

**Cape Light Compact JPE
Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

The Cape Light Compact JPE Board of Directors met on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting (in-person and through remote participation) through a Zoom videoconference for members of the Board with audio call-in available for members of the public, pursuant to St. 2023, c. 2, which, among other things, extends the temporary provisions pertaining to remote meetings of public bodies under the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025.

Participating In-Person Were:

1. Robert Schofield, Executive Committee, Bourne
2. Brian Miner, Chatham
3. Tom McNellis, Eastham
4. Matthew Patrick, Falmouth
5. Valerie Bell, Harwich
6. Martin Culik, Chair/Executive Committee, Orleans
7. David Johnson, Orleans Alternate
8. Bob Higgins-Steele, Truro Alternate
9. Joyce Flynn, Vice Chair/Executive Committee, Yarmouth

Participating Remotely Were:

1. David Anthony, Secretary/Executive Committee, Barnstable
2. Sean Hogan, Barnstable Alternate
3. Bill Doherty, Bourne Alternate
4. Colin Odell, Executive Committee, Brewster
5. Alan Strahler, Edgartown
6. Wayne Taylor, Mashpee
7. Nicola Blake, Executive Committee, West Tisbury

Absent Were:

1. Forrest Filler, Aquinnah
2. Timothy Carroll, Chilmark
3. Meghan Gombos, Dukes County
4. Peter Meleney, Oak Bluffs
5. Nathaniel Mayo, Provincetown
6. Leanne Drake, Sandwich
7. Russ Hartenstine, Tisbury
8. Jarrod Cabral, Truro

Legal Counsel Participating Remotely:

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Esq., KO Law, P.C.

Consultants:

Kevin Galligan, Galligan Energy Consulting

Staff Participation In-Person:

Maggie Downey, Administrator

Staff Participating Remotely:

Anneliese Conklin, Data Analyst
Briana Kane, Residential and Commercial & Industrial Program Manager
Dan Schell, Senior Analyst - Retail and Demand Response
David Botelho, Data Analyst
Laura Selmer, Analyst
Lindsay Henderson, Senior Analyst - Small Business
Margaret Song, Energy Efficiency Strategy and Policy Manager
Miranda Skinner, Strategy and Regulatory Analyst
Melissa Allard, Senior Administrative Coordinator
Phil Moffitt, Chief Financial Officer
Stephen McCloskey, Analyst - Home Energy Services
Tatsiana Nickinello, Energy Efficiency Analyst

Public Participants:

Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian

Martin Culik called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

Public Comment:

No written comments were received in advance of the meeting and no members of the public were present for public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board considered the January 28, 2024 Open Session and Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

Joyce Flynn moved the Board accept both sets of minutes, seconded by Robert Schofield.

Sean	Hogan	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Matt	Patrick	Falmouth	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Wayne	Taylor	Mashpee	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (12-0-0)

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

1. Introduction of Pending Wellfleet Board Member, Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian

Martin Culik introduced Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian who will be the Wellfleet Board Member once approved by the town. He asked her to tell the Board about herself. Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian stated that she has lived on the Cape for about 10 years and has lived in Wellfleet for six. She has a background in grant writing and that is how she came to be on the Energy and Climate Action Committee for the town of Wellfleet. She stated that Richard Elkin asked her to consider representing Wellfleet on the Compact Board.

2. Richard Elkin's Passing

Martin Culik stated that Richard Elkin passed away recently. He was the Wellfleet Board Member for many years. He was very involved not only with the Compact but also with the town of Wellfleet. Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian stated that the Energy and Climate Action Committee is exploring having a plaque with his name on it at the transfer station solar array as he was instrumental with that project. His absence will be missed.

3. Bullets for March Board Member Updates to Select Board or Town Council

Martin Culik stated that last month we talked about Board Members providing Compact updates to their Select Board or Council. He stated that Jason Bertrand has written up information to share about Compact offerings for non-profits. Maggie Downey stated that the information will be sent to the Board after the meeting. It is under three minutes and can be presented during public comment.

UPDATE ON EVERSOURCE ELECTRIC SECTOR MODERNIZATION PLAN (ESMP), MARIEL MARCHAND:

Mariel Marchand reviewed the Update on Eversource Electric Sector Modernization Plan (DPU 24-10) PowerPoint.

Mariel Marchand stated that the 2022 Climate Act requires, among a number of other things, Electric Distribution Companies (EDCs) to prepare Electric Sector Modernization Plans (ESMP). The purpose of the ESMP is to proactively upgrade the distribution system to allow Massachusetts to meet its climate goals. She stated that the main objectives of the ESMP are around accommodating transportation and building electrification and enabling timely adoption of renewable energy and distributed energy resources. All while ensuring that we have a reliable grid as climate related impacts increase. She stated that the ESMP is to achieve these objectives, while minimizing impacts on ratepayers. She stated that along with requiring the EDCs to file ESMPs, the Climate Act also established the Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC) that is led by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). The GMAC includes several energy industry stakeholders. They were tasked with reviewing a draft of the ESMPs and providing feedback to both the EDCs and to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) for their review. This process happened throughout the summer and fall and now we are on to the DPU proceeding.

Mariel Marchand stated that Eversource filed its ESMP with the DPU on January 29th and what they filed included a number of changes and additions from the draft that they submitted to the GMAC. Their ESMP still has three planning horizons. A 5 year, a ten year and then all the way up to the year 2050. She stated that her main takeaway is that the ESMP is pretty limited in terms of innovative solutions. It is relying on a lot of new investment and Eversource didn't come up with as many new ideas to meet our climate goals as the Compact would have hoped.

Mariel Marchand reviewed the DPU timeline. She stated that the EDCs filed the plan with the DPU on January 29th and on January 30th the petitions to intervene were due and discovery began. The Compact filed a petition

to intervene, which was approved. The DPU has seven months from the date of filing to either approve the modification or reject the ESMPs. A DPU Order on the Eversource ESMP is due on August 29th. She stated that the Compact will be participating throughout the different stages of the DPU proceeding.

Mariel Marchand reviewed the concerns that were identified in the Compact's review of the ESMP. She stated that the new key concerns are Eversource's, and the EDCs as a whole, request to defer inclusion of some important topics that were required to be included in the ESMPs per the legislation. The Compact's main concern is with their request to defer rate redesign options, including time varying rates (TVR), and their request to defer alternative approaches to financing. She stated that the DPU did issue an Order approving the EDCs request to defer these topics, so the Compact will be focusing on addressing these topics to make sure they don't fall off the map. She stated that another concern is around the Community Engagement Stakeholder Advisory Group (CESAG). The GMAC requested that the CESAG fall under their umbrella. The EDCs in their filing with the DPU declined to accept that request. She stated that the Compact is concerned about what the focus of the group will be and what stakeholders will be included. She stated that we want to make sure that appropriate stakeholders are included and that the focus of the group is really on more than just getting new infrastructure.

Mariel Marchand reviewed the Compact's previous concern that the ESMP relies heavily on investments that are already approved or pending before the DPU. Specifically, that these investments are approved through the rate case or the grid modernization docket. She stated that there is a lot of investment in new infrastructure as opposed to using new innovative solutions like non-wire alternatives, market partnerships, and demand response to reduce demand during peak hours. She also expressed concern with the way that Eversource did its load forecasting. The methodology that they used is based on worst case scenario. She stated that they are looking at PV as potentially not being able to provide capacity as opposed to looking at storage as an asset that could come online and be dispatched during times of peak demand. She stated that they are viewing battery storage as something that is going to be charging and even charging during times of peak demand. Therefore, they aren't taking the best advantage of those resources.

Mariel Marchand reviewed the next steps. She stated that the Compact has filed three rounds of discovery in the ESMP docket. She stated there will be additional discovery as responses to our questions and questions from other parties come in. The Attorney General has been asking a number of questions that align well with ours. She stated that the Compact will be reading those responses and drafting more questions as needed. Eversource has been very timely and responsive to our discovery questions and other parties' discoveries, which has been very helpful with keeping the process moving. She stated that the Compact didn't identify a need to file testimony in this proceeding, but we will certainly be participating in the hearings and filing briefs. She stated that going back to those concerns that she outlined on the previous slide, in terms of our goals for participation, we'd really like to see expeditious and equitable implementation of TVR. Despite the fact that it's not going to be addressed and decided on in this docket, the Compact will be trying to advocate for some kind of regulatory certainty on when TVR will be addressed to make sure that it is ready to roll out when we do finally receive advanced meters.

Mariel Marchand stated that the Compact will be advocating for approval of the Cape Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) so that Distributed Generation (DG) can get interconnected on the Cape. She stated that the Compact is seeking to make sure that double poles are addressed in a timely fashion and finally, the Compact will be working to try to make sure that that CESAG is collaborative and includes input from both the GMAC and key stakeholders like the Compact.

Kevin Galligan stated that he would like to echo what Mariel Marchand said about how Eversource has been very responsive to the questions that we and other parties have asked, and it's been really positive from the

standpoint of learning and understanding. He stated that he does think that the Order from the DPU narrowed the scope such that there are a number of things that will be deferred to either a future phase or proceeding.

Tom McNellis asked what the main implication for the Compact is with the delayed implementation of TVR. Mariel Marchand stated that hopefully TVR won't be delayed. She stated that she has been participating in the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Stakeholder Working Group, which is where TVR is being discussed with the EDCs at a pretty granular level, making sure that their back-end systems are able to accommodate all of the data that comes in from these new meters. She stated that the Compact has been having good discussions on municipal aggregators being able to offer TVR and access that data. Kevin Galligan stated that the Cape and Vineyard will be the last meter upgrade to get the TVR. However, in a discovery that has come in recently, Eversource has confirmed that as soon as the TVR meters are in a customer community the products associated with that should be ready to go at the same time. So, they've put on the record, there should be no delay in offering associated services with TVR. David Anthony asked if the delay was because of the delay in delivering the meters themselves. Kevin Galligan stated that it is the way Eversource teed up their meter replacement schedule. They have tried to use a depreciation schedule as the guide. The Cape and Vineyard meters were updated several years ago, this was the last meter upgrade conducted by Eversource in its territory, and they were not AMI meters. As a result of this installation schedule, the Cape and Vineyard will be the last Eversource territory to receive AMI meters and TVR. Martin Culik asked if AMI meters are scheduled for next year. Mariel Marchand stated no, it will be starting in 2026 and ending in 2027.

Bill Doherty asked if Eversource is giving you any confidence as to whether or not there's been adequate testing to ensure that when they do this rollout it will be successful. Mariel Marchand stated that from what she has heard on the AMI stakeholder group, AMI has been successfully rolled out in a number of states at this point. She stated that they're still in the process of procuring those meters, but they also do plan to do a lot of testing when they do roll out the meters before implementing. She stated that she doesn't foresee there being that many issues. Kevin Galligan stated that in terms of how advanced these meters are, they are going to be able to not only read load information, both demand as well as usage, but they'll be able to know where voltage changes occur. He stated that Eversource is hoping to be able to adjust its system based upon knowing where there may be some advance warning about brownouts. He stated that he believes the meters are going to be very sophisticated but will keep an eye out for that.

Matt Patrick asked if the Cape specific concerns were getting the right amount of airtime. Kevin Galligan stated that approval of the CIPs is critical. The CIP dockets were opened when Eversource filed these proceedings back in April of 2022, and they are waiting for a DPU Order. He stated what's behind each CIP are distributed energy resource connection projects. He stated that in discovery the Compact has asked for an updated queue of projects that may have fallen out or those that are building and Eversource provided a spreadsheet that shows the queue of those that want to interconnect has only grown since Eversource originally filed the Cape CIP. He stated that the Cape CIP is critical because it advances distributed generation, and we are going to pound on that because otherwise there is no alternative.

Bob Higgins-Steele asked what are the undergrounding kind of questions that people are asking. Mariel Marchand noted that Kevin Galligan had dropped off the meeting and that he is leading the undergrounding efforts for the Compact. She stated that she will relay that question to him and can follow up. Matt Patrick asked how dependent TVR will be on the existing internet. Mariel Marchand stated that she believes the EDCs are proposing to use a mesh wireless network but would need to get more information on that from Kevin Galligan as well.

2024 ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFERING FOR NON-PROFITS, LINDSAY HENDERSON:

Lindsay Henderson reviewed the 2024 Non-Profit Offer PowerPoint.

Lindsay Henderson stated that all small business non-profits must have an energy assessment to be eligible for the non-profit offerings. The requirements are: 1) that the non-profit must own the building or have an eligible long-term lease; 2) must be a 501(c)3 or a house of worship; 3) in operation for at least 5 years; 4) must use less than 1.5 million annual kWh; and 5) the electric account is in the non-profit's name on a commercial electric rate. She stated there's an application and some documentation that is required by the nonprofit or the house of worship to submit to us in advance so that we can review it and provide approval status. The majority of them do get approved. She stated that the approval is sent over to RISE Engineering so that they can incorporate that into any proposals that they give to that non-profit.

Lindsay Henderson stated the enhanced incentives, up to 100% on certain measures, are only available to non-profits that heat with electric resistance, oil, or propane. Non-profits that heat with natural gas are not eligible for this offering. The enhanced incentive also includes up to 100% incentive for heat pumps when paired with weatherization, resulting from an energy assessment. Again, this does not apply to those with natural gas looking to switch to heat pumps.

Valerie Bell asked if there is a cap on the funding. Lindsay Henderson answered that there is no cap as of right now. Valerie Bell asked if National Grid is offering something like this for natural gas customers. Lindsay Henderson answered not this year, but maybe next year. Matt Patrick asked who is coordinating the proposals on behalf of the customer. Lindsay Henderson stated that RISE Engineering is coordinating proposals for the customer. Tom McNellis asked what is qualified as a long-term lease. Lindsay Henderson stated that there has to be a contract in place for multiple years.

PRESENTATION ON 2024 GEOTARGETED ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFERING – OAK BLUFFS, STEPHEN McCLOSKEY

Stephen McCloskey reviewed the 2024 Community Based Energy Efficiency Offer for Oak Bluffs PowerPoint.

Stephen McCloskey stated that this community-based offer came from an effort started by the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council Equity Working Group. They recommended the Program Administrators (PAs) develop this community-based offering for communities that meet the following criteria: 1) the community is an environmental justice community; 2) has a high percentage of renters; 3) has a high percentage of low and moderate income households; 4) has a large percentage of homes heated with oil, propane or electric resistance; 5) has a Community First Partnership; and 6) is a community that has a historically low participation rate in our energy efficiency programs.

Stephen McCloskey reviewed why Oak Bluffs was chosen. It was designated a Massachusetts Environmental Justice community, 28% of occupied units are renters, 40% of residents are low- and moderate-income, all homes heated with oil, propane, or electric resistance, they have a Community First Partnership with Vineyard Power and have historically low participation rates in energy efficiency programs.

Stephen McCloskey stated that the Compact offers two program tiers for income-verified customers. He stated that what we used to classify moderate income was 61 to 80% of the state median income (SMI) but now it will be SMI or area median income (AMI) depending on which benefits the customer the most. The Income Eligible program serves customers making less than 60% of SMI or AMI.

Stephen McCloskey stated this is an offer for single family properties which the program defines as one to four units. He stated that if a resident or customer's income falls within that moderate income range based on SMI or AMI, or if they are a renter, they can self-attest that their income qualifies as being within the range of 61-80% SMI/AMI. After self-attesting to their income, a customer would be eligible to receive 100% coverage for all recommended weatherization measures found during the energy assessment. They will also get 100% coverage for all weatherization barriers such as knob and tube wiring or vermiculite, via a turnkey delivery model. He stated that the one caveat is for the renters. The landlord or property owner will need to sign off on any of this work in order to move forward.

Stephen McCloskey stated that if a moderate-income resident or renter is looking to electrify or decarbonize their home, they can do so via turnkey delivery model. Customers will receive 100% coverage for any electrification barrier they may face, as well as 100% coverage for the installation of a whole home heat pump to replace existing fossil fuel heating system or electric resistance heating system. For this part of the program customers must provide documentation that their income falls within the 61-80% AMI/SMI category.

Stephen McCloskey stated that renters receive 100% coverage for weatherization measures and any pre weatherization barriers. Renters can also get 100% coverage for electrification barriers and for installation of a whole home heat pump to replace existing fossil fuel or electric resistance heating system. These measures will require the landlord's permission and the customer will need to complete an income verification application.

Maggie Downey stated that Oak Bluffs and Tisbury are our two designated communities for the 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency Plan. She stated that she and Stephen McCloskey presented to the Oak Bluffs Select Board the other night. She stated that the Compact is the first to roll this out. The other PAs will be rolling out this offering in select communities in the next several weeks. She stated that the Compact will be working with Vineyard Power on marketing and encouraging customers to participate.

Joyce Flynn asked what documents the Compact requires to verify household income. Stephen McCloskey stated that they can send in their taxes, W2s, employee verification letter, etc. He stated that it is based on the customer's gross annual income.

Brian Miner stated that the Compact has a target for this work, but who owns the target? Maggie Downey stated that the Compact is reporting to the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council Equity Working Group, which is where this initiative originated. She stated that we will have targets in the 2025-2027 Plan, but for this 2024 offering we do not have targets. Briana Kane stated the intent of rolling this out in 2024 is to establish targets and baselines for 2025-2027. Brian Miner asked how the Compact balances the impact of performance of these programs on the energy efficiency budget. Maggie Downey stated that it is a balancing act. She stated that we try to build our budgets from the bottom up, but because we are projecting forward, we don't control participation levels. She stated we look at all the data and feedback that staff gets from being in the field when they're developing their budget.

Martin Culik asked if staff had a potential number of units. Briana Kane stated that there are roughly 4,100 residential customers in Oak Bluffs. She stated that you have to remove those that are not year rounders, those that have prior participation, and those that would not be able to self-attest, so staff has a ballpark idea as to where the full scope is then it's how much and where do people want to move forward.

Matt Patrick stated there is a big concern about losing rental units. He asked if there is any concern about the future of these units and if so, is there anything that can be done about it. Maggie Downey stated that it's a big conversation. There is a clear acknowledgement that on a statewide level, renters have not participated in energy efficiency programs. She stated that it will be something we are monitoring in 2024. If a landlord sells

after their rental has been upgraded, that is something that will influence the 2025-2027 Plan and how it will be implemented. She stated that there is just such a concern that the majority of the renters in the Commonwealth are not being served and are being left behind.

Martin Culik asked how we address the outcome that electric expenses increased significantly with heat pumps. Maggie Downey stated that if you are heating with electric resistance, oil or propane and move to heat pumps, your heating bill will decline. Valerie Bell stated that one of the concerns from a landlord point of view is that occasionally the rental agreement includes an additional monthly fee that includes utilities. She stated that in that case the renter doesn't care, but the landlord might.

UPDATE ON 2025-2027 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN PROGRAM CHANGES, BRIANA KANE:

Briana Kane reviewed the 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency Plan Overview PowerPoint.

Briana Kane stated that the PAs are focusing on decarbonization, equity, and customer experience. She stated that as required under Massachusetts General Law, on March 1st the PAs will be receiving from the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals. She stated that the PAs will use those values to refine the Plan, budget, and measure population. She stated that the PAs will be offering a decarbonization assessment, which is a huge focus in our residential program. It will expand on the energy assessment, guiding customers along their path to move forward with electrification opportunities. She stated that the PAs are also going to be offering turnkey services for select measures such as pre-weatherization barriers, weatherization, and heat pumps, with a focus on moderate income and small business.

Briana Kane stated that there is a statewide focus on community-based efforts and equitable program delivery for renters, low-moderate-income, and limited English influence customers. The goal is to enhance their journey through our energy efficiency process. She stated that the utility Program Administrators will be establishing a statewide call center. She stated that the Compact already has this type of service in place and we would continue to maintain our own internal call center. She stated that all-electric is a prerequisite for residential and commercial and industrial new construction, with some limited exceptions.\

Briana Kane stated that the Plan will address using AMI or SMI to determine a customer's income eligibility for specific programs. She stated that customer income self-attestation is another new offering. Customers within the 61 to 80% AMI or SMI bracket, who self-attest to eligibility will receive no cost recommended weatherization offerings.

Briana Kane stated that moderate income qualified customers who choose the Turnkey Pathway would be eligible for no-cost weatherization, no-cost pre-weatherization barrier remediation, no-cost pre-electrification barrier remediation, and no-cost heat pump installations. She stated that customers who do not want to participate in the Turnkey Pathway would be eligible for no-cost weatherization through self-attestation, and enhanced Heat Pump offers after completing the income qualification process.

Briana Kane stated the residential retail heat pump projects will require pre-approval and pre verification. We want to make sure that the systems being proposed are qualified products, which gives a little bit more assurance to the customer.

Briana Kane stated there is a residential new construction passive house offering for single-family. She stated that there is also a proposal to include an embodied carbon reduction incentive. An adder that aligns with the

current new buildings and major renovations pathway options, offering customers support for avoiding whole-life carbon emissions.

Briana Kane stated that the PAs are proposing within the statewide plan website improvements. She stated the PAs are looking to help customers with limited English proficiency on their energy efficiency journey, making sure that they have language access. The goal is to diversify the workforce to allow for translation and have contractors that are able to translate as well. Also, the PAs will continue to diversify our workforce through training and supplier diversity summits and additional grants. as the PAs are also always looking to leverage funds to make our energy efficiency program dollars go further.

Briana Kane stated that the PAs are currently in the process of working on budgets. Compact staff have been gathering information on program budget and savings by looking at prior program participation. She stated that proposed budgets and high-level bill impacts will be shared at the March Board Meeting, and the PAs will be filing a draft of the energy efficiency plan on April 1st.

Valerie Bell stated that a lot of people with oil heat have radiators and asked what happens when heat pumps are being installed in these homes. Briana Kane stated that the system would be disconnected, and the radiator component would not be removed.

UPDATE ON CLC WEBSITE

Jason Bertran stated that he has started the process of updating the Compact's website for 2024. He stated that over the past couple of weeks, he has been reaching out to agencies and getting quotes and plans together. He stated that depending on the final cost of the updates the Compact may need to go out for an RFP. He stated that we are looking for a new overall look and feel and design for the website. He stated that he thinks a lot of us who understand the programs kind of get caught up in how things are organized that might not make sense for the customer. He stated that by talking to the different agencies he believes that the website could be done by early 2025. He stated that the Compact will probably want to bring in outside people to make sure the experience makes sense before it is completed.

Jason Bertrand stated that he has been considering pre-design testing as well to see how people are currently navigating the website. This will allow us to see where people are getting lost going through pages, if they are finding what they need pretty quickly, or what pages people are being driven to or accessing most.

David Anthony joined the meeting at 2:50PM.

Nicola Blake joined the meeting at 2:56PM.

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL VOTE ON CONSUMER ADVOCACY WORKSHEET FOR MA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES (DPU) INQUIRY ON ENERGY AFFORDABILITY FOR RESIDENTIAL RATEPAYERS (DPU 24-15), AUDREY EIDELMAN KIERNAN, KO LAW:

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan stated that this is an investigation that the DPU opened up in early January 2024 into areas of energy affordability for residential customers. The DPU asked a series of questions for both the public and utilities to consider. She stated that the DPU is looking at improving programs that are currently offered to address energy affordability. The programs are the electric discount rate, arrearage management programs, or disconnection protections for customers. The DPU is looking to ensure maximum participation in those programs. She stated that the DPU is also looking at whether other programs are out there that might provide

additional benefit to customers that don't currently exist in Massachusetts. For example, something called a percentage of income payment plan that other states currently offer.

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan stated that the Compact organized a virtual stakeholder session on February 6th with various organizations that are focused on the needs of low-income customers and solicited feedback on the DPU's questions. She stated that the scope of the DPU's questions also includes consideration of the role of energy efficiency, demand response, residential loan programs for solar PV and battery storage in the concept of energy affordability. The Compact is planning to file comments on March 1st that reflect the consensus feedback from the stakeholder organizations, as well as some additional thoughts from the Compact based on its role as an energy efficiency PA. She stated that those comments will address how energy affordability programs should be tied to energy efficiency program participation.

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan stated that the DPU requires the Compact to document when it spends energy efficiency budget dollars on consumer advocacy matters. A consumer advocacy worksheet was developed to address the Compact's cost allocations because the scope of the proceeding includes energy efficiency matters. She stated that what is proposed in this worksheet is to allocate the costs of the proceeding based on the subject matter of the service provided. Work on the energy efficiency related matters will be billed to the energy efficiency budget and then work on power supply related matters would be billed to the operating budget. She stated that presently there's no procedure documented by the DPU beyond this initial March 1st comment date, so we await next steps. There's a wide scope given the number of questions that were asked, and this could potentially spin off into other dockets. However, right now, the extent of what we know is in the notice that was included in the Board packet and the list of questions the DPU has asked. She stated that normally the Board takes a vote on the consumer advocacy worksheet itself and participation in the in the docket associated with the worksheet.

David Anthony asked whether all the organizations that participated in the Compact's stakeholder session would be identified in the comments. Maggie Downey stated that when the Compact submits its comments those who participated in the stakeholder session will be mentioned in a footnote. Martin Culik asked who had participated in the stakeholder session. Audrey Eidelman Kiernan stated that a few of them were the Cape Cod Commission, the Faith Communities Environmental Network, Representatives from Senator Moran's office, the town of Dennis, the Bourne Council on Aging, and members of the Equity Working Group of the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council. Maggie Downey stated that the stakeholder group came up with 10 high level recommendations.

Valerie Bell asked if they could highlight a couple of the recommendations. Audrey Eidelman Kiernan stated one of the biggest issues we heard was customers like the notion of one stop shopping. Their participation in these energy affordability programs should be streamlined. The process for participating in an energy affordability program, such as the discount rate, should be easy, not overly burdensome. She stated that when you get access to one income based or income eligible program, you should be able to be educated on all available to you so that you don't have to go from point A to point B to point C to try and participate in various programs. Maggie Downey stated that another recommendation is if there is an electrification heat rate developed there should be two, a market rate and then an income eligible rate. She stated that there is also a suggestion for revising the utility disconnection rules for those on disability payments, those with infant children, etc. to make it more simplified. Audrey Eidelman Kiernan stated that another recommendation that is specific to Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard is the income index that's used for income verification should be flexible to account for regional demographics, including adjusting for the high cost of living on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard.

Robert Schofield moved the Board vote to authorize the Compact's participation in D.P.U. 24-15, adopt the Consumer Advocacy Worksheet for D.P.U. 24-15 and allocate costs between the Compact's energy efficiency and operating budgets as set forth in the Consumer Advocacy Worksheet.

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 David Anthony.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Matt	Patrick	Falmouth	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Wayne	Taylor	Mashpee	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (13-0-0)

Wayne Taylor left the meeting at 4:09PM.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

1. OPEB Trust established by the Compact’s Treasurer on 2/7/2024

Maggie Downey stated that on February 7th the OPEB Declaration of Trust documents were established. She stated that consistent with these documents, the Board is to be informed of the date the Trust was established. The Trust documents were signed by the Compact’s Secretary, David Anthony. There is a 90-day waiting period before the Trust documents become effective. Therefore, the Trust will be effective May 8th unless the Board votes between now and then to disapprove the Trust.

2. Massachusetts Climate Leaders Award Ceremony

Maggie Downey stated that she attended the Massachusetts Climate Leaders Award Ceremony last month. She stated that Harborview Hotel in Edgartown, as well as Shaw's Supermarkets in Falmouth and Orleans were recognized for their energy efficiency work, along with several other statewide organizations. She stated that it was a wonderful ceremony held at the State House with many local elected officials in attendance. Martin Culik stated that it is something the Compact should include in a press release highlighting the Compact. Maggie Downey stated that the Compact sent one out. She stated that she believes we also ran this in the Compact social media but will check with Jason Betrand.

3. Proposed date for March Board Meeting: March 27

Maggie Downey reminded the Board that the March board meeting will be on Wednesday the 27th. She will send out the calendar invites. She stated that after that we will return to holding the Board Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made at 4:42 PM moved by Robert Schofield, seconded by Valerie Bell.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Matt	Patrick	Falmouth	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (12-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Allard

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS:

- Meeting Notice/Agenda
- January 24, 2024, Draft Open Session and Executive Session Meeting Minutes
- Update on Eversource Electric Sector Modernization Plan (DPU 24-10) PowerPoint
- 2024 Non-Profit Offer PowerPoint
- 2024 Community Based Energy Efficiency Offer for Oak Bluffs PowerPoint
- 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency Plan Overview PowerPoint
- D.P.U. 24-15 Consumer Advocacy Worksheet