

GWSA Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)

December 6, 2018, 2:00PM – 4:00PM

100 Cambridge Street, Boston, 2nd Floor, Conference Room C/D

Meeting Minutes

(Approved 3/7/19)

EEA Undersecretary Dan Sieger welcomed the IAC members and designees, filling in for Undersecretary Katie Theoharides who was on medical leave. The meeting was called to order at 2:05PM.

Undersecretary Sieger called for a vote to approve the meeting minutes of October 23, 2018. A motion was made by Berl Hartman with a second by Cammy Peterson. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IAC members were reminded to complete and return the form indicating receipt of Open Meeting Law materials if they haven't done so already, and the form designating a delegate to attend IAC meetings in 2019 in their stead if needed.

Agency Updates

Kaitlyn Kelly of DOER provided updates on the SMART program. The program received 2,100 applications in first week, totaling 629 MW. ClearResult was still working through the applications. The capacity blocks for large systems in most territories were completely filled, with some room left in limited blocks and small systems blocks. Applications received totaled over 400 MW of community solar and 200 MW of projects with storage. DOER's next steps include evaluating incoming projects, analyzing regulatory framework, and assessing adder tranches.

Christine Kirby, Assistant Commissioner of MassDEP, updated the IAC that the final Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan was ready to be released in coming days. During the upcoming year, \$7.5 million will be made available through an open solicitation for proposals to implement projects eligible under any of the Eligible Mitigation Actions (except those pertaining to electric vehicle supply equipment) allowed under the VW Settlement. MassDEP will be able to start soliciting and implementing projects as soon as funding becomes available.

GWSA 10-Year Progress Report

Hong-Hanh Chu of EEA reported on the status and main highlights of the GWSA 10-year Progress Report, which was to be submitted to the Massachusetts Legislature by the end of the month as mandated by the GWSA. Most of the observed reductions in GHG emissions between 2010 and 2015 were a result of policies implemented since the passage of the GWSA, but some of the reductions came from policies implemented before the GWSA and from other factors such as weather conditions, relative fuel prices, and changes in consumer preferences. EEA's analysis in 2018 showed that the Commonwealth is still on track to meeting the GWSA emissions limit for 2020, with some of the expected 25% reduction in GHG emissions in 2020 resulting from impacts not attributable to policies post-GWSA. A number of GHG reduction

measures were implemented recently—such as MassDEP regulations satisfying Section 3(d) of the GWSA)—and the result of their implementation could be reflected in later years when the Commonwealth’s GHG inventory has data for 2018 and later years.

The IAC members made suggestions to improve the graph on slide 8. An IAC member also suggested EEA analyze the potential impact of severe weather on the Commonwealth’s ability to meet the GHG emissions limit in 2020. EEA will consider doing so for future planning purposes.

Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP)

Joanna Troy of DOER provided a summary of the CEP that was to be released in the coming days. DOER and their consultant team modeled various hypothetical amounts of clean energy and demand between 2018 and 2030 to analyze potential impacts on cost, GHG emissions, and reliability. The study showed that the greatest amount of GHG emissions reductions can be achieved by combining increased use of clean energy in all sectors while simultaneously decreasing overall energy consumption. The study also found that fuel switching and greater efficiency in the thermal and transportation sectors can lower consumers’ energy bills, and that mitigating natural gas constraints to lessen reliance on oil generation in the electric sector can reduce the cost and GHG emissions impact from an extended cold period. The goal of the CEP was to inform the development of the *Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030*, which will establish the policies the Commonwealth will use to achieve its GHG emission reduction commitments under the GWSA.

Summary of projected 2050 GHG emissions in LEAP reference scenario and discussion of the 80x50 Study

Hong-Hanh Chu reviewed the major results of EEA’s analysis of projected GHG emissions through 2050 under a no-new-policy reference case, and provided an overview of the goals of the upcoming 80x50 Study. The IAC were asked for their input. Their feedback included:

- Build technical feedback loops, i.e. iterative analysis;
- Provide public transparency in the Study’s assumptions and products;
- Examine trade-offs of solar PV installations on natural and working lands;
- Include cost-benefit analysis, especially on non-GHG benefits;
- Build carbon neutrality into the Study;
- Analyze risks of climate change, quantifying the impacts of severe weather;
- Include a cap & invest policy in the analysis
- Analyze innovative approaches to electric grid modernization (location and temporal), and make room for innovation in general;
- Incorporate social science, i.e. polling data on consumer preferences and behaviors (see the 2018 Language of Climate and Clean Energy Memo);
- Involve members of the Data Focus Group in the Study;
- Develop a communication plan during and after the Study;

Proposed IAC work plan for 2019

In the interest of adjourning on time, discussion on the proposed IAC work plan for 2019 was tabled. The IAC members were asked to provide feedback on the draft work plan by December 31, 2018.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:02PM.

Documents or exhibits used at the meeting (posted online¹):

1. Meeting agenda
2. Meeting minutes of October 23, 2018 (posted online²)
3. Slide deck
4. 2018 Language of Climate and Clean Energy Memo

¹ <https://www.mass.gov/event/december-6-2018-meeting-of-the-gwsa-implementation-advisory-committee-iac-2018-12-06t140000>

² <https://www.mass.gov/event/october-23-2018-meeting-of-the-gwsa-implementation-advisory-committee-iac-2018-10-23t130000>

IAC Member/Designee in attendance

Organization	Name
A Better City (ABC)	Kathryn Carlson
Boston University	<i>(absent)</i>
City of Boston	Carl Spector
Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)	David Ismay
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)	Berl Hartman
Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM)	Eric Wilkinson
Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE)	<i>(absent)</i>
Mass Audubon	Jack Clarke
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	Steven Barret
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Cammy Peterson
National Grid	<i>(absent)</i>
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)	Peter Rothstein
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Steve Long
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)	Dan Gatti
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute	<i>(absent)</i>

Others in attendance

Organization	Name
E2	Sarah Simon
Passive House MA	Michael Duclos
Winchester Climate Action Advisory Committee	Ruth Trimarchi
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)	Daniel Sieger, Undersecretary of Environment
EEA	Patrick Woodcock, Undersecretary of Energy
EEA	Hong-Hanh Chu
EEA	Benjamin Miller
MA Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Christine Kirby, Assistant Commissioner
MassDEP	Sharon Weber
MassDEP	Will Space
MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT)	Steve Woelfel
MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER)	Maggie McCarey
DOER	Ian Finlayson
DOER	Joanna Troy
DOER	Kaitlin Kelly
MA Department of Public Utilities (DPU)	Megan Wu