

**Light Commissioners' Meeting**  
**September 4, 2025**

Members present were:           Chairman Dana Blais  
  Clerk/Secretary Chris Stewart  
  Member Gregg Edwards

Employees present were:       General Manager (GM) John Driscoll  
  Light Superintendent (LS) Thomas Berry  
  Business Manager (BM) Jennifer Belliveau

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Dana.

The agenda for 9-4-25 was approved on a motion from Chris, seconded by Dana, 3-0 in favor.

The minutes for 6-3-25 were approved, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 3-0 in favor.

**Old Business:**

The GM discussed with the Commissioners the MEAM Legislative/Regulatory Issues and Decarbonization Clearinghouse. The GM explained MEAM got the state to listen, the letters that were signed by the Municipal Boards were a good addition for MEAM, there were 9 or 10 Municipals that did not submit one. The GM thanked our Commissioners for signing ours.

The GM distributed graphs to the Board on Templeton's Electrification Plans. The 3 graphs supplied were of Templeton Energy by Resource Type 2025-2050. The Light Plant is now looking ahead to a fuel resource Stetson Wind in order to capture the 1.3 MW we were hoping to acquire under the proposed Avangrid Wind Farm which has now been delayed indefinitely. MMWEC has said that this power will cost \$93 per MWh and will include the environmental attributes, so any power generated here will count towards Templeton's non-emitting MWh sales to customers. At a capacity factor of 40%, Stetson Wind should produce for Templeton 4,558 MWh annually and constitute 6.5% of our total power supply needs. Gregg asked the GM how could a group like this Stetson guarantee a fixed price for Templeton for 10 years? The GM responded that he thought it would be less challenging for them to do this compared to an Avangrid scenario, where no wind turbines had even been constructed yet. Dana suggested other

options for Templeton that were not wind-powered but other. The GM said that MMWEC is actively pursuing potential PPAs for all of their members for different types of fuels, including hydroelectric and solar, so that we can all meet our 2050 non-emitting goals by statute. The GM informed the Board that our purchasing of MWh from Hydro-Quebec will end on October 31, and that they are no longer interested in offering the MMWEC members the hydroelectric power for \$38.50 per MWh and would have to go to a much higher market-based price for the non-emitting power. MMWEC would be able to arrange better pricing for its members by other means than renewing a higher-priced contract with Hydro-Quebec. Effective November 1, Templeton will just retain its 0.376 MW of capacity space and 0.727 kW of transmission space on the Hydro-Quebec Phases I and II lines and enjoy the monthly credits.

The GM updated the Board on the status of Templeton Solar down on Farnsworth Rd. It has been offline since May 23. The GM said the part just came in yesterday, which the LS will send an invoice to the solar company for. The company will repair the recloser unit and then have United Power Group, Inc. perform the testing on it before this solar goes back online, ideally in the September time frame.

### **New Business:**

The GM provided the Commissioners with information regarding the Light Shift BESS proposal. The handout has the Templeton savings with Light Shift BESS from 2026-2045. The agreement would be through MMWEC, estimated savings for the Light Plant would be \$16,000 per month and include no financial risk to us. Light Shift will install the battery equipment including the inverter and transformer and we would only have to interconnect the site at 13,800 Volts when ready. Both the GM and the LS concluded that a 3-MW battery installation would be ideal for the Light Plant, as it would be interconnected to our 1301 feeder which feeds Seaman Paper who has an average load of about 3 MW. The GM explained that with a 5 MW battery installed we would have likely been able to retain 50% of the power savings on the unit rather than the 38% that we'll get with the smaller 3 MW system. But the 5 MW system would prove too chaotic for us here in the way of having to constantly shift loads around when the battery was dis-charging.

Dana asked how long Light Shift had been in the business that they're currently in, the GM didn't know but he did know that other MMWEC member MLPs had already worked with Light Shift to install batteries with MMWEC's blessing. The Board had concerns over the removal of the unit(s) at the end of the 20-year agreement; the GM said that this was all the responsibility of Light Shift. The Light Plant is only purchasing the energy produced by their battery. He hopes to get the project completed in advance of the next Forward Capacity Auction, so by June 1, 2026.

The GM had brought the Board a vote that needed to be taken to authorize him, the General Manager, to sign relevant documents pertaining to this battery project getting done with MMWEC's assistance. At this time a vote took place as follows:

*"On a motion made by Dana, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor the Board voted to authorize the General Manager to sign the relevant documents in an effort to complete this 3-MW battery project with Light Shift in conjunction with MMWEC."*

*Dana – Aye*

*Chris – Aye*

*Gregg - Aye*

Chris Stewart needed to leave the meeting soon, and suggested moving the executive session up sooner so that he could attend. At this time a vote took place as follows:

*"On a motion made by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss salary adjustments for non-exempt employees."*

*Dana – Aye*

*Gregg – Aye*

*Chris - Aye*

[The regular meeting is reconvened at 11:10 am.]

The GM informed the Board about recent changes at MMWEC changes. Ron DeCurzio, CEO here for about 18 years, is retiring at the end of September. Tom Barry will be taking over as the CEO following Ron DeCurzio's departure. Tom has been the Manager of Energy Markets and Commodities at MMWEC already for about 16 months now. Tom's biggest challenge according to the GM would be dealing with Energy New England (ENE) in a more aggressive manner than MMWEC has previously. Holden has submitted a letter in January announcing their plans to leave MMWEC after their GM had convinced their commissioners to vote as such. Holden would be using the services of ENE now and paying more than they are currently at MMWEC. The GM said that the letter that Holden sent was worthless as it stated no concrete reasons for Holden's departure from MMWEC. Holden's 24 MW of load leaving MMWEC will mean a 4% increase to the remaining members for MMWEC services going forward. ENE's latest move is to now pursue Peabody, MMWEC's largest member at 130 MW. So Tom Barry and the MMWE Board are actively engaged in strategy sessions aimed at keeping ENE out of Peabody and keeping MMWEC in.

The GM provided the Board with a handout of Templeton's Non-Emitting Positions for 2025 and beyond. He asked the Board if they had a specific goal in mind from now until 2030, or were they OK just sticking to the state's renewable greenhouse gas emissions laid out in the legislation. Templeton was already 64% non-emitting for 2024 in a year when the target was only 37.5% so we are already ahead of the curve. Gregg stated that he is pleased with the Light Plant's position now and thinks we are in a good spot. Dana would like to see current costs remain about where they are rather than purchasing RECs in order to drive our non-emitting percentage up further. The GM feels that with the addition of just the Stetson Wind power we should comfortably be around 70% non-emitting out to 2030.

The LS informed the Board that the TMLP will be receiving funds from the DOE Resiliency Grant. These funds will go to re-conductoring Royalston Rd and also replacing the distribution transformer at the

Baldwinville Nursing Home. This grant is a reimbursement so we would have to perform all of this work first and then be paid back.

The GM had the following handouts to the Board:

- May, June & July 2025 Power Supply
- June, July & August 2025 kWh Sales
- September 2025 Retail Rates
- MMWEC Rate Comparisons for Q2 2025

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor the Light Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll  
General Manager