

Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC) Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 14, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Councilors Present: Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy (Chair), Kyle Murray, Sarah Bresolin Silver, Sarah Cullinan

Councilors Absent: Chris Modlish, Digaunto Chatterjee (non-voting)

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

Consultants Present: Kyle Schultz

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Agenda

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Joanna Troy welcomed the group and took roll call.

2. Review of GMAC Strategic Planning Timeline

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, GMAC Chairperson: All the small group discussions were completed this week. They were part of a larger strategic plan, starting with a survey, then the small group discussions, and finally the discussion of a draft plan at the full council meeting in September. What we hear in September will get re-worked into the plan, which then will be presented in October, where everyone can vote. Any feedback on the process?

Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver, ENGIE North America, Representing the energy storage industry: Thought the small group discussions were well executed. It's easier to discuss in small groups. Also liked the whiteboard exercises.

Councilor Kyle Murray, Acadia Center, Representing the environmental advocacy community: Agrees, small group discussions were productive and helped people creatively come up with new ideas.

3. 2nd Stakeholder Session Proposal

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: The number one piece of feedback from the first stakeholder session was to have more of them. We are proposing a second session in early December or the end of January. We are considering potential venues in western MA because there was interest in having a western MA session. Also heard interest in more discussion groups and less panels, and people liked the Somerville/Cambridge discussions. So looking to get municipal reps from western MA.

Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver: Could be useful to have small groups hear a report-out of what other groups discussed. Could have one person from each group be designated to share what they discussed. Also really liked the municipal panels.

Councilor Sarah Cullinan, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, Representing the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center: Another format idea would be speed-rounds with municipal representatives. They could, for example, present for a couple minutes on a slide. Another idea is to split up groups by region. Or could split up by other things, *e.g.*, utility territory, high vs low solar penetration, etc. Also, think about getting the utility account representatives there.

Council Kyle Murray: Agrees with Sarah Bresolin Silver and Sarah Cullinan.

Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver: Agrees with idea of having utility representatives there. She has heard a lot of times about difficulties reaching out to EDCs, no one getting back to them etc.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Likes idea of more breakouts, more EDCs that are community focused. For the agenda, we would have a different person giving keynote address. Does anyone have preferences in terms of dates?

Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver: December 19 could be harried, probably earlier in the month would get more people. Pre-holiday to maintain momentum could be good.

Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver: Thinks the dates are so far out, so people can make it work unless there's a really unavoidable conflict.

Council Kyle Murray: Are there any looming big deadlines for EDCs, DOER, etc.?

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Hearing preference for earlier dates. Can plan to present dates to larger group. Any preference for Amherst or to Springfield?

Councilor Sarah Cullinan: Intended to be a half-day or full-day thing? Could be helpful/powerful for municipal leaders to go on a substation tour.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: It will be a half-day. Good flag; could even just be the panelists.

Aurora Edington, DOER: Let us know if you have ideas for good municipal points of contact in western MA.

Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver: There were some western MA attendees from the first stakeholder session. Could reach out to them. It might be interesting to put a fourth person on the ESMP panel who is not an EDC. It could be helpful to get a non-EDC perspective on what the EDCs are.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy: Agrees.

4. Other Discussion Areas

None were brought up.

5. Close and Next Steps

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy gave an overview of upcoming events.

Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver: Would like to go on a September substation tour. How to know if there's space?

Julia Fox, DOER: Please email Julia if you would like to attend.

6. Adjourn

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy adjourned the meeting at 9:56 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyle Schultz, Synapse

Meeting attachments:

- Meeting agenda
- Meeting presentation slides