

Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC)
Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 27, 2024, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Councilors Present: Aurora Edington (designee for Elizabeth Mahony), Liz Anderson, Sarah Bresolin Silver, Kyle Murray

Non-voting Councilors: --

Councilors Absent: Sarah Cullinan, Digaunto Chatterjee, Eversource (non-voting)

DOER Staff Present: Julia Fox, Colin Carroll, Marian Harkavy

Consultants Present: Tim Woolf, Kyle Schultz

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Agenda

Aurora Edington, as Acting Chair, welcomed the group, took roll call, and went through the meeting agenda on slide 2.

2. 2024 GMAC/ESMP Schedule

Aurora Edington gave an overview of the remaining 2024 schedule and asked if there were any questions.

3. 2025 GMAC Activities and Budget

The GMAC budget filing deadline is October 18, 2024. Edington gave an update of approved budget and consultant spend to date and discussed the information on slide 4.

Edington gave thanks to the GMAC consulting team for their work done to date and provided an update that Wired Group and GreenerU have decided to depart the consulting team. DOER feels

confident that Synapse is well positioned to cover the work that the Wired Group and GreenerU were covering.

2025 GMAC Vision

Edington gave an overview of what the vision for the role of the GMAC is in 2025, including continued stakeholder engagement, collaboration with the EDCs, monitoring of ESMP dockets and related dockets and working groups. During the October 10th GMAC meeting, we will present a straw proposal for GMAC activities.

Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver, ENGIE North America, representing the energy storage industry: Thinks Edington has identified some important items under first bullet (stakeholder engagement). Regarding 4th bullet (monitoring dockets): There's a lot of utility investments in a lot of dockets, but there's no one planning docket. Wondering if ExCom should start to think about whether such a docket would be useful and think more about a solution to having to monitor multiple dockets.

Councilor Liz Anderson, Office of the Attorney General, representing the Office of the Attorney General: Thinks it's a great suggestion. Was thinking about a way to provide feedback to EDCs as they are producing annual reports. Could think about what would be most useful to GMAC about what kind of details about other dockets they would want to see related to EDC investments. Department is revisiting service quality guidelines -thinks it will have some implications for the resilience piece of the ESMPs.

Councilor Kyle Murray, Acadia Center, representing the environmental advocacy community: Agrees with Anderson and Bresolin Silver. Should think about discussing statute changes. Department declined to comment on whether plans were "good or bad" and found EDCs complied with statute. Therefore, thinks some discussion of whether statute changes are needed could be useful.

Update from 1:1 Interviews with GMAC Members

Tim Woolf, Synapse provided an update on interviews with GMAC members. Synapse has interviewed about a third of members and will be interviewing EDCs. Woolf gave a summary of common themes that they have heard so far from the interviews, as listed on slide 6. Edington confirmed the plan is to have all the interviews complete before the next GMAC meeting.

2025 GMAC Consultant Activities

Woolf discussed four categories of work that GMAC consultants could provide, and proposed budgets for each.

- a) Administration and Meeting Support: Will be ongoing foundational work, continuing through 2024 and 2025.
- b) Informational support: Somewhat up in the air but have discussed based on what Synapse has heard in GMAC member interviews. Focused on provided information

and summarizing what's going on so that GMAC is well informed. Likely wouldn't pick up until 2025.

- c) Technical Analysis: Still at brainstorming stage and looking for input on what analyses could be helpful. Wolfe discussed ideas for analyses.
- d) Website Development: Goal is to create an independent website to host all the activities of the GMAC, including all the information and technical analyses. Goal is to get an RFP out and hire a contractor in 2024.

Councilor Liz Anderson: In terms of informational support and monitoring, thinks we should add interagency rates working group. To the extent that Synapse can help GMAC identify all the costs of system upgrades, will help inform ways to mitigate rate impacts, ensure equity, and achieve goals.

Aurora Edington: Maybe GMAC consultant could do some of the work to help set up a framework for stakeholders to understand what is going on across all the different dockets, including investments and recovery streams. Website development piece is modeled after the EEAC. Having the website as an independent forum could make it more approachable. What do members think of having monthly GMAC two-hour meetings? Are there certain topics to prioritize?

Councilor Kyle Murray: Agrees with meeting cadence, can always adjust. Big topic is what is the path forward, and how can GMAC get the results they're looking for. GMAC members expressed disappointment with DPU Order.

Aurora Edington: Can start brainstorming what they want next ESMPs to look like. Thinking of 2025 of a building year, getting everyone on the same page about what distribution planning looks like. Years 2026/2027: DPU instructed EDCs and GMAC to work together to make sure GMAC understand EDCs investment reprioritization. Gets to one of the core GMAC objectives of encouraging least cost investments in the system. To do that, we need to understand how investments are proposed. DPU was clear in its Order that there will be ongoing EDC/GMAC engagement- should make use of opportunity. Asked for thoughts on whether in person information sessions would be worthwhile for the GMAC's time?

Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver: Thinks it's a worthy effort. Would be willing to contribute her time.

Councilor Kyle Murray: Agrees its valuable.

Councilor Liz Anderson: There hasn't been a lot of attendance at DPU road shows, potentially because they are too general. Maybe should do outreach to see what it is that people want to know, and what would be helpful for the community to hear about.

4. Other Discussion Areas

None were proposed.

5. Close and Next Steps

The date of the next ExCom meeting is to be determined. The next GMAC meeting is October 10, 2024 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Councilor Liz Anderson: Wants to express strong support for 2 hours or less GMAC meetings.

Aurora Edington: Recommended having next ExCom meeting in November. There was consensus amongst ExCom members.

6. Adjourn

Aurora Edington adjourned the meeting at 11:46 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyle Schultz, Synapse

Meeting attachments:

- Meeting agenda
- Meeting presentation slides