

## Minutes

### MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, April 16th, 2021

#### Zoom

**CATF members present:** Ben Robinson (BR), Kate Warner (KW), Alan Strahler (AS), Tristan Israel (TI), Rob Hannemann (RH), Cheryl Doble (CD), Beckie Finn (BF), Kathy Newman (KN), Noli Taylor (NT), Joan Malkin (JM), Bob Johnston (BJ), Richard Toole (RT), Alan Strahler (AS), Dan Doyle (DD), Erik Peckar (EP), Richard Andre (RA)

**Others in Attendance:** Meghan Gombos (SW), Peter Cook (PC)

#### I. Grants

##### a. MVP Climate Action Plan (CAP)

MG: *Phase 1* of CAP inventoried resources, developed town by town resources, while hosting ongoing stakeholder listening sessions.

##### *Phase 2*

MG will support the facilitation and the process; will be stakeholder driven; there will be:

6 thematic areas shown in [CAP Organizational Chart](#)

Outputs will include 10-20 year goals, priority actions, and implementation plans (1-2 year plans)

The overarching steering c'tee will be comprised of CRC, town Climate & Energy C'tees, vulnerable population reps, youth, elders, Brazilian community members, and thematic liaisons.

Proposal submission will be scoped for website development as well; there will be very limited printing; site will include a dashboard with metrics to track progress on goals.

KN: a challenge we should begin thinking about now is how to get folks to click on the website.

EP: we should consider including Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead, and [Chappy](#), or at least be aware of their distinctions .

2040 is a time horizon that will help frame the CAP.

May 7<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for submittal.

##### b. Supply chain

BR: Until recently, there had been discussion to try and reorganize the grant proposal that was scoped last year; however, our Nantucket lead, Chuck Larsen, has to step back on the grant writing to focus on

an inquiry into PFAS in their groundwater; it's unclear if anyone else can be fill his void and submit on behalf of the islands with Nantucket as lead applicant.

### c. FEMA BRIC

DD: A recent webinar discussed that MEMA representatives are holding informal discussions with potential applicants once they complete a Statement of Interest form through the FEMA portal.

Projects being considered can be up to 36-48 months; MEMA focusing on these multi-year projects.

Types of projects that are eligible include:

- Culverts & Drainage upgrades
- Soil stabilization
- Dry Floodproofing
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Structure Elevation
- Property Acquisition
- Dam and Seawall upgrades
- Critical Generators
- Infrastructure upgrades directly linked to mitigation benefits

A compelling Cost-Benefit analysis is required to apply; MEMA/FEMA staff can help vet these early on and further develop this type of evaluation.

DD needs to begin a prioritization matrix of key resiliency actions across the island.

### d. Tisbury CZM

Town of Tisbury is working with Applied Coastal; the recommendations are predicated on connecting highlands that will ultimately serve to prevent flooding across the town's coastal infrastructure; berms and dunes are getting consideration; the concept being presented protects against flooding that might occur with a storm surge of 4.5'. A gap in the dune would be necessary for the marine railway at Gannon & Benjamin property.

The concept would buy the town a couple of decades to keep pace with the SLR projections. Cobble and grain size is important to ensure the dune / berms maintain their integrity. KW suggested having a preliminary conversation with Danish architect Mattjijis Bouw, who is very versed in finding less impactful ways to accommodate rising waters and flooding potential. BR will follow up with Bouw and can revisit the scope for 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of this project.

### e. CWPP

DD updated that SWCA – the hired technical expert - will visit the island in mid May for field work / ground truthing that will inform the vulnerability assessment component of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Plan will be released in draft form later this summer – early Fall.

Fire Chiefs will be consulted on the field visits. Once the risk assessment is released with a high degree of confidence, it will be shared with Emergency Managers for them to use for advanced scenario planning purposes.

## **II. Working Groups**

### **a. Energy Transformation Working Group (ETWG)**

RA: Development of the baseline model was an initial priority; base case will define current policy and initiatives which shows fossil fuel consumption; if nothing changes in current policies by 2030, we'll have a 21% share of renewable fuels, short of 50% goal found in the 100% Renewable Energy plan for 2040.

From there, scenarios will be run to change the curve; different calibrations have been integrated (ie. commitment to an energy liaison/education outreach, a change of building codes, penetration EVs, and SSA fleet conversion, etc.)

Vineyard Power plans on "Open Sourcing" the Energy Model for other communities. Nantucket has expressed interest in the model and may be interested in Vineyard Power customizing the "Open Source" model to reflect their community.

KW: pushing toward a net zero school is helped by passing the net zero warrant article; though non-binding, it will give other initiatives and renewable energy proposals better standing when being reviewed / considered.

### **b. Political Outreach**

DD updated that after an initial response from Secretary Theoharides office, they have not followed through to pin down a meeting time. We will have to be persistent. Follow up to Senator Warren's office, following an initial meeting has also taken place and we are awaiting response.

### **c. Education Working Group (EWG)**

NT: Following outreach to 140 people, 13 entities or individuals have committed to showcasing something climate-themed for Climate Week. More targeted outreach will follow. Two info sessions are scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> at 11 am and 7 pm. NT is working with middle school teachers to help think through curriculum content that is climate-centric.

JM added that the EWG is nearly entirely focused on this Climate Week event.

There is an [MV Environmental Film Festival](#) scheduled for May 27-30<sup>th</sup>

### **d. Fundraising Group**

KW noted Liz wasn't here and they will provide a more thorough update next time.

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A broadband outage at MVC abruptly ended the meeting at 10:43 am.