



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held Virtually

April 12, 2023

1:00pm – 3:00pm

EEAC Members in Attendance

EEAC Member	Organization/Sector	Attendance	Proxy	Proxy Name
Rob Underwood	(Chairperson) DNREC	Absent	Yes	Tom Noyes
Scott Lynch	Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation	Present	n/a	
Vacant	Low-Income Sector	n/a	n/a	
Cassandra T. Marshall	Residential Sector	Present	n/a	
Harris B. McDowell, III	Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Absent	Yes	Drew Slater
Kelly McKeown	Commercial Sector	Present	n/a	
Glenn A. Moore	Delmarva Power & Light	Present	n/a	
Kevin Yingling	Delaware Electric Cooperative	Present	n/a	
Derrick Craig	Chesapeake Utilities	Present	n/a	
Christian Fuess	Manufacturing Sector	Absent	n/a	
Ric Moore	Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Present	n/a	
Clem Dinsmore	Environmental Sector	Present	n/a	
Vacant	Agricultural Sector	n/a	n/a	

EEAC Consultants in Attendance

Gretchen Calcagni; Optimal Energy, Inc.

Collin Smith; Optimal Energy, Inc.

DNREC Staff in Attendance

Scott Blaier; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Maya Krasker; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Call to Order

Tom Noyes called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion
 - a. Vote on minutes – January
3. Committee Updates
 - a. EM&V Committee
 - b. Energy Access and Equity Collaborative
4. Bi-Annual Snapshots (Q3-Q4 2022)
5. Program Planning Updates
6. C&I Program Offerings
7. Update on Governor’s Energy Advisory Council
8. Next Steps
9. Public Comment
10. Adjournment

Welcome and Introductions

Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion

Vote on minutes – January

- Tom Noyes asked for a motion to approve the October EEAC minutes.
- Kelly McKeown made a motion to approve the minutes.
- Clem Dinsmore seconded.
- All Councilors voted in favor.
- Motion was approved.

EM&V Committee Update

- Gretchen Calcagni provided an update on the EM&V Committee meeting that took place on April 11, 2023. At the meeting, Program Administrators presented on their 2022 Q3-Q4 biannual snapshots. The group also discussed EM&V regulations edits and Technical Reference Manual updates. Chesapeake Utilities presented a status update on initial program concepts for their three-year planning process.

Energy Access and Equity Collaborative (EAEC)

- Noyes provided an update on the EAEC. He stated the EAEC did not meet the week of the Council meeting due to scheduling challenges, but had a meeting scheduled in two weeks. He noted that some of the work of the EAEC will come into play on the Governor’s Energy Advisory Council (GEAC) discussions. One of the things the Collaborative is going to want to discuss is how to make use of the work the Collaborative has been doing to inform the work of the GEAC itself. Noyes also noted that DNREC continues its work with the Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) and Jim Purcell.

Bi-Annual Snapshots

- Calcagni noted state that some of the numbers being reported for year-end 2022 were preliminary and would be updated. She stated that the SEU would present at the next meeting.
- Calcagni spoke about programs run by DNREC. She stated that the Weatherization Assistance Program data are still being compiled, but discussed the results of the Energy Efficiency Investment Fund (EEIF) and the E2I program. She noted that EEIF ended up significantly higher at the end of the year than it was half way through the year. She also pointed out that DNREC’s planned values include both pre-approved and projects expected to close, but the results being reporting are just projects that actually closed, so there is a bit of a disconnect between the values.

- Derrick Craig asked why the EEIF savings increased so much in the second half of the year.
- Calcagni responded that we often see this in programs and it's referred to as the "hockey stick effect" where you have a lot of projects that tend to close at the end of the year. Customers many want to try to get projects finished within a calendar year for budgetary purposes, or program administrators may be trying to make sure to spend remaining funds within that timeframe. There were also additional marketing and outreach efforts.
- Clem Dinsmore asked if Calcagni could elaborate on the planned number vs reported number for EEIF program.
- Calcagni responded that DNREC's program results in their EEIF annual report include both projects closed and that had been pre-approved. For the EEAC, the intent is to report just the projects that have actually closed. She thinks that during with the planning process the last time around, there was a little bit of a disconnect in terms the way that the numbers were used and in the next planning period you'll see that the planned numbers are likely going to be closer to the actual.
- Scott Lynch presented on DEMEC's programs. He noted that they saw some increases in the amount of savings that they achieved in the later part of the year. Sometimes large projects do take a little time to get through, so those projects weren't necessarily completing in the first part of this year. Results were also related to the fact that DEMEC had four communities that were renewing. Those were Newark, Middletown, Smyrna and Lewis, and they had relatively large projects that were part of achieving their goals at the end of the year.
- Dinsmore asked what the main explanation was for the increase in activity and whether it was a post-COVID phenomenon.
- Lynch responded that the did see some post COVID phenomenon in that they were able to start going back into buildings and talking to people who had been building up projects.
- Calcagni asked if anyone was on the call to speak to Delmarva's snapshot.
- Moore stated that there was not, but they would make sure someone was at the next meeting to speak.
- Josh Duckwall discussed DEC's programs. He stated that one of the programs that the Co-op was really proud of in both residential and commercial was its peak shifting program, which is still in its infancy and is growing rapidly. He noted that the residential lighting program was sunseting this year and that there was no program activity in the low income program for 2022.
- Dinsmore asked about the nature of the low income program.
- Kevin Yingling stated that DEC partnered with the DNREC to do some heater replacement for Co-op members that went through their low income weatherization program, but their set pot of funding wasn't renewed.

Program Planning Updates

- Moore stated that Delmarva has spent a lot of time working with PSC staff, the Public Advocate and the SEU and are very close to putting forward a program plan to staff and advocate, and then would like to bring that before the EEAC. Delmarva may ask DNREC for a special EEAC meeting to discuss the program plan.
- Craig presented some initial program ideas Chesapeake Utilities has been working on. They hope to save around 0.2% of annual retail sales in 2024 and 0.3% of sales in 2025 with a goal of getting to 0.5% of sales within three years. He said they completed a market scan of gas programs throughout the country and did a more detailed analysis of the programs that were already taking place in Delaware. They also had meetings with the SEU and PSC staff and the Public Advocate to bounce ideas off of them. Chesapeake has decided to piggyback on some of the SEU's programs as a starting point. Programs they have focused on include the Home Energy Checkup, Home Performance, and Assisted Home Performance programs. In the future they may also consider incorporating the Faith Efficiency, Farm, and Multifamily programs. They also plan to include a standard offer program that would take project ideas from customers. The expect to have a plan distributed during the week of June 26th right before the July EEAC meeting and then filing with the Commission around July 24th. For a cost recovery mechanism they plan to use a format similar to the environmental rider and consistent for all delivery service

classes. For next steps they plan to have additional meetings with PSC staff, the Public Advocate, SEU, and Optimal and continue to develop the cost recovery mechanism.

- Dinsmore asked if he is correct in his understanding that Chesapeake has determined it would be more efficient and beneficial to their customers to run programs through the SEU.
- Craig responded that Dinsmore's statement is probably accurate.
- Dinsmore asked if Chesapeake considered any of Energize Delaware's programs that were created or materially updated as part of last year's process that Tony DePrima led.
- Criag answered that as of right now, they have only considered the programs he previously mentioned.

C&I Program Offerings

- Calcagni stated that this agenda item was included in response to a question raised at the previous EEAC meeting about programs being offered in Delaware to serve Commercial & Industrial (C&I) customers. She started the presentation by discussing common programs included in C&I program portfolios. She also described DNREC's Energy Efficiency Investment Fund (EEIF) program.
- Slater discussed C&I programs offered by the SEU.
- Yingling discussed C&I programs offered by DEC.
- Lynch discussed C&I programs offered by DEMEC.
- Dinsmore asked whether larger hospitals in the state that have taken advantage of any of these C&I programs including one hospital that installed a CHP system a number of years ago.
- Calcagni stated that she was not aware of any hospitals that had done CHP projects through EEIF.
- Dinsmore asked for clarification about the project cap in place for EEIF.
- Calcagni responded that it is 30% of project cost or \$250,000, whichever is less.
- Slater stated that he can't speak to specific hospitals but would be happy to follow up if there were any that were interested in doing projects.

Update on Governor's Energy Advisory Council

- Noyes discussed the statute authorizing the Governor's Energy Advisory Council that was amended last year late in the session. The legislation expanded the Council to 25 members and more clearly specified the Council's role. The Council will be reconvening shortly and providing recommendations for updating the state's Energy Plan. Noyes stated that there have been ongoing discussions about how bodies such as the EEAC will relate to the GEAC. A lot of people at the EEAC table today are going to be involved with the GEAC.

Next Steps/Adjournment

- Next EEAC meeting will be held in July 2023.
- Copies of all EEAC meeting materials may be found on DNREC's website located at the following URL:
<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/efficiency/advisory-council-meetings/>

Public Comment

- Noyes asked for public comments.
- No public comment was made.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.