# Cape Light Compact JPE Governing Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Pursuant to Massachusetts Governor Charles D. Baker's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law on March 12, 2020, the Cape Light Compact JPE Board of Directors met on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was held through a Zoom videoconference for members of the Board with audio call-in available for members of the public.

# **Participating Remotely Were:**

- 1. Forrest Filler, Aquinnah
- 2. David Anthony, Secretary/Executive Committee, Barnstable
- 3. Robert Schofield, Executive Committee, Bourne
- 4. Colin Odell, Executive Committee, Brewster
- 5. Peter Cocolis, Chatham
- 6. Meghan Gombos, Dukes County
- 7. Fred Fenlon, Eastham
- 8. Alan Strahler, Edgartown
- 9. Wayne Taylor, Mashpee
- 10. Martin Culik, Chair/Executive Committee, Orleans
- 11. Nathaniel Mayo, Provincetown
- 12. Leanne Drake, Sandwich
- 13. Bob Higgins-Steele, Truro Alternate
- 14. Richard Elkin, Executive Committee, Wellfleet
- 15. Erik Peckar, West Tisbury
- 16. Joyce Flynn, Vice Chair/Executive Committee, Yarmouth

#### **Absent Were:**

- 1. Timothy Carroll, Executive Committee, Chilmark
- 2. Brad Crowell, Dennis
- 3. Dion Alley, Executive Committee, Oak Bluffs
- 4. Matthew Patrick, Falmouth
- 5. Valerie Bell, Harwich
- 6. Kirk Metell, Tisbury
- 7. Jarrod Cabral, Truro

#### **Legal Counsel Participating Remotely:**

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Esq., KO Law, P.C. Erin O'Toole, Esq., KO Law, P.C.

#### **Staff Participating Remotely:**

Lindsay Henderson, C&I Senior Analyst Izzi Caplan, Communication Coordinator Maggie Downey, Administrator Margaret Song, C&I Program Manager Mariel Marchand, Power Supply Planner Briana Kane, Residential Program Manager Phil Moffitt, EM&V Program Manager Dan Schell, Senior Analyst

#### **Consultant Participants:**

Kevin Galligan, Galligan Energy Melva Deshmukh, NextEra Energy

## **Public Participants:**

None.

Martin Culik called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No members of the public asked to address the Board and no written public comments were submitted to the Board under the public comment guidelines.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Board considered the May 11, 2022, Open Session Meeting Minutes.

Robert Schofield moved the Board to accept the minutes as amended and to release them as amended, seconded by Richard Elkin.

Forrest	Filler	Aquinnah	Yes
David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Peter	Cocolis	Chatham	Yes
Fred	Fenlon	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Wayne	Taylor	Mashpee	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Leanne	Drake	Sandwich	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Richard	Elkin	Wellfleet	Yes
Erik	Peckar	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

*Motion carried in the affirmative (15-0-0)* 

Meghan Gombos, Dukes County representative, joined meeting at 2:05PM.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Martin Culik introduced Meghan Gombos the new Duke County Board Member.

## DISCUSS AND POTENTIAL VOTE ON UPDATES TO COMPACT REMOTE PARTICIPATION POLICY:

Maggie Downey stated that July 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day that the Compact is able to operate under the remote participation policy under Governor Charles D. Baker's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law (Order). She noted that the July 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting will occur before the Order expires. She stated that, consistent with the Compact's Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), starting at the September Board Meeting there will need to be four Executive Committee Members in person to satisfy the quorum requirements to hold a meeting and conduct Compact business. She noted that the Remote Participation Policy was amended to reflect the current quorum requirements in the JPA. The Board reviewed the amendments. There was discussion regarding the 48-hour notice requirement for Board members to notify the Chair of the Board and the Administrator if they were participating remotely. Maggie Downey said this could be changed to reflect timely notification. Colin Odell asked if references to "the public entity" could be revised to state "the Compact." Maggie Downey indicated that these revisions could be made and that counsel would prepare another revision of the policy for Board consideration. This will be discussed further and voted on at the July Board Meeting.

# **UPDATE ON POWER SUPPLY RATES FOR JUNE-DECEMBER 2022, MARIEL MARCHAND:**

Mariel Marchand reviewed the Power Supply Rates: June '22 – December '22 PowerPoint Slide.

Mariel Marchand stated that rates reflect the increase in New England-wide wholesale electricity market prices. The higher prices are largely driven by increased natural gas prices. One of the primary drivers of increased natural gas prices in New England is a global increase in the price for natural gas, particularly in Europe, due to the conflict in Ukraine. She stated that the United States has also seen an increase in natural gas demand as coal generators are retired. She stated that the Compact's standard rates are almost once cent lower than Eversource's.

Erik Peckar asked whether the premium between standard and local green is still tax-deductible. He asked if there is a sunset date to that premium. Compact staff noted that the premium is tax-deductible, but staff will need to get back to the Board regarding the question of a sunset date.

David Anthony noted that there are natural gas constraints and international pressures that are affecting prices for New England specifically. These issues on pricing have affected all areas of the country, but the constraints in New England for natural gas are adding to upward pressure on pricing. He noted that normally, pricing would decline over the summer, but the increase now is primarily due to demand.

Peter Cocolis noted that people want to use examples of how the rate increase will impact their monthly electric bill. He asked for average customer usage to estimate the impact. Maggie Downey suggested 650 or 700 kWh.

Colin Odell noted that this seems to be looking at the spot market. He noted that perhaps we think about long-term gas purchases. Richard Elkin noted that we could also look at long-term renewable contracts, too, but he noted that this is a harbinger of what will happen in the winter as he looks at the international situation. Erik Peckar noted that we should look into long-term offshore wind contracts to get around the natural gas and international volatility.

Martin Culik noted there are resources available on the Compact's website identifying ways a customer can help reduce the kilowatt hour consumption, which help mitigate the price increase. Izzi Caplan stated that if Board Members had anything to add to the Compact's website regarding this type of customer education, to reach out to her directly.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

## 1. Update on Cape Light Compact and MassCEC Income Eligible E-bike Incentive Program

Maggie Downey stated that there are three bike shops that will be participating in the income eligible E-bike incentive program. They are Buzzards Bay Bikes, Dennis Cycle Center, and Sea Sports Cyclery & Outdoor in Hyannis. The Compact is working to finalize the customer application.

# 2. Vote to approve Lease of Two Vehicles for use by Energy Efficiency Staff

Maggie Downey stated that the Compact is looking to lease two Prius' to be used by energy efficiency staff. She noted that there is a new requirement of Toyota corporate for municipalities, which requires the Board to vote to approve leasing Toyota vehicles. She stated that historically the Compact has leased two vehicles and prior to that, owned one. She stated that based on prior experience, it is more cost effective for the Compact to lease the vehicles.

Martin Culik asked if they are fuel efficient. Maggie Downey answered yes, they are plug-in hybrids, and the Compact will have two Level II chargers at the office. The vehicles will also have the Compact logo on it.

David Anthony moved the CLCJPE Board of Directors vote to approve the lease of two vehicles, Prius Primes, from Falmouth Toyota for use by energy efficiency program staff, Margaret Song and Briana Kane, and affirm that the Compact has allocated funds for the lease(s) through the Cape Light Compact's 2022-2024 Energy Efficiency Plan.

The Compact Administrator is authorized and directed to take all actions necessary or appropriate to implement this vote, and to execute and deliver all documents as may be necessary or appropriate to implement this vote. Seconded by Joyce Flynn.

Forrest	Filler	Aquinnah	Yes
David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Peter	Cocolis	Chatham	Yes
Fred	Fenlon	Eastham	Unable to vote due to technical
		Lastiiaiii	issues
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Wayne	Taylor	Mashpee	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Leanne	Drake	Sandwich	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Richard	Elkin	Wellfleet	Yes
Erik	Peckar	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

*Motion carried in the affirmative (14-0-0)* 

OPEN SESSION VOTE ON ENTRY INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO M.G.L. C. 30A §\$21(A)(3) TO DISCUSS MATTERS BELOW, TO NOT RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

Martin Culik at 3:18 PM moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A §21(a)(3) to review and approve a consumer advocacy worksheet and regulatory litigation strategy concerning the Eversource Rate Case, DPU 22-22 and to review litigation strategy regarding DPU 22-55, Eversource's Capital Investment Proposal for Cape Cod. Not to return to Open Session. Seconded by Joyce Flynn.

Forrest	Filler	Aquinnah	Yes
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Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Peter	Cocolis	Chatham	Yes
Meghan	Gombos	Dukes County	Yes
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			issues
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
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Leanne	Drake	Sandwich	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Richard	Elkin	Wellfleet	Yes
Erik	Peckar	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

*Motion carried in the affirmative (15-0-0)* 

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Allard

# **LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS:**

- Meeting Notice/Agenda
- May 11, 2022, Draft Open Session Meeting Minutes
- Power Supply Rates: June '22 December '22 PowerPoint Slide
- Cape Light Compact Announces New Power Supply Pricing Press Release
- Agenda Action Request: Approve Lease for Two Prius Hybrid Vehicles