



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held Virtually

October 11, 2023

1:00pm – 3:00pm

EEAC Members in Attendance

EEAC Member	Organization/Sector	Attendance	Proxy	Proxy Name
Rob Underwood	(Chairperson) DNREC	Present	No	
Scott Lynch	Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation	Present	n/a	
Vacant	Low-Income Sector	n/a	n/a	
Cassandra T. Marshall	Residential Sector	Absent	No	
Harris B. McDowell, III	Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Absent	Yes	Athena Bi
Kelly McKeown	Commercial Sector	Present	n/a	
Vacant	Delmarva Power & Light	Absent	Yes	Lisa Oberdorf
Kevin Yingling	Delaware Electric Cooperative	Absent	Yes	Josh Duckwall
Derrick Craig	Chesapeake Utilities	Present	n/a	
Christian Fuess	Manufacturing Sector	Present	n/a	
Ric Moore	Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Absent	No	
Clem Dinsmore	Environmental Sector	Present	n/a	
Vacant	Agricultural Sector	n/a	n/a	

EEAC Consultants in Attendance

Eric Belliveau; NV5

Gretchen Calcagni; NV5

Annalise Stein; NV5

DNREC Staff in Attendance

Maya Krasker; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Tom Noyes; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Call to Order

Rob Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion
3. Committee Updates
4. Bi-Annual Snapshots (Q1-Q2 2023)
5. Governor's Energy Advisory Council Updates
6. Goal-Setting
7. Public Comment
8. Next Steps/Adjournment

Welcome and Introductions

Roba Underwood called roll for the meeting.

Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion

Vote on minutes – August

Underwood asked for a motion to approve the August EEAC minutes.

Clem Dinsmore made a motion to approve the minutes.

Derrick Craig seconded.

Scott Lynch and Lisa Oberdorf abstained.

All other Councilors voted in favor.

Motion was approved.

Committee Updates

EM&V Committee

Gretchen Calcagni provided an update on the EM&V Committee meeting that took place on October 10, 2023. At the meeting, the group heard from Program Administrators on their Q1-Q1 2023 biannual snapshots and Delmarva Power's evaluation team presented on results of their 2022 program year. The group also talked some more about the savings reporting and allocation framework that has been a topic of discussion at the committee for a number of years and discussed some next steps for trying to resolve some outstanding questions.

Energy Access and Equity Collaborative (EAEC)

Tom Noyes gave an update on the EAEC. As discussed earlier in the year, DNREC planned to take the work that was underway in the EAEC and bring it to the Environmental Justice and Energy Equity work group of the Governors Energy Advisory Council. Since they didn't want to have the same discussion happening in two different bodies, they have put the EAEC on hiatus. There have been and will be several meetings of the Environmental justice and energy Equity work group in the coming months.

Clem Dinsmore asked whether he should participate in the GEAC work group if he wants to have any contribution to the thinking on environmental justice and equity.

Noyes stated that the GEAC meetings are public meetings and all are welcome to join.

Bi-Annual Snapshots (Q1-Q2 2023)

Calcagni presented on DNREC's Q1-Q2 2023 bi-annual snapshot. She noted that the EEIF program was only at about 20% of planned savings and spending for the year, but indicated we often see a hockey stick effect where more projects close at the end of the year than the earlier part of the year. She also mentioned that there was a legislative change over the summer that will impact the program and allow for more project cost coverage, from 30% of total project cost to 60%. For the WAP program, Calcagni noted that there was a delay in getting a contract in place with the implementation vendor, so not as many projects as expected occurred in the first part of the year. However, there is a strong pipeline, which DNREC continued to build while waiting for the implementation vendor to start, so more projects are expected in the second half of the year.

Dinsmore asked whether the higher legislative incentive cap for EEIF was benefiting larger businesses.

Noyes responded that for any custom project, the incentive is based on the projected savings and the cost of achieving those savings. So, it's not across the board that 60% of project cost is paid.

Calcagni indicated that that is an important clarification. It's not that everybody gets 60% of project cost, but that is the maximum amount paid. The incentive is based on either savings achieved or the measures that are installed.

Underwood noted that DNREC has a carved out funding for small businesses in EEIF.

Athena Bi presented on the SEU's Q1-Q2 2023 bi-annual snapshot. She stated that for the first two quarters, they are on track for most of the programs, with a few outliers. The Energy Assessment for Nonprofits program has already achieved its annual goal. The revolving loan fund is also doing well. For the PACE project, they have two projects closing or at the end of construction, but they are still waiting for their PACE verification reports, so their savings have not been included.

Scott Lynch presented on DEMEC's Q1-Q2 2023 bi-annual snapshot. Lynch indicated that they don't have any planned savings included in the snapshot because their program operates in a three-year cycle. Since they don't plan on a year basis, their numbers don't necessarily line up with a goal for each year. For Q1-Q2, DEMEC is very happy with the numbers that they have for all of their programming. For their appliance recycling rewards program, they found out over the summer that their recycler went out of business, so they closed our program for the rest of 2023.

Josh Duckwall presented on DEC's Q1-Q2 2023 bi-annual snapshot. DEC's programs have conventionally been lighting based and lately they have been moving into more of a peak shifting style programs with demand response style and electrification focused programs. Most of this savings and peak shifting for those programs will come later during the summer months. They've seen more savings than planned in the Home Performance with Energy Star program.

Governor's Energy Advisory Council Updates

Noyes provided an update on the work of the Governor's Energy Advisory Council (GEAC), which first met in June. Since then, four work groups were created that have met once a month: renewable energy and clean technologies, energy efficiency and electrification, environmental justice and energy equity, and grid modernization. They're trying to wrap the work group meetings up in December and the groups are now reaching the stage where they are considering possible recommendations that will be voted on and passed up to the Council as a whole. They are seeing a number of members provide recommendations in writing, which are related to various programs, policies or legislation, or subjects that just need further study and analysis. Next month there will be three public engagement sessions, with one taking place in each county. Planning for the sessions is still underway, but they intend to have a general information table about the GEAC overall and then each of the work groups will have a table with information posters of some sort. The public will have the ability to sit around the table and talk with DNREC as well as provide input in writing about what they'd like to see in terms of energy planning for Delaware.

Maya Krasker added that the purpose of the sessions is to speak with members of the community and understand their perspective about where the state is headed and what more it could possibly do. They're hoping to use these recommendations and comments from the public to inform the GEAC recommendations and state energy plan. The tables will also be showcasing the different programs that are available to Delawareans.

Noyes stated that in addition to these three public engagement sessions, they are going to also be hosting three more in the spring when the energy plan is more structured and recommendations have been developed.

Goal-Setting

Calcagni presented on EEAC goal-setting for the 2024-2026 timeframe. She summarized the discussion around goal setting that the Council had for several meetings over the last year or so and identified outstanding questions. She also discussed language in the statute about the role of the Council and the PAs and included potential savings from Delmarva and Chesapeake's proposed program plans to savings projections she had presented at previous meetings.

Dinsmore stated that he hopes the GEAC recommends more aggressive action to achieve energy efficiency. He noted that goals established by the EEAC may be moot in terms of what make occur in response to the recommendations coming from the GEAC.

Public Comment

Underwood asked for public comments.

Cindy Menhorn suggested that as we look forward to the goal setting process, it's important to consider what's going to happen with the Investment Reduction Act and how that money can be leveraged in concert with energy efficiency so that customers get a bigger bang for the buck.

Dinsmore added that related to what was just said, it will be important for one or more entities of state government, whether it's the SEU, DNREC, or others, to help ensure residents of Delaware know what financial benefits they might qualify for that enhance the resilience and energy efficiency of their business or home or other.

Underwood responded that DNREC and other recipients of federal funds are going to put a lot of effort into education and outreach to make sure that this money is deployed effectively and with a focus on equity.

Bi added that the SEU Oversight Board approved a workforce development initiative. In addition to the BPI certified training they already provide, they're adding a passive house builder training and incorporating an apprentice requirement into their existing programs. So, workforce development and energy equity is at the core of their business plan this year.

Adjournment

Underwood noted that the next meeting of the EEAC will be in January 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.