

Minutes

MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, May 21st, 2021

Zoom

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Noli Taylor (NT), Kate Warner (KW), Tristan Israel (TI), Joan Malkin (JM), Rob Hannemann (RH), Bob Johnston (BJ), Richard Andre (RA), Dan Doyle (DD), Erik Peckar (EP), Liz Durkee (LD)

Others in Attendance: Melinda Loberg (ML)

I. Mayflower Wind

Kelsey Perry works for Seth Kaplan (heads up Outreach program for Mayflower Wind); routing to Falmouth will likely put this project in front of OB ConCom & MVC; they are figuring out where there substation in Falmouth will be; 8 acres of land need to be cleared; a follow up meeting will take place.

A series of adaptation projects should be compiled as potential contenders for a future Community Benefits Agreement (CBA).

Revolution Wind, owned by Orsted and Eversource, is a Rhode Island project that will affect views of Aquinnah

JM: Kathy Newman is thinking through the merits of MVC receiving the money for adaptation and remediation projects

RA: A nexus between impacts and/or motivation for a project and the project itself is important when identifying community projects part of a CBA so that the commitment by the developer does not take on trappings of a bribe. This is standard industry practice and a group like Vineyard Power (VP) or a municipal entity would fit the profile for such a host community agreement.

JM: We should consider that a negotiating team may need to be more broadly represented than MVC CATF. Perhaps County Commissioners might be well suited.

BR: let's start talking with the BOS

KW: It's not a foregone conclusion that the money should go toward Adaptation projects; a negotiating C'tee should then dictate what projects should be for; bringing power to MV is a radical idea might it should get close consideration.

BR: Let's begin conversations with DPU; Eversource won't want to put in two cables; our grid cannot handle the entry of an offshore wind farm cable right now.

RA: Mayflower and Vineyard Wind (VW) are the only two that are going through Muskeget; we should keep the CBA it focused on 100% renewable MV efforts.

KW: Let's figure out who comprises the negotiating C'tee to determine what the priority should be.

TI: The County received a letter regarding the Revolution Wind project.

LD: Rev Wind has invited comment from stakeholders under Section 106 Historic Preservation Act

RA: This Act allows for community input regarding the visual impact to historic properties; Tribe is at the table.

EP: 150K for restoration projects are going toward the Aquinnah Lighthouse; Vineyard Wind served as the conduit for this funding

RA: Vineyard Power was formed to fill the void to speak on behalf of the community for these types of Host Community Agreements / CBAs.

RA: Every developer will need to secure upwards of 30 permits; all of these projects will have some visual impact

BR: The developers all have filings with the State; we should get clarity from MVC counsel to understand who is best situated to negotiate on our behalf.

RA: VP is more than happy to help and lead or partner in this effort.

JM: We've nominated VP to be this entity; it seems like a logical fit.

RA: VP visited ever BOS to get their support to serve as such an entity for the Vineyard Wind project; the only hesitation is that it's on the heels of an arduous process for VW; we are dancing with tigers and we cannot afford to be disjointed; negotiations should be able to secure \$5-10 million; we should be realistic about the impact these funds can make.

TI: In most parts of the countries, RPAs and County are a single entity, but not in MA; local officials negotiated before VW emerged; County/MVC approaching these developers is a proper preliminary approach; establishment of a VP Advisory Board is also an appropriate step.

NT: it seems that the same groups will be impacted by the projects; should those groups be represented through a coordinated framework? Could a coordinated group be brought together and perhaps led by Vineyard Power?

RH: It's early enough that we can set up the appropriate process to make sure the approach is coordinated and inclusive; We should build up awareness amongst elected leaders of our towns, throughout.

BR: Our next step should be to do just that; let's begin a prelim convo with Chairs and Town Admins;

RA: as part of the CBA for VW, 22.5 million will be funneled toward resiliency projects; it's slated to be spent over 20 years; requirement is the money must be focused on municipalities/Tribe, non-profits; VP's job is to communicate to towns how it will be allocated and not to overly prescriptive about it

II. EVERSOURCE

BR: Our next steps are to reconcile the projection numbers.

RH: Eversource will be unwilling to negotiate with 6 separate towns and we need community buy in to this end; should CATF be the intervenor with the DPU in Eversource's decision to pull out of the Battery Storage System (BSS) project? BSS helps throttle our island's electric grid; might MVC serve as the intervenor?

RA: Perhaps Vineyard Wind should partner with CLC or MVC partners with CLC for intervenor role.

BR: EEA was interested regarding the Eversource project and it was clear they were unaware until we met with the Undersecretary Judy Chang.

RH: A formal lawyers description of what the filing is would be helpful to review; could someone forward to this group of what that presently looks like? Rob will forward Maggie's email to us and we can then distribute to the Task Force.

III. Town meetings

LD: Oak Bluffs approved the stretch code as they voted to become a Green Community; they also voted in favor of electric buses for the schools, a plastic bottle and polystyrene ban.

KW: WT passed funding for electric school buses and a matching grant for a part time climate coordinator.

BR: Congressionally Directed Spending aka Earmarks are request opportunities from towns for shovel ready projects that are not part of typical programmatic funding from the Feds; the deadline is May 29th for these submissions.

IV. HOUSING Crisis & CATF

Preserve housing for a continuum of income groups; our perspective is needed for the housing crisis; and what does workforce housing look like and will it be sited and constructed in ecologically sound ways?

NT: Is there anyone on this c'tee that's also on that c'tee and could be a climate voice?

It does not appear so.

RA: 1st tranche of funds for VW does look at affordability and addressing Env Justice; historically, they are developed by people of wealth without adequate attention given to impacts of low income or vulnerable communities; the intention for this tranche will be to address low income ratepayers.

NT will speak with John Abrams given his role on the MV Housing Bank effort and his keen understanding of environmentally sound building practices.

LD: I recently spent a half hour at a local Youth Summit on Climate; Liz Roch wrote a book regarding retreat and she spoke at this event.

NT: there was a lot of interest from the youth who were in attendance and even more coordinating work could be done to build on these efforts.

BR: Degrowth is a word we should try to familiarize ourselves with; it does not need to be reductive and could prove valuable towards innovative solutions.

The Chairs of the Town Energy C'tees should have conversations with Town Admins regarding CBAs, and the need for significant investments by Eversource to accommodate increased demand.