

Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC) Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 5, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

Non-voting Councilors: None

Councilors Absent: Sarah Bresolin Silver

DOER Staff Present: Julia Fox, Aurora Edington, Colin Carroll

Consultants Present: Tim Woolf, Aidan Glaser Schoff

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Agenda

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, GMAC Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Joanna Troy welcomed the group and took roll call.

2. Updates

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy discussed updates related to the GMAC stakeholder event.

Councilor Kyle Murray, Acadia Center, Representing the environmental advocacy community: Have we shared that with Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)?

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Julie is on the GMAC.

Julia Fox, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources: Julie sent it out to a network of individuals who may be interested.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy provided an update on website development, and the GMAC building electrification seat vacancy.

Councilor Digaunto Chatterjee, Representing Eversource: I've worked with Ben Meyers of BXP on the Green Ribbon Commission. He may be a good person to reach out to.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Can you provide their contact information to Julia?

Councilor Digaunto Chatterjee: Yes.

Consultant Tim Woolf of Synapse Energy Economics provided an overview of the Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act. He presented adjustments to comprehensive distribution planning in a new Section 92D. He presented on the expansion of planning requirements of section 92B.

Councilor Digaunto Chatterjee left at 9:45 a.m.

Tim Woolf presented additional requirements of supplemental ESMPs and the expanded role of the GMAC.

Councilor Sarah Cullinan, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, Representing the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center: I looked ahead at the appendix. There are section references to the GMAC specific sections of the bill. Do you know somewhere that crosswalks sections by topic?

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: I don't think we have one public. I can see if we have one that is internal. It's a long bill.

Tim Woolf: I started to do a red line of 92A, B, and C, and I can send that around if requested.

Councilor Kyle Murray: Given the way the legislature works, if we want to make changes to the GMAC process, this is our chance for the next two years, or even the next four years. Just making everyone very aware of the timing of the legislation. This could get done in the next few months, and we might not see another energy bill for another 3 or 4 years after this.

Councilor Chris Modlish, Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General, Representing the Attorney General: That's a good point Kyle. Tim, do you have any thoughts on the more frequent investments. Does it specifically talk about new investments that were not originally included. E.g., new and enumerated investments. It seems similar to the biannual reporting process.

Tim Woolf: It's also not clear to me either. See slide 14, which is straight from the Act. It says that the ESMP shall propose. That's what it says, you can interpret it as you wish.

Councilor Sarah Cullinan: I'm curious if there's an opportunity for the GMAC to suggest changes to the bill. What would the process be for the GMAC to express that?

Councilor Kyle Murray: I think it is fair for the GMAC to suggest potential changes to its governing statute. I think we would create a resolution and work on the language and vote on that language. I think that's all we would really have to do. I think we could send it to the chairs of the TUE committee. It would be a resolution saying: this is the view of the GMAC.

Councilor Sarah Cullinan: Should this be raised to the GMAC to review the statute of the GMAC?

Councilor Kyle Murray: I think so.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: I agree. I think that it should be brought to the general GMAC. And then provide a place for comments and voting in the public.

Tim Woolf: Editorially, many of the changes follow GMAC's previous recommendations. And we can ask for clarity.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: If there are things that are unclear, it may be helpful for the GMAC to state how they would interpret certain language.

Councilor Kyle Murray: I would be interested in the utilities prepping and discussing these changes as well.

Tim Woolf: One last editorial comment, the Bill asks for a very ambitious request from the utilities.

Councilor Chris Modlish: I agree. They have a supplemental ESMP, and then a total reframing of distribution system planning, and then the new 2029 ESMP.

3. GMAC CY26 Budget Extension Request

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy presented the GMAC CY26 Budget Extension Request.

Councilor Kyle Murray: Do we have to vote on this?

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: I don't think we have to vote, so I'll ask for any objections. I see some thumbs up.

Councilor Kyle Murray: I'll note that the thumb does not meet open meeting law. But no objections.

4. GMAC 2026 Strategic Planning

Tim Woolf presented the survey sent out to support GMAC 2026 Strategic Planning.

Aurora Edington, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources: We are incorporating the EDCs in the small group discussion, but we are interested in hearing people's thoughts on whether they should be mixed in with other members.

Councilor Sarah Cullinan: On the question of incorporating EDC members, I can see benefits to both. So could both be an option? I don't know which is more beneficial for strategic planning. Maybe integrating into other groups. I am supportive of spending all this time on this process. I think it's important for the GMAC to know what our role is. I think it's worthwhile to include a conversation with DPU if that's possible during strategic planning. To see how they see the GMAC adding the most value to the process.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: That's helpful. Thinking about how to integrate the DPU is interesting.

Councilor Sarah Cullinan: We've gone through one cycle. What's the role we can have?

Councilor Chris Modlish: That's a good interview we can have. I haven't thought of the DPU, but I think getting them involved is good. I think that integrating the EDCs is the way to go. This is supposed to be an active process with the EDCs. I think that way we won't have two distinct views going afterwards. But I understand that it's a tough question.

5. Other Discussion Areas

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy asked if anyone had any other areas of discussion.

Councilor Kyle Murray: We had the kickoff for the Integrated Energy Planning process.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: We had a short update last time because we had Gerhard in the room. If you want to provide your perspective.

Councilor Kyle Murray: I completely forgot that we had that update in the general GMAC meeting.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: We can continue to keep it on our updates list.

Aurora Edington: The topic of the next GMAC meeting is integrated energy planning (IEP). We have talked to Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) and the utilities for presentations on IEP and the CCPs. Open to thoughts now.

Councilor Kyle Murray: I have CCP thoughts so happy to share.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Kyle, if you are interested, would you like to facilitate that discussion?

Councilor Kyle Murray: I can do it, I don't know if I have time to prepare anything.

Tim Woolf: Was there any written material or slide decks that you could share with us.

Councilor Kyle Murray: There was definitely a slide deck, but I'm not sure if it was for distribution or just for the room.

Tim Woolf: That would be great to see the agenda.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: We can flag that to see if the EDCs can share that with us.

6. Close and Next Steps

The next GMAC meeting is June 26, 2025 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. The next Equity Working Group meeting is July 11, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The next GMAC Stakeholder Session is July 17th from 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

7. Adjourn

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy adjourned the meeting at 10:11 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Aidan Glaser Schoff, Synapse

Meeting attachments:

- Meeting agenda
- Meeting presentation slides