money defining what “Mass Saves” is instead of promoting what it does.

Marion G. said that last year working with NGrid on the Community Initiative to Drive Participation they had a real challenge with the “hockey stick” effect. She hopes that the media efforts, the program plan efforts, and the community outreach efforts are coordinated to lessen this bottleneck. She is pleased NGrid is starting the media outreach earlier to achieve more level participation. Gail E. agreed, and said starting the campaign earlier helps set the stage for the other programs and she hope for consistency throughout the year to avoid the hockey stick. Marion G. asked if there will be an

overarching URL for all the programs. Gail E. said that the URL for the new site is nationalgrid.us. and they are working on the navigation to EE from there. Abigail A. asked if someone calls RISE directly are they then put into the NGrid's EE PP or do they have to go to the "Power of Action" to access it. Jeremy N. said that RISE can take care of it and put them into the system without the customer having to go to power of action.

## **VEIC Monthly Report**

Scudder P. introduced Richard Vassey, who's consultant team is a partner with VEIC. He is on a field trip to RI where he went out on an audit with RISE to look at how the new independent contractors for the EnergyWise program are progressing. He also went out to look at an insulation job.

Dan J. noticed that on Page One of VEIC's report there is talk of a meeting with Treasurer Raimondo's office. Was this conversation about the EE programs and how they work? Abigail A. asked Treasurer Staffer Matt Schweich, who was in attendance, to talk about the meeting. He said that the Treasurer is interested in EE and realizes the excellent work the EERMC has done. Her office was having a number of conversations to see what role it could possible play. In terms of specifics, that phase has not been reached, they are still in the information gathering mode. Dan J. asked if they were looking at the added value to the state of the EE programs. Abigail A.

interpreted the treasurer's interest in EE as an opportunity to help large customers and perhaps municipalities. They are looking for the best fit and support the work that the Council has already been done. Dan J. said he appreciated the Treasurer's interest. Chris P. said that he has also met with the Treasurer's office to discuss C&I funding. Mike M said NGrid's focus in these conversations was on job development and how to harness EE as an economic development tool.

VEIC finalized discussions on the scope & objectives of the Natural Gas Opportunity Report, which now include a high level review of deliverable fuels opportunities. Because it will not be as big a report as the one KEMA did on electric EE opportunities, Scudder P. thinks the report can be done for the range of about \$100,000. Abigail A. wanted to point out that the difference between this report & the KEMA report was that the first report was measuring the magnitude of cost effective opportunities out there and looked to come up with a number for potential savings, in this case 2.5%. The gas report is going to look at the technologies and the ways NGrid can get to gas & deliverable fuel EE savings opportunities. It will look at the tangible things the company can do now to increase savings. Chris P. said that with the price of natural gas & electricity dropping, the high cost of deliverable fuels will become more of an issue, not just for low-income but for everyone.

Abigail A. wanted to remind Council members of the technical

**session on the NGrid Revised System Reliability (SR) Plan that will be held on 2/15 at 9:30 AM at the PUC. It includes a six-year cost effectiveness analysis over the immediate lifetime of the SR project in Tiverton & Little Compton. Abigail A. urged council members to attend if they can. DPUC has become involved and has issued numerous information requests.**

**Paul R. asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was moved by Joe C., seconded by Chris P. and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Charles Hawkins**

**Secretary Pro-tempore**