

Minutes

MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, February 19, 2021

Zoom

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Kate Warner (KW), Tristan Israel (TI), Richard Andre (RA), Rob Hannemann (RH), Cheryl Doble (CD), Alex Elvin (AE), Beckie Finn (BF), Kathy Newman (KN), Alan Strahler (AS), Joan Malkin (JM), Noli Taylor (NT), Liz Durkee (LD), Dan Doyle (DD)

I. Discuss and establish working groups: fundraising, political outreach, education, etc.

There was discussion around breaking into working groups to create proof of concepts and then report back to the Task Force.

Fundraising

TI believes we should explore other structures (CC Collaborative); KN prefers not to make the formal funding request; JM suggested we position ourselves so that we can receive without explicitly asking.

What sort of administrative structure needs to be set up to assist with matching grants?

NT: What would the group be raising money for? The focus should be determined in advance of any outreach / request; our group should be as focused as possible in its fundraising efforts. KN: we need a vehicle for a nest egg when a matching grant comes along.

RA is working to start a 501C3 to create a pot of money that could be used for matching funds through the Vineyard Wind Community Benefits Agreement (CBA); RA will join the working group on Fundraising. BR: MVC staff will help provide support. DD can help write grants. BF: there are creative opportunities for matching through partnering with the Tribe; they've even found ways to leverage staff salaries as part of the matching component.

KN, LD, TI, and RA will work on that group.

Education

Environmental Educators Alliance - BR: let's meet with them to make more contact in both schools and community; LD would like to possibly lead this group; this is about educating across the board; KN would be happy to become part of select event planning; CD will be part of the Educators working group.

JM: The Education working group efforts might yield a series of initiatives; there are likely scores of local stakeholders who would be interested in getting involved. BR: these initiatives can also be used to broaden our base. KW noted that ICAN engaged in education and outreach.

Political Outreach

BR, DD, and others? will be involved with this working group. BR will lead this group. RH added that the Energy working group can provide support and strengthen requests made to our political officials.

II. Update on MVP grant, CRC discussion with Courtney Rocha, MVP

On a call with CRC members last week, Courtney strongly encouraged hiring of local resources as part of any Action grant; social resilience is a key theme. RFP is coming out in March / early April.

BR: MVP program is underfunded and is getting very competitive; CATF should get Letters of Support from Towns for any submissions made. BR will also reach out to Nantucket contact; DD noted the grant scored strong last year with the exception of review c'tee's trouble envisioning what sort of entity was capable of this sort of analysis. CD added this is a critical part of any grant as evidenced by Tisbury's positive experience with their CZM grant and hired consultant. BR noted that Chuck from Nantucket has researched this facet of the joint grant.

III. Update on carbon proposal and funding opportunities

NE Climate Adaptation Center grant opportunity is due March 18th; BF shared this RFR with LD; Woodwell has indicated willingness to craft a proposal on behalf of the MV sequestration study, that would cover MV's share of the project.

Woodwell will send a list of different modeling and datasets they can leverage for MV sequestration and resilience analyses' - including windage variables on ferry design.

Additionally, Roger Kranenburg is on Woodwell Climate Research Center's Board of Directors and VP of Policy & Strategy at Eversource; he is easy going but very dialed in; Roger has contacts in the electric ferry world with whom he is willing to play a role in connecting with CATF.