



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, May 26, 2016 | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Accounts and Controls Conf. Rm. 4th Floor, Dept. of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

In Attendance: Abigail Anthony, Marisa Desautel, Marion Gold, Mike Guerard, Jeremy Newberger, Scudder Parker, Chris Powell, Rachel Sholly, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Nick Ucci

1. Call to Order

Chairman Chris Powell called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Betsy Stubblefield Loucks made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2016 meeting. Abigail Anthony seconded and all approved.

3. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Marion Gold reported that the Governor's office is awaiting approval from the Senate President before they move the member nominations to advice and consent. She also learned, as a follow-up from last month's conversation, from the Department of Administration's legal department that public board members are not personally liable. Marisa Desautel added that the Attorney General's Office would provide legal representation in the event that an EERMC member were to be sued.

4. Policy and Planning Issues

a) Savings Targets Process Update

Mike Guerard emphasized that this round of targets setting is particularly difficult because of rapidly evolving market conditions. He presented a list of key drivers and their estimated impacts, which is being updated as analysis continues. Lighting is the item that is changing the most and the most quickly. National Grid estimates that the retail lighting program, which accounts for 30% of the whole portfolio will be cut in half by 2020. DNVGL has been hired by National Grid to do an analysis of commercial lighting, which has the potential to create another big bubble on the commercial side. Financing is another key driver that will have an appreciable impact. The consultant team is hoping to have more detail to report at the next meeting. Mr. Guerard added that the targets working group is looking at adopting a new cost-effectiveness test through the standards revision process, which could impact targets setting by changing what is cost-effective. Mr. Newberger added that there has been some discussion about synching up the targets setting and standards revision because it makes sense to do them at the same time. Ms. Anthony asked if the Council should notify the Public Utilities Commission of this adjustment. Nick Ucci recommended that it be taken to the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers first. The proposal to delay the targets filing should be added to the Council agenda. Scudder Parker suggested that the Council authorize the consultant team to propose a customized Rhode Island cost-effectiveness test.

b) Finance Update

Mr. Guerard reported that Alex Hill and Jerome Bilodeau of Dunsy Energy Consulting came down to present at and participate in the ACEEE Finance Forum in Newport. They are facilitating the

development of a mechanism to capitalize Round 2 of the Efficient Buildings Fund and continue implementing projects that would not otherwise materialize without this financing. Commercial PACE is now launched and the consultant team is working to update the website to reflect the linkage between PACE and National Grid programs. Residential PACE is on track to launch as early as possible in 2017, but there will be a fair amount of work to do.

c) Update on Synapse Contract for Demand Response Consulting Services

Mr. Parker reported that the consultant team has been working with Doug Hurley of Synapse as well as National Grid to draft an initial report. Mr. Hurley will update the report based on feedback received and will present on that and a second document, which focuses on opportunities, at the EERMC meeting and potentially the Collaborative and Systems Integration (SIRI) meetings. Mr. Newberger wanted to ensure that expectations around the demand response are managed and Mr. Parker agreed.

5. Evaluation, Measurement & Verification Presentation Outline Review

The Committee reviewed a proposed content outline and agreed that this presentation can serve to address the recent concerns expressed by Council member Shigeru Osada regarding the validity of reported savings. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks suggested asking Mr. Osada if he still has questions or concerns after the presentation and then ask the Council to vote on whether to spend more time on this issue. The Committee agreed to postpone the presentation to the July meeting. Mr. Guerard and Mr. Newberger will set up a time to flesh out the content. Mr. Ucci thought that a regional perspective would be good to add and suggested inviting someone from ISO NE.

6. Council Business

a) Council Member Education "Retreat"

The Committee suggested polling members for availability into September starting with new members to ensure they can attend. OER and the consultant team will develop a draft agenda for next month's Executive Committee meeting. The Committee also discussed locations including the Rhode Island Foundation and Brown University.

b) Executive Director Transition

Commissioner Gold said that she would be meeting with her replacement, Carol Grant, next Tuesday will invite her to the June 9th Council meeting. Ms. Grant will probably be starting in mid-June. Ms. Anthony felt that it would be a good idea for the Executive Committee to prepare materials that explain the Council's priorities to help orient Ms. Grant.

c) Joe Newsome Thank You

The Committee decided to host a gathering at Jackie's after the June 9th meeting to thank Joe Newsome for his service on the Council and to toast Commissioner Gold as she transition. Ms. Sholly will attempt to reach out to Mr. Newsome.

d) Draft EERMC June Meeting Agenda

The full Council agenda should include a report on the targets schedule, a presentation on codes work by Eric Beaton and Becca Trietch, and a presentation by Doug Hurley.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Anthony seconded and all approved. Chairman Powell adjourned the meeting at 3:33 PM.