

## Minutes

### MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, August 20th, 2021

#### Zoom

**CATF members present:** Ben Robinson (BR), Kate Warner (KW), Tristan Israel (TI), Rob Hannemann (RH), Cheryl Doble (CD), Kathy Newman (KN), Bob Johnston (BJ), Richard Toole (RT), Alan Strahler (AS), Joan Malkin (JM), Liz Durkee (LD), Dan Doyle (DD)

#### 1) [Climate Action Plan \(CAP\) launch update](#) – provided by Liz Durkee

LD: The leads for each thematic group will be compensated and they will also need primers; Megan Gombos is working on this; their preparation will begin in Sept. and October.

BR: Adaptation Fund; bridge for one pager here are the facts and here is the compelling urgency; let's find a quote that is more inspirational and less factual; Sea Level Rise is irreversible; everyday we're not acting is a day lost.

TI provided a resource to the members: <https://www.mma.org/mass-communities-join-cities-race-to-zero-climate-campaign/>

BJ: last week was a major turning point, with description of Code RED in the IPCC. Climate Change is a discontinuity and life will never be the same.

#### 2) Climate Action Week – rescheduled

Climate Week will take place in May; this is prompted largely by Covid concerns but will also be timed better in tandem with the Climate Action Plan.

#### 3) Eversource update - letter to DPU (see attached)

BR: Ronit Goldstein is the primary contact for Eversource; Kate Warner is taking the lead on communication for the Task Force; cable status is not quite as important; Battery Storage System prospects remain a concern.

DD: KMOVY Airport and Edgartown Fire Dept are experiencing increased inconsistency as reported at an Emergency Managers Directors Association meeting.

Dan will share info with Kate on IGI's need to upgrade their private electrical line to the tune of \$1 million, along with other data regarding PV installation challenges that local installers are facing owing to Eversource. Once IGI upgrades the line, Eversource will then require that ownership is granted to them.

BJ: Commonwealth requires Eversource to have contingency plans in the event of a cable failure. What is the contingency plan to the contingency plan?

#### 4) Tisbury Resilience C'tee

BR: BOS wants to bundle the Energy C'tee and Resiliency C'tee; this could be misguided but it may be a short term concession that could be revisited once the committee is established and fully functioning.

KW: A possible candidate to replace Bill Straw as Chair is Dave Smith, a former CPA; he has been here for 9 years and feels there is a need for solar consulting services; he has assisted 70 customers thus far and will submit a letter of interest.

#### 5) USACE-carrying capacity proposal

Adam, Ben, Igor from USACE, and Chuck Larsen from Nantucket will meet this afternoon; the goal is to get the work underway in October and November.

BR: we must develop in kind services; Adam is doing this on the Vineyard end, Chuck Larsen on the Nantucket end. The application will need formal support from a state agency; EEA is a good candidate.

The scope will amount to just under a million dollars of work. It will be key to define what carrying capacity is early on. A Literature review of sorts will be an important part of the work at an early stage in the project.

JM: let's ensure the study includes strategies to avoid getting to the tipping point; this should be a central component of the project outcome.

BR: hopefully the project will open us up to future federal dollars

KW: someone on the Climate Advisory Committee suggested the WT CAC shouldn't participate in the Climate Action Plan because MVC is anti-development. This is a perception that we should be aware of. The study can help substantiate controversial positions that need to be taken.

TI: At a recent County meeting, Commissioners were presented with the Airport wastewater plan and were informed that KMOV cannot work with other towns because the immediate need supersedes the benefits of more deliberative coordination; it's important this planning work happen now in the realms we are working in so the coordination and planning between towns can have time to galvanize and build momentum.

DD: Our development potential / carrying capacity is somewhat of a sliding scale depending on the amount of supporting infrastructure that is implemented; the conversation then converges with island character.

BR: The character question is unavoidable and will need to be addressed.

TI: New airline routes have been added to MV with very little input.

KN: Should we find someone with expertise in this discipline of carrying capacity, perhaps someone at a National Park?

JM: National Parks are relevant because at some point a critical mass of visitors begins to disrupt what's established as valuable

## **6) MEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding**

DD: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: program prioritizes projects that reduce loss of life, and protect natural resources, property, infrastructure, public health, and the economy from natural hazards and climate change impacts through the development of integrated hazard mitigation and climate adaptation projects. \$13 million was the previous highwater mark for funding available; this upcoming round will make \$110 million available

LD: CZM is heavily focused on regional applications;

BR: we inevitably compete against ourselves when towns file stand alone proposals; we should continue to find ways to leverage regional projects.

## **7) Additional Updates**

BR: NE Univ. has a department with some dedicated focus on supply chain issues; their Govt Affairs arm in Boston has staff talking with Senator Markey's office on a large congressional add on for Unmanned Aircraft Systems technology that can be used to assess infrastructure and environmental resilience with added resilience analytics and Artificial Intelligence components; it would potentially become a part of the carrying capacity study even though it has limited relevance for MV. Nonetheless, we still may offer to write a supporting letter; we should update Julian Cyr and D. Fernandes office on the carrying capacity study.

BR: We will put together a series of slides regarding the work plan and we'll have a press release.

DD: A Climate Conservation Corps is one of the key initiatives of a recently passed federal Infrastructure bill; the Political C'tee asked Sen. Markey to work to ensure a local chapter can be sited on the island, and that housing is subsidized for CCC workers.

RH: Energy C'tee update: towns are embarking on a process of developing 10-15 year electrification plans; there is information-rich content in the plans; the charges for the towns are relatively straightforward, though there are big regional gaps such as addressing major islandwide facilities that will need energy upgrades (MVH and many non profits). There are community outreach activities that we should not repeat each time for every town; there should be a regional approach; CATF is the best channel to determine who is going to be doing what.

Vineyard Power is going to the towns to request Letter of Support for VW 1, 2 and ultimately 3. The Resilience program they've created with Community Benefits Agreement funds will amount to 7.5 million for matching grants.

KW: WT Energy C'tee prepared a questionnaire to assess what reservations homeowners have to achieve 100% renewable by 2040; CLC is doing some work to inform homeowners re transitioning to heat pumps.

BJ: Why isn't the County a candidate for doing this work with Eversource as opposed to the MVC CATF? Has that been considered? Is there enabling legislation language that indicates it should be MVC?

BR: We are trying to be proactive and respond to a void that exists; furthermore, we are an anomaly in their portfolio so the traditional town by town convention will not work to address our renewable goals.

JM: implementation will take place according to planning recs; MVC doesn't focus on implementation; County might have some actions to take.

BR: There are some exceptions such as advanced denitrifying septic systems where MVC does implement, but generally MVC doesn't spend significant resources on implementation.