

Minutes

MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, March 5, 2021

Zoom

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Kate Warner (KW), Tristan Israel (TI), Richard Andre (RA), Rob Hannemann (RH), Cheryl Doble (CD), Beckie Finn (BF), Kathy Newman (KN), Joan Malkin (JM), Bob Johnson (BJ), Richard Toole (RT), Liz Durkee (LD), Dan Doyle (DD)

I. MVP grant updates; adaptation plan and supply chain

Our application for MVP is improved from last and the final product will be stronger for the work over this past year.

LD: Our latest proposal will be stakeholder led; social resiliency is the other critical theme within our application; it will be a strong application. The grant would begin on July 1st. An intern would ideally be bi-lingual so that we can engage the Brazilian community.

BR: Supply Chain grant with Nantucket might turn out not to be the best fit given MVP has limited funds and they are trying to issue awards to actionable projects. CD inquired whether there might be a better fit for the project; are there others? BR: perhaps BRIC through FEMA, or even programs at FTA could be alternatives.

II. SSA electrification update

BR: Roger Kranenburg, Board member at Woodwell Climate Research Center (CRC) and VP of Strategy and Operations, has good contacts in the ferry world who focus on fleet electrification; BR spoke with Bruce Strup, Senior Electrical Sales person for ABB (an industry leader in Battery Storage Systems); Strup also works with WA State ferry system, Elliot Design Group (already a firm w/ SSA history), along with Casco Bay Lines; will take on a pro bono analysis for SSA looking at how much an electric and hybrid ferry would cost beyond the more typical replacement cost for a vessel AND the cost-benefit analysis for operations; Ben has reached out to Bob Davis and is sensitive that their needs to be strong buy in from SSA executives.

LA Design Group is already involved with SSA; they will need to design for a 25 year retrofit and higher winds.

DD: Would the Eversource Make Ready program that scales up installation of EV charging infrastructure be a potential funding source for an SSA transition?

III. MVC Energy policy update; Island-wide energy initiatives

BR: All-Electric part of the policy is getting buy-in; the idea of full on site renewable generation has received the most push back; the Policy working group just removed that provision.

RH: we don't need to let the Perfect be the enemy of the Good.

BR: Fred Hancock (MV Commissioner) spoke to the encumbering nature of this clause and represented down island interests where site constraints might make this particularly challenging. Individual Commissioners are the members that apply the policy and with that the policy needs to be designed in a way that feels practical for Commissioners as they condition Applicant projects.

JM spoke about the importance of preserving some component of on site solar generation in the policy.

KN: DRI applicants need the option to pursue Community Solar; BR noted we have access to buying in to community solar programs on the Cape and noted MVC staff will need to do some work in figuring out how such an option might be integrated into a future Energy Policy revision.

RH: Community Solar is a major part of the mission of Vineyard Power.

JM: MVC's role won't be to figure out the solar farm / community solar business model on the island, but rather to educate the island community as such an option emerges.

What are our next steps?

RH: Recent bill passed by the Legislature allows for municipalities to pass bylaws stronger than the building code. The Gov. is opposed to this, but towns are citing home rule as a potential mechanism to assert more aggressive policies. Newton is such an example.

RH: VSEC is urging each town energy committee to develop a 5 year energy plan, and is working on a template for that.

Chilmark is working on a project to install a fast charger.

RT: Oak Bluffs will wait to vote on the 100% Renewable warrant article; this year they will vote on Green Communities. They see voting on both articles in the same year as a risk of overreach.

The Oak Bluffs Landfill solar project is being held up by Eversource; the permitting process has been completed and now Eversource fears the grid can't handle it; monetary contribution from developers is seen as a potential vehicle to raise \$.

IV.) Other items not anticipated

BR: Woodwell CRC putting together a Statement of Interest due March 19th – universities are eligible; WW needs more from us as far who will be participating and what the study will ultimately be used for (such as Land Use policies). IGI will be a valuable partner. RT noted we now have the attention of the State Forest representatives.