

Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC)
Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 13, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Councilors Present: Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy (Chair), Kyle Murray, Chris Modlish, Sarah Cullinan

Non-voting Councilors: Digaunto Chatterjee

Councilors Absent: Sarah Bresolin Silver

DOER Staff Present: Julia Fox, Aurora Edington, Marian Harkavy

Consultants Present: Tim Woolf, Kyle Schultz

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 AM. Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy, as Chair, welcomed the group and took roll call.

2. Updates

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy gave an update on the new GMAC website, the GMAC substation tours, and the upcoming expiration of the temporary Open Meeting Law provision allowing virtual meetings without a quorum physically present.

Councilor Kyle Murray, Acadia Center: One of the things that the EEAC is considering doing is drafting a letter to the legislature stating the importance of continuing to allow virtual attendance for equity concerns.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy, Department of Energy Resources (DOER): If we can't get full GMAC drafting and voting, we could consider DOER sending and drafting a letter, as GMAC chair.

3. Expanding Equity Working Group Membership

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy discussed the current bylaws about membership of the EWG and requested feedback from the ExCom on expanding membership of the EWG. The discussion was prompted by National Grid expressing interest in adding Marc Lucas from National Grid as an additional EDC representative on the EWG.

Councilor Kyle Murray: Would Marc Lucas be a voting member?

Julia Fox, DOER: They would be another non-voting member representing the EDCs.

Councilor Kyle Murray: No issues, so long as EDC members don't end up eating up a lot of the time of the EWG. Might be helpful to have for answering questions on things.

Councilor Sarah Cullinan, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center: Makes sense for the EWG to have feedback before the GMAC votes. Would Unutil want to add one? Raises question of if 2 of the EDCs are represented, should all 3 be allowed to?

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Could bring up at the next EWG meeting before the next GMAC meeting.

Councilor Chris Modlish, Attorney General Office: Agrees with comments. Have we heard from Erin (current EDC EWG representative) and her thoughts?

Councilor Digaunto Chatterjee, Eversource: Heard back from Erin, who wasn't aware of this request. Likely better if we hear from the EWG. Agrees with Chris/Sarah.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Next steps are to put the question to EWG and to request reasoning from EWG and from Andrew Scheller about why National Grid wants representation on EWG.

4. GMAC Stakeholder Session #1 – July 17th, 2025

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy gave an update about DOER's thoughts on a stakeholder session. DOER agrees with GMAC that there is a need for larger stakeholder discussion but is concerned with the amount of work that would come with a big overarching stakeholder event. They are still discussing with EEA. Therefore, DOER is proposing a stakeholder event focused on municipal officials or community members to discuss the concern that there might not be enough grid capacity in their communities.

Councilor Sarah Cullinan: How many people?

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Probably 80 would be max.

Julia Fox, DOER: Would depend on the room configuration, but much smaller than the size that was talked about in December.

Councilor Sarah Cullinan: Would this be invite only? Maybe tiered invites?

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Would be more focused on discussion, not a big presentation from the administration.

Councilor Sarah Cullinan: Should consider if there's budget to fund transportation from the western half of the state, since the event would be held in Boston. Want geographic diversity. Asked about whether there are any specific municipalities that need assistance.

Councilor Digaunto Chatterjee: More of a problem about connecting municipality leaders with their EDC reps.

Councilor Sarah Cullinan: Part of the benefit could be connections between municipalities, they can see and talk to each other when they may not have otherwise had the forum to do so.

5. Feedback on Upcoming GMAC Agendas

Deputy Commissioner Joanna discussed the plan for the upcoming GMAC meetings and requested ExCom member feedback.

a. March meeting (ESMP Reporting)

Councilor Sarah Cullinan: It was a light lift to facilitate the February meeting. What is the difference between March and February? Aren't metrics being covered in March?

Julia Fox, DOER: Yes, metrics are primarily focused on in February. If there are any additional metrics filed, GMAC can discuss those in March.

Councilor Kyle Murray: Is happy to participate as a discussion facilitator. Wants to flag that he hasn't been active in Phase II ESMP proceeding.

Councilor Digaunto Chatterjee: Really likes this. Supports GMAC members attending in person and Kyle facilitating discussion.

b. April meeting (May 1) (System Reliability and Resilience)

Councilor Chris Modlish: Are we intending to talk about both reliability and resiliency? They are distinct topics.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Intention was to discuss both. Might be a good opportunity to make sure there's clarity.

Councilor Chris Modlish: Are these two topics too big for one meeting?

Councilor Sarah Cullinan: Could be a whole session on just the ARR's. Like Chris was saying, there's a lot of information. Is there potentially a role like Brian Ritzinger at the DPU to join the conversation?

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Bryan is member of RMAT. Could talk to him about timing. Can consider digging more into ARR's in a later meeting, or to split topics out into more than one meeting.

Aurora Edington, DOER: One idea is just to focus on ARR's in April meeting. Move resiliency to a future meeting

c. May (Proactive Grid Planning LTSPP)

No comments.

d. June (Integrated Energy Planning)

Councilor Sarah Cullinan: HEAT in collaboration with Eversource is building a tool to map best location for networked geothermal. That kind of thing might be a good thing to put in front of GMAC.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Sees this like Reliability and Resilience, may be a topic to roll into another meeting in the fall.

Councilor Kyle Murray: We have no idea what the climate compliance plans will look like. Unclear whether other people can submit recommendations.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Take aways from this discussion are that reliability and resilience may be two different meetings. And NPAs may need another meeting in the fall also.

Councilor Digaunto Chatterjee: Recommends keeping EDCs present on IEP framework and analysis in June. Would keep HEAT investigations/ geothermal to maybe in the fall.

e. July (Equity in Grid Planning)

No comments.

6. Other Discussion Areas

None.

7. Close and Next Steps

Equity Working Group meeting is February 20th, 2025. Next GMAC meeting is February 27, 2025. Next ExCom meeting is April 24, 2025.

8. Adjourn

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy adjourned the meeting at 10:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyle Schultz, Synapse

Meeting attachments:

- Meeting agenda
- Meeting presentation slides