



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held Virtually

April 14, 2021

1:00pm – 3:00pm

EEAC Members in Attendance

EEAC Member	Organization/Sector	Attendance	Proxy	Proxy Name
Robert Underwood	(Chairperson) DNREC	Present	n/a	
Emily Greene	Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation	Present	n/a	
Charles Kistler	Low-Income Sector	Present	n/a	
Cassandra T. Marshall	Residential Sector	Present	n/a	
Harris B. McDowell, III	Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Present	Yes	Tony DePrima
Kelly McKeown	Commercial Sector	Present	n/a	
Glenn A. Moore	Delmarva Power & Light	Present	n/a	
Mark Nielson	Delaware Electric Cooperative	Present	n/a	
Steve Baccino	Chesapeake Utilities	Present	n/a	
Christian Fuess	Manufacturing Sector	Present	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.

Griff Keating; Optimal Energy, Inc.

DNREC Staff in Attendance

Rob Underwood; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Edward Synoski; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Mark Dworkin; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Keri Knorr; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Maya Krasker; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Call to Order

Chairperson Rob Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion
 - a. Vote on minutes – January
3. EM&V Committee Update – Optimal/DNREC
4. Low-Income Committee Update – Optimal/DNREC
 - a. Change name of Committee – vote
 - b. Expand Committee –vote
5. Program Administrator Updates – SEU/DEMEC
6. Year-End Results - All
7. Trends in EE – Optimal
8. Next Steps/Adjournment
9. Public Comment

Welcome and Introductions

- Underwood took attendance for the meeting.

Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion

Vote on minutes – July

- Tony DePrima clarified that the DESEU member listed for attendance should be Ric Moore instead of Joseph Schorah.
- Glenn Moore made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes.
- Emily Greene seconded.
- All Councilors voted in favor – Mark Nielson abstained.
- Motion was approved.

EM&V Committee Update – Optimal/DNREC

- Gretchen Calcagni indicated that the EM&V committee covered several topics at their recent meetings. Program Administrators provided updates on their evaluation activities. The Committee discussed the draft Delaware TRM update and the Committee was invited to submit comments by the end of the month.

Low-Income Committee Update – Optimal/DRNEC

- Charles Kistler provided an update on the Low Income Committee meeting. He indicated that a restructuring plan was shared and discussed with the Committee. Two votes were discussed by the Committee: a change of name and an expansion of the membership.
- Calcagni noted that Jim Purcell also provided an update to the Empowerment Grant Program.
- Underwood asked for someone to lead a discussion on the vote to change the name of the committee.
- Kistler provided background on the change of name vote and stated that the Committee feels that its current name does not cover the total scope of the Committee’s activities and that there is more to what they do than just focus on Low Income initiatives. Instead, they want to focus a total equity movement centered around energy access.
- Calcagni provided a definition to the phrase “Energy Access”.
- Kistler made a motion to change the name of the Low Income Committee to the “Energy Access and Equity Collaborative”.

- Moore seconded the motion.
- All Councilors voted in favor.
- Motion was approved.
- Underwood introduced the second vote and asked for someone to lead the discussion on the topic.
- Kistler explained that the Committee requires expansion to fulfill its new scope and made a motion to approve the expansion.
- Clem Dinsmore seconded the motion.
- All Councilors voted in favor.
- Motion was approved.
- DePrima suggested Jim Purcell be invited to the next council meeting to present on the Empowerment Grant Program.

Program Administrator Updates – SEU/DEMEC

- Greene presented on DEMEC's Sustainability Programs. She spoke about DEMEC's investments in generation capacity, primarily natural gas and renewable energy. She discussed DEMEC's community solar program and its current impact and achievements. She presented the recent expansion to the Electric Vehicle Solutions program. An update to the Efficiency Smart program was also provided.
- Clem Dinsmore asked about the interaction between the renewable energy programs with the energy efficiency programs.
- Greene explained how their programs typically interact. They lead with energy efficiency to reduce energy usage before providing renewable generation options.
- Dinsmore asked about how DEMEC targets low income populations.
- Greene explained that they don't target low income populations but they do provide services for low income communities.
- DePrima provided an update to the C-PACE program, which has now expanded to the entire state. He spoke about the now operating energy efficiency marketplace. In response to COVID-19 the SEU has created a virtual home audit option. Their programs have now obtained an official master lease agreement with the Bank of America to provide additional options to funding large projects. He also discussed some Board decisions, including some additional work on marketing, and a possible expansion to the strategic advisory committee.
- Ric Moore provided more detail on the strategic planning efforts going on in the SEU and the importance of good planning in the current political and physical climate.
- Underwood invited comment from the Public Service Commission and Public Advocate.

Year End Results - All

- Calcagni introduced the year end results for the various Program Administrators.
- Greene discussed the calendar year results of DEMEC. The towns program has re-signed all the participants that were eligible for renewal, committing them to another year.
- Ric Moore asked about how they plan for program years.
- Greene provided an explanation as to how the program functions. Individual towns are on separate three-year program cycles with specific savings goals. How they achieve the savings is dependent on the town's desires.
- Pamela Knotts asked about how the year planned number is created.
- Greene denoted that the annual value is a third of the three-year contract goal and that because different communities are at different stages in their contract, expectations differ from what the annual goal may be.
- Mark Nielson provided an overview to the COOP programs and what their programs have entailed/achieved.
- DePrima noted that the SEU and COOP have cooperated on the Home Performance with Energy Star (HPWES) and asks Greene about reporting the Lewes HPWES program.

- Greene noted that they do not report or claim the savings from the Lewes HPwES program and offered to coordinate offline about reporting.
- Kistler asked about the COOP low income offerings.
- Nielson offered to provide details about the offering offline.
- DePrima provided an overview of the annual performance of the SEU. He discussed the impacts of COVID on various subprograms and discussed the need of re-assessing how they planned for the year.
- Trish Cole discussed the results of the DPL consumer products program. She presented the years impacts, how they were affected by COVID, and general reception of the program.
- Calcagni presented on the DNREC programs, providing updates on how the EEIF program is progressing and new features to come, such as the online application portal. She discussed that the E2I program had no completed projects in this year, although a large project is in the pipeline. The WAP program had to halt due to COVID but is back in the field.
- Underwood highlighted that WAP had to shut down for COVID, but still performed well. He also discussed Department of Energy approval to re-weatherize qualified homes.
- Dinsmore asked whether the 15-year timeframe discussed in the re-weatherization is about capturing missing benefits.
- Underwood clarified that the measure mix has changed in the last 15 years.

Trends in EE - Optimal

- Calcagni presented on modern trends in energy efficiency in other states. The topics discussed were climate actions planning, electrification, active demand management, workforce development, and equity.
- Ric Moore thanked Calcagni highlighted the need for energy efficiency to think in climate terms.
- Dinsmore discussed the importance of understanding the range of stakeholders and their differing means and motivations.
- Greene acknowledged Moore's comments and discussed the importance of ensuring legislative backing to all actions.
- DePrima asked if there were any transformative emerging technologies.
- Calcagni responded that electrification is the focus, and while heat pumps are not new, but they are likely to be the focus.
- Dinsmore emphasized that the process is not just electrification, but redesigning energy infrastructure to be resilient.
- Cassandra Marshall asked what impact recent federal actions might be having on energy efficiency trends – proposing it as a topic for the next council meeting.
- Underwood suggested pursuing a presented from NASEO and discussed some potential impacts of federal actions.

Public Comment

- Underwood asked for public comments.
- No public comments were made.

Next Steps

- Ed Synoski indicated that the next EEAC meeting is scheduled for July 14th 2021.
- 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/>

Adjournment

- Underwood requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Glenn Moore made a motion to adjourn.
- Kelly McKeown seconded.
- The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.