

MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, January 6, 2023

notes

Zoom

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Tristan Israel (TI), Kathy Newman (KN), Bob Johnston (BJ), Alan Strahler (AS), Tristan Israel (TI), Kate Warner (KW), Richard Toole (RT), Norman Willard (NW), Beckie Finn (BF), Jonathan Harris (JH), Stephen Kass (SK), Liz Durkee (LD), Dan Doyle (DD)

Agenda

CAP Implementation Progress

LD shared [slides](#) to accompany her update on CAP progress.

BJ met with Nyvette Previd to discuss housing homeless folks in an acute event, in empty homes.

KW met with MVH and they want a large battery; MGH brass will come down to meet with the MVH Facilities Manager.

A Ferries Now event is being planned by KW; Dylan Fernandes is invited; what are SSA goals in meeting the state benchmarks? Eversource, SSA, Elliot Design Group will all attend; infrastructure challenges will be discussed; KW will apply to the EDEY Foundation to assist with funding; Hyannis and Nantucket and Falmouth, Woods Hole; Markey's office has been invited as well.

A formal Eversource working group has been formed; has formal representation from towns and County and some members of CATF are involved.

Cape Cod Bridges did not receive the big federal grant that was pursued.

JH will go through our CAP and estimate costs for each action.

SSA chose a company that aims to help change their culture in hopes of adopting & implementing their strategic plans.

Woodwell Risk assessment program

BR has gone to towns to request their input on what risk models they want to better understand.

TI: There is currently minimal forest management on the island.

Precipitation, Drought and Urban Heat Island Effect are three key areas we may want to better understand. Vegetation mapping will help with forest management and drought risks.

Adam Turner got a grant from NOAA about historical trends/storms here on the island.

DD has been working with the informal Dukes County Fire Council group that meets monthly to discuss a potential grant application that would create a program to promote controlled burns and other fuel management approaches through broader, strategic sharing of resources.

3) Goals for 2023

BJ: Vineyard Way should be a big branding thrust for CAP implementation; a hired individual could help us brand ourselves with other events and amplify our recognition; we could work with MV Times to baseline recognition now and then a year from now.

DD shared a [link](#) for workshops to more effectively communicate climate change messaging and indicated the group was willing to craft a customized workshop(s) for the Task Force if it was interested.

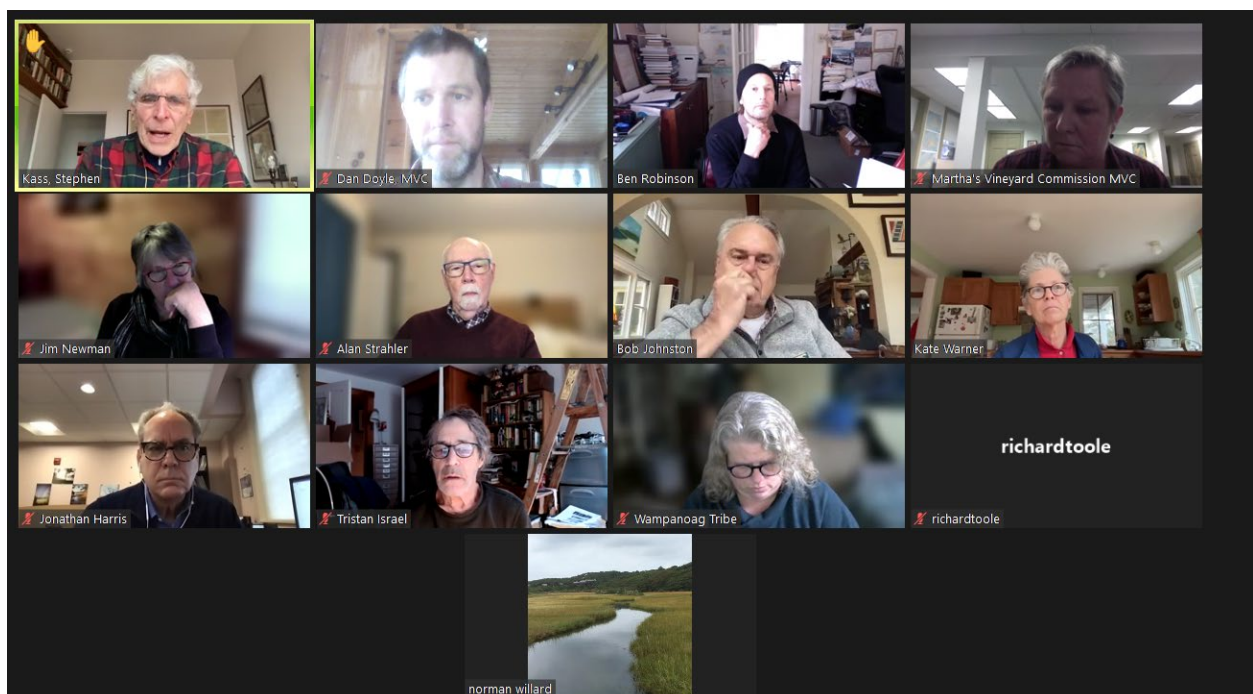
Woodwell Climate Research Center is going through significant growth – could we house folks on the Vineyard?

For a summer event, a panel discussion is more interesting than a speaker.

JH: A specific schedule of projects mapped out in the CAP will get focus, working with Meghan Gombos and Liz; funding needs and potential sources will be included

SK: For offshore wind projects, we need to approach the developers well before the public hearings; SK is willing to work on this; we can also enlist some state and federal officials to support our efforts.

4) Open Comment



MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, February 3, 2023

notes

Zoom

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Tristan Israel (TI), Kathy Newman (KN), Bob Johnston (BJ), Alan Strahler (AS), Tristan Israel (TI), Norman Willard (NW), Beckie Finn (BF), Joan Malkin (JM), Stephen Kass (SK), Noli Taylor (NT), Cheryl Doble (CD), Kate Warner (KW), Liz Durkee (LD), Dan Doyle (DD)

Agenda

1) Discuss potential meeting with MA Climate Chief, Melissa Hoffer

Hoffer has a history of working with the State; TI made a call to our State Senator and spoke with his aid about this idea to arrange a meeting; BR left some voice mail as well.

SK has a contact who indicated he knows her, as well.

Let's explain what we're doing, what is the CAP? How does the State regard regional efforts? We should encapsulate what we're doing in a few pages.

A couple members could travel to Boston; we could then meet her aides as well at that initial meeting and get to know them as well; a follow up meeting might be considered on MV

We need to keep her aware of what's happening on an ongoing basis.

IGI Director Rebecca Hague is good friends with Governor Healey and she could also help broker an initial conversation.

2) Update on VisionWorks Waste subcommittee

Citizens for a Circular Economy (CCE) has been formed aka the Trash Talkers; they are focused on waste and waste management, behavior changes, consumer reduction, and our waste stream; Darcy Hanaway, Phil DeRosa, Phil Wallis, Woody Filley, Meredith _____ are all involved; how do we manage our waste while it's here on the island?

Edgartown and OB Library are beginning a monthly mending event.

Draft scope of work on waste characterization has been handed off to the USACE by LD and BR, crafted by BJ and CCE; Don Hatch from the MVRRD has been contacted; Island Wide Organics C'tee has already been focused on the food waste issue for years; CCE emerged from the Island Innovation Summit this past December where they were trying to take away key learnings; they then followed that up and met for an insight session.

They also attended a presentation for a Next Gen Technology that can take trash and move it into food energy; they have their sights set on a Trash Summit for 2024 for Cape & Islands; ACK is already a partner on the carrying capacity. Discussion ensued about the tradeoffs of including the Cape in this Summit, given our uniqueness in our physical problem in accounting for trash. We should be certain not to splinter off too much and dilute existing efforts on human waste.

There was also concern not to include nitrogen and human waste in the waste stream characterization given the amount of focused work and progress already made on this issue here on MV.

Cape and MV send some of their trash to Ohio because MA is running out of space.

Vision Fellowship has an Advisory C'tee focused on resale communities for construction waste

Perhaps the Ferries Now conference in late March could be a model for a Less Waste Now conference, No Flooding now, etc

We can opt into a Wastewater Fund Bank for each town to get funds to implement W/Water solutions; if all six island towns joined, they could have some clout alongside the 15 participating towns on the Cape.

We need to also make the waste issue explicit in its nexus to climate concerns.

NW: Each agency at the federal gov't was once asked what is your role in respect to climate issues? We could do that locally.

A graphic constellation map of groups working across the island on issues and how they converge with one another would be helpful.

Waste might be pulled out of the CAP and will be thought about more explicitly as its own schematic sector.

3) EPA grant application for drum composting facility at OB Landfill

MV Waste Group headed by Woody Filley is meeting with BOS next week; OB has agreed to file an application for this facility and be the host site.

Next Tuesday at 4:30 Select Board will be the meeting; CATF members should consider attending to support the effort. LD will send out the details / reminder.

4) Climate Action Day – May

Sunday May 7th from 11-4 at Grange or Ag Hall; last year was focused on Education; this year will be focused on action; lining up activities such as aRepair Café, Bike Repair will be there; Dion Alley will be there to talk about process of including solar panels on the house; EV car owners will be there to discuss ownership of EVs and they will stand near their cars to address questions; VCS will talk about their Vineyard Lawns initiative.

Food Security is an issue that needs to be developed for the day. NT will send along some ideas to the Education working group that is organizing Climate Day.

Perhaps there could be a raffle for those who take the bus to get there?

5) Energy Planner update

Ferries NOW sign up begins on March 1st; lunch will be served at the event, held at MV Film Center; another ferry company in Maine is eager to speak at the event; Casco Bay Ferries will already be represented; NC DOT will also be attending the event.

A more global press should be primed between now and the open registration date of March 1st. Eve Zuckhoff at CAI has already been contacted.

Vineyard Wind will be paying half the funds for Climate Day and Ferries Now.

KW is entering her 6th month at MVC in this Fellowship capacity; Her three main focuses are: urging Eversource forward with grid modernization and resilience, alternative propulsion for SSA, and working with the Wastewater Departments to strengthen their resiliency. KW has met with all of the Director

There are a few water supply zones in each down island town. There are also along with lift pump sites that involve moving wastewater around town.

EPA has legitimized these concerns as they noted Florida ran out of water and other places ran out of fuel on the heels of natural disasters. Tisbury Water Dept has indicated that solar and batteries at the well sites would be very expensive; 480 volts is a considerable load.

As an alternative solution, KW is investigating another idea: the Magic Bus which amounts to mobile energy storage system for well sites. Pacific Northwest; ENREL lab, and DEP (or EPA?) had 3 people at the meeting; this ensemble included various electrical engineers, all wastewater engineers, along with the VTA: at the conclusion it was established that it is technically viable to supply energy to the sites through the school bus model; now the cost-effectiveness must be determined.

KW played The Magic Bus song by The Who for the CATF members, for inspiration and to the delight of all. The next step is meeting with MA DEP.

6) Upcoming Eversource meeting

If we get to 2x the electrical use, what changes need to take place to our grid? What is happening with large solar arrays being tied into the grid? These are the key questions driving the meetings. The next meeting will be on Feb 13th

Eversource is only in front of the DPU as of recently; when will time of use meters be installed, along with smart metering? Apparently, they will be rolled out fairly soon.

We should also ask Melissa Hoffer what are the serious roadblocks as we approach the DPU.

Martha's Vineyard Commission MVC

Dan Doyle MVC

Ben Robinson

Bob Johnston

Tristan Israel

Alan Strahler

Kate Warner

Kass, Stephen

Joan Malkin

Jim Newman

norman willard

Wampanoag Tribe

Cheryl Doble

Cheryl Doble

Video Security Participants Polls Chat Show Screen Record Show Captions Breakout Rooms Reactions Auto More

MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, April 7th

notes

Zoom

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Bob Johnston (BJ), Alan Strahler (AS), Norman Willard (NW), Beckie Finn (BF), Joan Malkin (JM), Jonathan Harris (JH), Noli Taylor (NT), Kathy Newman (KN), Richard Toole (RT), Richard Andre (RA), Liz Durkee (LD), Dan Doyle (DD)

Agenda

1) Recent conversations with MA Climate Chief, Melissa Hoffer

There were two half hour sessions with Chief Hoffer. The first meeting included LD and Kate Warner. There's been a motion for summary judgment against the oil companies; AG office has taken this suit on for all the constituents of MA. She doesn't believe we can join it. She said we should speak with Richard Johnston, Chief Counsel of AG's Office. If we're interested in other lawsuits, we should speak with Vick Share of Share and Edwin law firm. Adam Turner should follow up with Vick Share.

When there's a settlement we should have the losses and damages already identified.

Next steps: Adam or Steve Kass follow up with the contacts above; let Vick Share know Chief Hoffer gave us her contact.

Cost of converting HVAC systems; Generate Capital helps with financing green infrastructure; we need to get this info to the Superintendent's office; can we get some special considerations in procurement for our island?

Managed Retreat is a big issue for her; they don't entirely know how to approach it at the State level; she was also hoping to learn from us.

2) Vineyard Power community Buildings Coach

RA: Vineyard Power is managing an energy transition program;

One aspect is solar and batteries for municipal facilities; another is helping income eligible rate payers retrofit their homes; another is working with 17,800 households on MV to electrify their homes in partnership with MassSave;

Coaches help on solar, mechanical systems in homes, EV transportation, and building envelopes in general. Marc Rosenbaum is available for the advanced, more complex cases. Dion Alley is the dedicated coach on these different areas

People can sign up for the coach online. There's been a lot of outreach for this offering through Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Edgartown Library to promote it, along with all of the technical resources. VP is also working with the Town Energy C'tees, along with the County.

There are presently a shortage of installers and weatherizers. As we try to green our economy, we put more demands on our building inspectors. Sizing is very important for generators, in addition to heat pumps.

HVAC installers need to also commit to ongoing education to get versed with the evolving technology.

3) Climate Action Fair – May 7th

First an update from JH who is assessing the best options for an Adaptation fund: there are different revenue sources that could be applied for adaptation funds; several state programs that municipalities can opt in for; one is a hotel, or meals tax, another is a real estate transaction fee; currently an embarkation fee is already codified and generating some revenue.

The concept is to have a fee (a dollar or something like that which would go into a fund, islandwide)

Year round residents and day workers could potentially be exempt, amongst others.

LD: many thanks to JH for this work.

WMVY will do a series of topics related to the Climate Action Plan (CAP); LD will try to get recordings of these to share and promote.

Could the newspapers do a summer supplement of content on the island?

Vegetation mapping and aquatic mapping and community engagement on native species are this year's priorities for the CAP as far as competitive grants go for flagged priorities.

This year's theme at the Climate Action Fair is Take Action. Home solar consultation by Vineyard Power will be offered; owners with EVs will be on site to discuss their experiences; BLUE DOT living is having a special issue on Food and Farming

Perhaps the VTA could offer free passage to and from the Ag Hall that day?



4) Discuss Climate Action Plan actions that identify CATF as the lead

LD [presented some thoughts on the CAP](#) where CATF could be the lead. Many of the items are already ongoing. As for the follow up on Ferries Now conference, Kate Warner will provide this at a future meeting, and there may be a Letter Day up ahead to keep the focus on this issue so that the Steamship Authority doesn't think we are taking our eyes off of it.

5) Biochar demonstration – April 12th

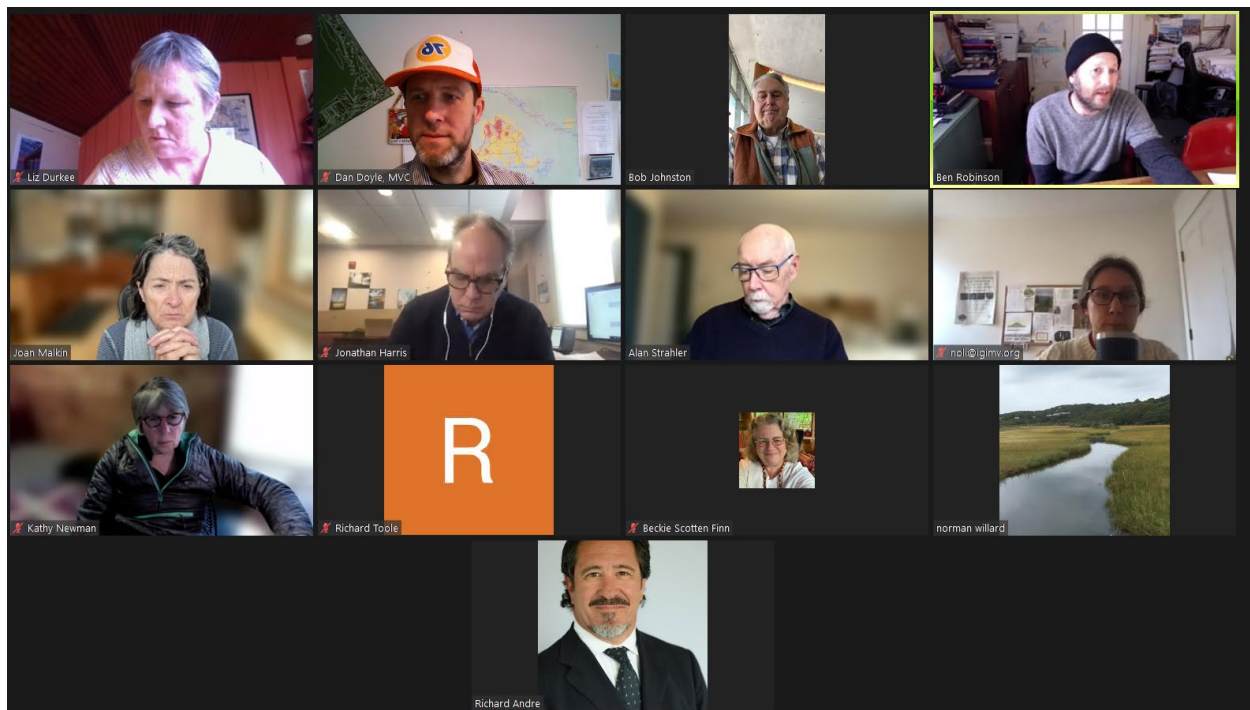
DD updated on an upcoming [biochar demonstration](#) to showcase its production process to fire chiefs and board members of land conservation groups. A group of stakeholders met 10 months ago and identified this demonstration as a key step in building awareness and interest in biochar.

IGI has been generous in offering to host the event at their farm. CATF members are invited. Biochar's value is to help restore depleted soils, reduce wildfire risk through removal of fuels, sequester carbon, and potentially absorb nitrogen from ponds, along with capturing excess nutrients from stormwater runoff. This will be facilitated by MVC's newly named biochar Fellow (thanks to MV Vision Fellowship), Maggie Craig and Dr. Ken Carloni (forest ecologist from Oregon).

RA noted he used to purchase biochar from a dealer on the Cape and give it to his chickens.

6) Carrying capacity & supply chain study

Currently we have \$86K for this study; MVC applied for Congressionally Directed Spending request following a prompt from Senator Markey's office, whose staff has been working with LD, BR, and DD on funding considerations for different CAP priorities. BR helped immensely with the application and we applied for over \$1.8 million.



MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, May 5th

notes

Zoom

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Bob Johnston (BJ), Alan Strahler (AS), Norman Willard (NW), Beckie Finn (BF), Joan Malkin (JM), Rob Hannemann (RH), Jonathan Harris (JH), Mike Jacobs (MJ), Noli Taylor (NT), Kathy Newman (KN), Richard Toole (RT), Richard Andre (RA), Tristan Israel (TI), Liz Durkee (LD), Dan Doyle (DD), Alex Elvin (AE)

Agenda

1) Climate Action Fair – May 7th

This year the themes are Reduce, Reuse, Renew.

There will be a Mending hub, bike repair hub, a place to bring in your Electric bill and get a solar consult climate c'tees will be represented. Drum Circle, Interfaith hour, WMVY is doing a 5 part series walking through the Climate Action Plan; next week's meeting is on Public Health. These sessions are Mondays at 7 pm - and they are on the website archives.

On June 7th there will be a talk on PFAS at 7pm; a link is on the MVC calendar.

2) Imagine Corps Climate Action summer program

This summer there will be two Vineyard cohorts for climate action; Liz and Ben will generate two challenges for the cohorts; they will then strategize how to address the challenge.

The Founder of Imagine Corps will be at the Fair Sunday.

July 5th will be the launch at the MV Museum.

3) Department of Energy grant (water department resilience)

There are twelve down island sites; how can we be more resilient when we have a prolonged failure? The proposal will address this question. VTA buses could spell the generators at well sites for ~3 hours.

We have formal support from Water Depts, Tribe, MV Hospital, Vineyard Power, NAACP, and IGI.

4) Exxon legislation

Chief Counsel Richard Johnston is assisting with this exploration; Steve Kass has helped immensely in this conversation; prior to the discussion with the AGs office, Adam Turn and Joan Malkin will have a prep call.

5) Ferries Now follow up

We should act quickly to keep the momentum and because SSA is making key decisions; a drafted letter stated that the retrofits should be done now to ensure they can be electrified in 5-10 years; conference speakers supported this configuration; 2nd request was crafting a roadmap for electrification

VSEC has approved the letter; joint signatures by the County and MVC are being sought.

TI initiated a discussion with County Commissioners; Steamship Governor Jim Malkin will attend the next County Commissioner meeting held on the 17th; it will be posted on the County website; MVC might address it at their meeting the next day.

Bob Davis had been previously unresponsive to some outreach by Bob Johnston; but we have their attention now thanks to the Ferries Now event; if it becomes an annual event, it would make them more responsive and it would represent an incentive for them to act.

Our SSA Governor says we need to be compliant but economically prudent; KW will be meeting with the new Chief Operating Officer of SSA, who is from Casco Bay Lines in Maine.

A joint letter from CATF and MVC requesting SSA meets with the key consultants could be helpful and the press may cover the issue if it is discussed at a MVC meeting.

SSA needs to become a state agency / reevaluate the model if they can't afford to electrify on their own.

What's the cost of an electric ferry over the cost of a bond? One calculation suggested it would increase ticket sales by just 10 cents each ticket.

Perhaps an online petition could begin that endorses electrification.

Maybe we should be CC'ing Melissa on our key correspondence regarding the Steamship.

The letter asks to things: one to understand how a retrofit works and two, how does the strategic plan address the need to electrify?

5) Coastal resiliency and Regional Transportation Plan

Task Force should weigh in on the climate piece of the plan; the upcoming 4 year Plan will have a focus on the Steamship and climate adaptation. New systems for transportation should also be a focus of this report. We should reach out to town climate c'tees to make them aware and get their input.

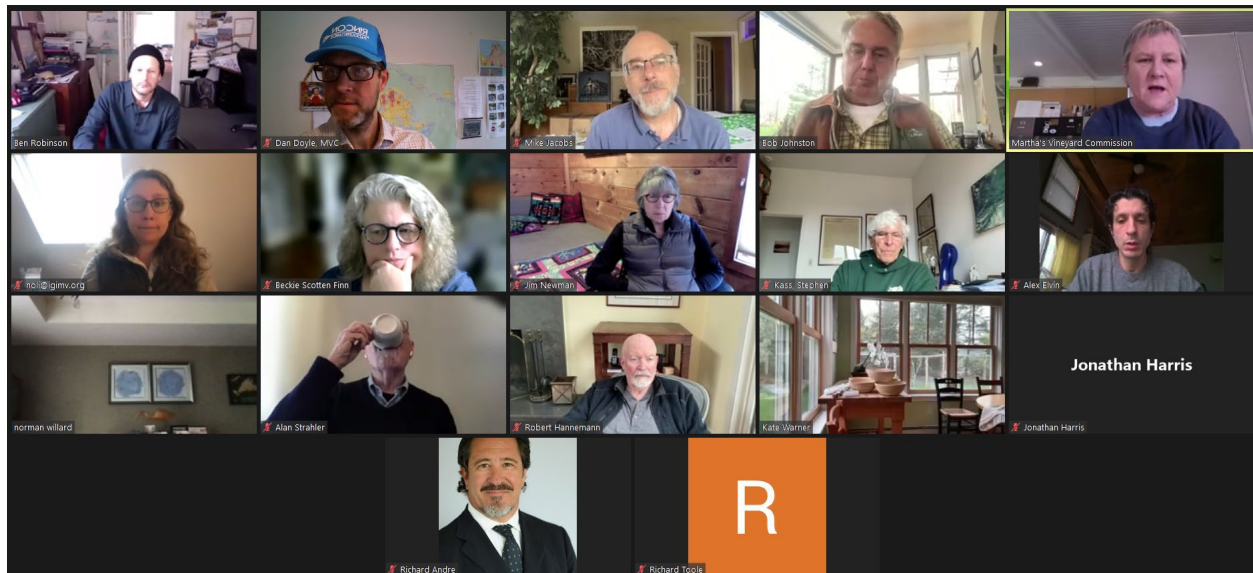
The deadline for the Plan is end of June 2023.

6) Other

Noli Taylor recently met with MVRHS leadership to discuss the Career & Technical Education program and learned that some advocacy could be really beneficial to the standards they are beholden to. Presently, standards do not address new skill sets needed for green collar jobs. At MVRHS, not a lot of specialization happens until Jr or Sr year but students then have an opportunity to do work study

programs; if CATF could compile businesses involved with green initiatives that are willing to host students, it would give MVRHS' a head start in identifying new partnerships/opportunities for students. Richard Andre recently met with MVRHS Principal Sara Dingley about 11th graders transitioning from high school to workforce; an Exploratory program was considered for freshmen but determined that it might be too early to have a big impact.

Biochar will be produced behind the Aquinnah Town Hall, and facilitated with Vineyard Vision Fellow Maggie Craig, on Sunday May 21st.



MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, June 3

notes

Zoom

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Bob Johnston (BJ), Alan Strahler (AS), Norman Willard (NW), Beckie Finn (BF), Joan Malkin (JM), Rob Hannemann (RH), Jonathan Harris (JH), Kathy Newman (KN), Richard Toole (RT), Stephen Kass (SK), Tristan Israel (TI), Liz Durkee (LD), Dan Doyle (DD), Kate Warner (KW)

Agenda

1) Climate Action Fair recap

Use, Repair, Renew was the focus at the Fair. Over 25 organizations were represented; staff from different organizations had the chance to cross pollinate; there were also raffles, a VCS Student Art contest, amongst many other things.

The intention is to continue for at least a few years, and consider a different focus/them each year. This past year's fair was a huge lift for Giulia, though she now has a strong handle on setting it up to run smoothly and efficiently.

Could there be a table at the Ag Fair? Perhaps a specific theme could be the source of focus.

2) Day of Dialogue / Climate Summit recap

Action, Advocacy, and Policy were the three focus areas surrounding Climate at the High School. Another 150 students were assigned to attend the Climate Summit at Felix Neck. The breakout sessions at MVRHS were preceded by two short films that spotlighted issues of climate and child labor. The filmmakers were then available to answer questions and discuss related legislation.

Legislative action coming

AS discussed the prospect for electric ferries at the Climate Summit event, KW provided some posters, and DD facilitated the Policy discussion at the High School; there was also a petition available for attendees to sign that focused on the imperative to electrify the Steamship fleet.

How does MVRHS build climate issues into their curriculum, to then culminate in the event they held in the form of Day of Dialogue?

The PYE (Protect Your Environment) group meets once/week. Felix Neck / MA Audubon augments a lot of the climate curriculum at the High School. However, there are AP Science classes that are doing focused work with the CAP as the backbone of their program; they take a part of the CAP as their final project focus and then share it on social media; this a way to circulate the topic amongst their peers.

3) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update

Once the Draft Plan is available, CATF might need an additional meeting to review and weigh in before it is submitted, off cycle from their typical cycle. Our transportation systems and how they impact climate need more focus, as do the work involved with reimagining these systems. The survey can be found [here](#).

4) ETIPP grant application

A grant was submitted May 12th; this is a Dept of Energy program run through National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) in CO. for islands and remote communities; this one is focused on 3 down island public water departments; we will hear by end of July; awards come in the form of technical assistance/

5) Joint letter to SSA

The Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Finance C'tees have issued a request to increase embarkation fees to their respective towns from .50 cents to \$1.50. Senator Cyr has raised the request to \$2; original legislation for this fee was drafted broad enough that the funds just needed to connect back to the port town harbors, but there is latitude for different types of projects in those areas.

Should CATF be asking for conditions for Electrification if the bond limit goes from 100 to 150 million?

If SSA cannot raise funds to electrify, then the port communities may be on the hook for the additional funds needed to finance the conversion.

Letters from VSEC, the County, and CATF, along with the petitions that were signed were sent as a package to Bob Davis, and as an email to Port Council reps, the SSA Chief Operating Officer (Marc Higgins), their GM, and SSA Governors.

Higgins has a \$7 million grant request submitted for a review of the fleet, port infrastructure needs, and how to transition their propulsion systems.

CATF should approach the Finance C'tees and ask they consider tying the embarkation revenue to sustainability initiatives.

NW and SK will examine the potential nexus between Steamship infrastructure and operations and the MEPA (Massachusetts Environmental Impact Act) to see if there is an leverage a MEPA review could have on the imperative to electrify, or future vessel purchases.

JH will consider to pursue a separate green fee that could be used island-wide for adaptation projects. Any legislation to support this needs transparency built in to the distribution of funds; A Harvard grad student might focus on studying this issue; maybe we need a small subset of people (not just a single student) to look at this issue.

SK and NW could also work with a law school to understand the MEPA process and how it could impact SSA's work. The Conservation Law Foundation would be a good place to begin.

CATF should be more transparent.

We should work as a partner with SSA, and ensure we are forthcoming and transparent, not adversarial.

David Dandridge says that a shortfall in SSA operating budget would be covered by all of the towns.

Before approaching the port town Finance C'tees, should we engage with those town's climate c'tees? If so, we should have our requests documented on paper.

A preliminary request to Cyr and Fernandes would be an increase to the bond limit getting tied to SSA's electrification effort.

Can the embarkation fee apply to cruise ships? Newport, RI gets \$14 / per passenger that steps foot in town.

RT: Dion Alley should be contacted as he is on both FinCom and BOS in Oak Bluffs, re fees going to OB.

Action Items

- Approach Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Climate C'tees and Finance C'tees re embarkation fees
- Find out from Cyr's office the timeframe for the embarkation fee work
- NW and SK will give more research on the MEPA nexus; should SSA be obligated to follow MEPA?
- Conservation Law Foundation could provide insight and answer the MEPA question.
- DD will draft a letter to Senator Cyr's office, circulate MVC's quarterly newsletter, the submitted SSA letter and the Harvard grad student application.

6) Discussion with AG's office on fossil fuel litigation

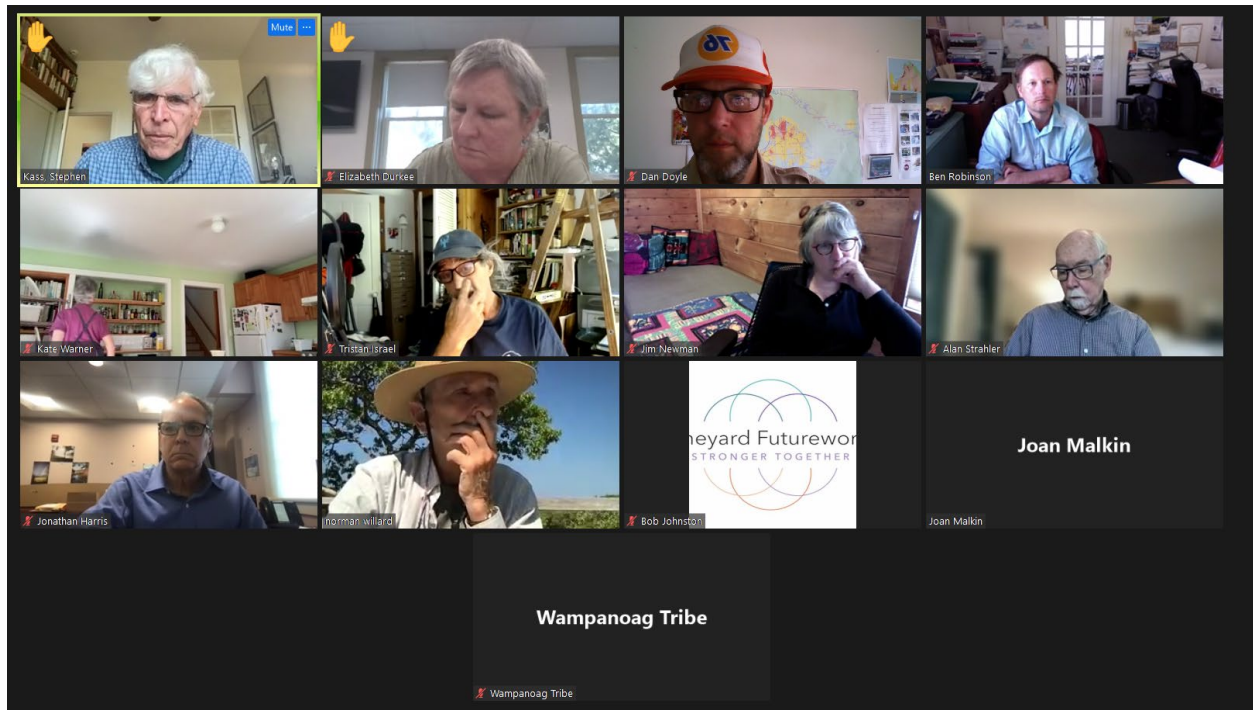
BR met with the team, along with others and they were happy our community reached out to them; with the exception of Boston, others have not; they are open to discovery; we need to get them info regarding our projected damages

LD is pulling together the various reports that informed the CAP and a narrative that will then be handed off to them.

7) Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative event – June 12, Hyannis

This event is the same day as the Nantucket Coastal Conference. Tickets can be secured [here](#).

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 7th; we may need to meet again, beforehand.



MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, August 4, 2023

notes

Zoom

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Bob Johnston (BJ), Alan Strahler (AS), Norman Willard (NW), Beckie Finn (BF), Joan Malkin (JM), Richard Andre (RA), Jonathan Harris (JH), Kathy Newman (KN), Stephen Kass (SK), Tristan Israel (TI), Liz Durkee (LD), Dan Doyle (DD), Kate Warner (KW), Chris Seidel (CS)

1. ETIPP (Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project) grant update

This project will include money for technical assistance that helps the down island town water depts become more resilient; the project begins next week; water dept leads will attend meetings as they see fit with their schedules. KW will manage the grant award and communications. The significance of this grant will be explained at an upcoming MVC meeting with Commissioners and the public.

2. MVP (Municipal Vulnerability & Preparedness) grant update

LD: This grant award has not been announced yet by the MVP Program but we were told we will receive the funding. It will allow for an update of our outdated vegetation map of the island, some mapping of eelgrass in the Lagoon and Senge Ponds; we will be collaborating with Biodiversity Works and their Fellow who is focused on Land Use; they are instigating a study to help reduce the proliferation of lawns

An RFQ for the vegetation mapping will ensue.

The announcement shouldn't go public for another couple weeks.

3. Woodwell Climate Research Center update

a) Carbon sequestration study

This project has been fully funded.

As a related offshoot, IGI will provide 3 plots as to assess health of soils, carbon storage and yield; they will use different land management practices in the form of biochar, and no and low till commitments. A single island family may fund this and the Ag Society and IGI are partnering on this project.

b) Climate Risk Assessment

Preliminary report showed Fire is a big risk and will experience a big uptick in risk.

In October we will have a Woodwell presentation that unpacks the work they've done on the island in recent projects.

The Task Force members should compile questions we might like explored by the Woodwell team.

The findings also showed an increase in woody mass but decrease in biodiversity (with the sandplain exception); MVC will circulate the preliminary report to the Town Climate C'tees.

DD: There was a recent CWDG (Community Wildfire Defense Grant) announcement. MVC is considering an application to install dry hydrants in high risk areas for Fire Chiefs and secure funding for 4 yr minimum for a salary of a Community Wildfire Mitigation Specialist that would work to build capacity across existing, and form new partnerships. They will also host trainings for HOAs.

4. Discuss Regional Transportation Plan

The RTP is out right now for public comment until Aug 14th. Around page 48 begins the section on the Steamship and it goes for about 40 pgs; it's a wealth of information.

Our 10 yr Plan featured in the Plan reflects the thinking of the JTC and should be more aggressive. We have five major intersecting roads of concern in vulnerable areas; we need a risk analysis and a feasibility study for these roads.

Maybe we shouldn't reduce inconvenience in relation to traffic because it might serve to discourage too many people from coming once there is enough misery on the roads.

Climate Change is spread throughout. Does it deserve its own chapter? Energy transformation and adaptation are the two key dual parts of climate change. Some believe it is better to have the issue threaded throughout rather than its own chapter. Perhaps climate change as a key concern should be featured in an Exec. Summary.

We should have more conversation in the report regarding Sea Level Rise as this issue often gets overlooked when scoping out our past projects.

Up Island Roads are very narrow and they need to be made safer; hopefully this is accounted for well enough in the Plan. Stormwater Management needs have to be incorporated, along with a standard for magnitude storm that we should design for.

CATF will explore whether it can become an ex-officio member of the JTC. Members should attend these JTC meetings regardless of membership.

5. Potential formation of CATF Grant Subcommittee

JH: Let's use the time between now and next April or May to put together a plan of projects the Towns want to pursue w/ help from MVC. MVC will work w/ climate c'tees over next several months to prioritize projects; from there, we can help towns figure out where grant funding might be useful; An organized matrix of all the different grant opportunities for the town Climate C'tees would be useful, especially if it could resemble a menu that towns can choose from; JH can assist with this part.

Towns should have a representative this is a part of this sub c'tee.

EPAs Climate Pollution Reduction Act grant is offering a huge amount; a gov't agency and community based organization need to apply jointly

Some level of matching funds is always needed; perhaps the Embarkation Fees and Green Fees can represent a bank of funds for this purpose.

6. Embarkation fee update

This fee could jump from 50 cents to \$2; the FinComs are not interested in opening up the legislation as to how the funds could be applied but they are open to exploring new mitigation fees.

7. Climate change mitigation green fee

JH is still trying to enlist a Harvard grad student to further explore this issue.

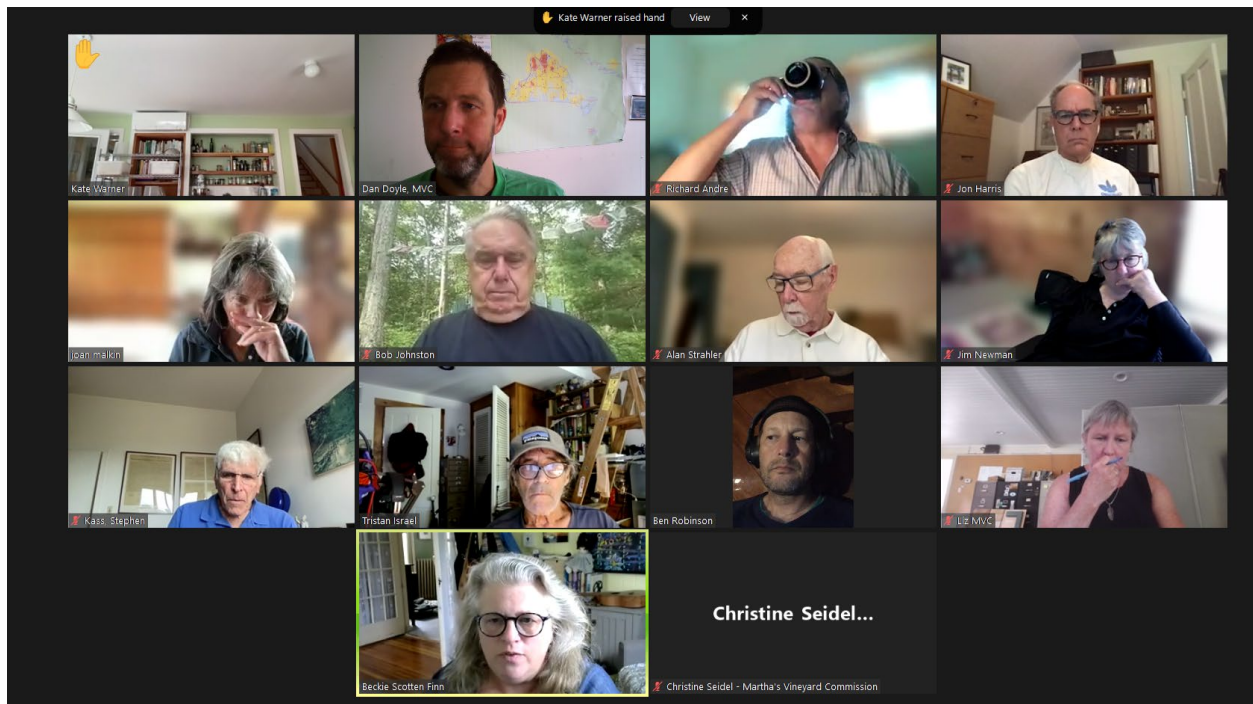
BR: We should send a note to Markey's office asking that airports be allowed to leverage a mitigation fee.

SK: we'd be better served if we focus on ferry vehicle reservations.

TI: if we approached the SSA we should go to every town first to get their support on and it would be best for the initiative to come from the towns.

JH: the cost sharing mechanism doesn't exist to share the funds so focusing on the priorities in OB and Tisbury could be a simpler path forward.

BJ: EVs should be part of the conversation w/ SSA; fees should be higher for carbon emitting vehicles.



CAP – Climate Action Plan

CATF – Climate Action Task Force

SSA- Steamship Authority

Draft Notes

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Bob Johnston (BJ), Norman Willard (NW), Beckie Finn (BF), Joan Malkin (JM), Rob Hannemann (RH), Richard Andre (RA), Jonathan Harris (JH), Kathy Newman (KN), Stephen Kass (SK), Tristan Israel (TI), Liz Durkee (LD), Dan Doyle (DD), Kate Warner (KW)

1. Woodwell Climate Research Center Island Talk - Timing & topics

Liz and Bob met with Max Holmes, new president of WoodWell Climate Research Center (WCRC), along with Steve Bernier, Christine Todd, Martina Thornton, and Doug Ruskin from DCC. Max is eager to see the Center collaborate w/ MV, beyond the two projects already underway.

There was some discussion regarding vacuuming carbon out of the air. Two major drawbacks are that it then allows for fossil fuel industries to perpetuate, and it's very costly.

The conversation turned to a Regional Emergency Management Coordinator position and whether or not to pursue it full time and fund it through upcoming town meetings. The current part time coordinator will submit a report soon of what he has accomplished in his first ~18 mos.

This effort needs to be coordinated with the County, along with the County's Emergency Management Director's Association.

RH indicated we need an Emergency Manager at the County level and Coordinators at the town level; some discussion included differing views.

The County Manager reminds that all towns have authority to manage emergencies in their own towns; a coordinator could make the existing plans at the town level more cohesive.

Next steps include KW, LD, and the County Mngr. making a list of reasons why this position is important and then visit the town Emergency Managers to see where they fall on this issue.

TI: Fire should be an issue the position is dialed into.

KW: Chief Wirtz wants this position and he's asked Kate to compile the CEMP plans; Fire Chiefs would not be available for overall emergency management of the Towns in the event of a wildfire response

2. State-wide MVP grant announcement

MVC's MVP award will allow us to update our Vegetation data on the island, along with mapping eelgrass in some of the ponds. We will also be able to conduct shellfish suitability assessment in Tashmoo, Senge, and Lagoon Ponds.

For the grant, we will work with Biodiversity Works to do some focused work with homeowners on where the desire for huge green lawns comes from and develop strategies to reverse that preference – or provide more attractive, ecologically friendly options.

The MVP awards were announced in Stockbridge; the Mohegans got a couple million dollars to buy sacred lands for resiliency purposes.

Oak Bluffs will improve their Dukes County Ave pump station w/ MVP funding they received.

3. Climate Music Project – Island Collaboration

BJ: Liz Goldstein is a seasonal resident and lives most of the time on the West Coast. Her collaboration has produced some highly polished new music on this topic and we are eager to work with them to help them and create more original work; they have a student program called the Be Cool Campaign; she is already in contact with Phil DeRosa.

This could help generate a powerful form of messaging, locally.

4. Working group updates

Education sub c'tee will meet next week to begin planning as early as possible for next year's Climate Fair. Courtney Rocha, our MVP rep, wants to bring the full Southeast team to show what we are doing.

LD will be updating the CAP website as things get implemented and will meet w/ Select Board on things that have been done thus far, in Oct.

A QR code for the CAP site would be a good way to boost website traffic.

On the wildfire front, DD shared the focus of a sought after Community Wildfire Defense Grant: funding for 4 years of salary for a Mitigation Specialist, site specific mitigation projects, and installation of dry hydrants in priority spots identified by the Fire Departments.

RA clarified that hydrants are non-pressurized pipe systems that draft water from an adjacent body of water (such as a pond or stream). One end of the pipe system is situated in the water source, and the other end is available near the roadside, where firefighters can connect to the hydrant and pump from the water source.

TI: We need to figure out how to manage the forest from not only a mechanical point of view, but also a biological point of view.

BR: El Nino might omen a very wet winter for us.

MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, November 3, 2023

notes

Zoom

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Bob Johnston (BJ), Ben Robinson (BR), Joan Malkin (JM), Richard Andre (RA), Jonathan Harris (JH), Beckie Scotten Finn, Richard Toole (RT), Kathy Newman (KN), Bill Straw (BS), Liz Durkee (LD), Dan Doyle (DD), Kate Warner (KW)

CAP – Climate Action Plan

1. MVP Grants

LD grants vegetation mapping work is foundational work to taking on a number of our CAP priorities. More broadly, our MVP grant aims to foster ecosystem resilience.

Major components:

- Hire a firm to map the island's vegetation

- Map the eelgrass in 3 ponds to ID spots where aquaculture may be feasible

- Working with Biodiversity Vision Fellow on resilient landscaping to identify the barriers to implementation, in the face of large manicured lawns; the info from those focus groups will be handed out to Vineyard Conservation Society to develop new practices they will promote across the community.

MVP program 2.0 whittles down eligibility to communities who have built on the Community Resilience Building workshop format of 1.0 and does further probing of their local hazards and how to approach them.

Courtney Rocha, our MVP regional rep will be here on 11/10 to meet with the Community Coordinating C'tee. TI requested the County's name be included to the Invite list.

2. Education C'tee update

Climate Action Fair this year will be May 19th – will include specific steps of how to run with the new best practices; Resilient Landscapes will be the unifying theme.

Landscapers find that many of the native species they seek out in nurseries often aren't available to readily purchase.

IGI has developed a pollination toolkit available on their website; a couple of tactics: we can support volunteer native seed savers; there is a landscaper at Landscape that wants to propagate these natives; some regional nurseries source these key seeds. IGI is also promoting an Edible Gardens goal to tie back to the CAP.

Wildfire and ticks are also two areas that could be included Climate Action Fair programming/focus.

3. NOAA grant

Meghan Gombos drafted a letter of intent to NOAA for a project that aims to figure out how to make decisions around climate plans; it is effectively an overlapping look at Land Use, Economics, and Biodiversity; it will include a decision making framework for working with the towns on three key vulnerable areas on the island; we accepted to apply for the grant; partners include Ben Robinson and Matthijs Bouw.

BJ: Paul Schultz has a great talent for grant writing; Town Admin, James Hagerty has a short list of people he pulls in for their actual grant writing once a program is matched with the subject matter of concern; all MA regional coordinators for MVP program will attend the Climate Action Fair this year.

4. Eversource working group update

KW updated that Eversource continues to talk at a more macro level about their resiliency planning, though they are dialed in to the working group focused on the Vineyard; they had 10 or 11 reps at the most recent, though the frequency of the meetings may need to pick up. We need more detailed info re Grid Modernization plans here on MV.

Time of Use meters - they should be deployed here in 2027; electricity will be cheaper in the morning than the afternoon.

5. Update on Community Wildfire Defense grant

MVC submitted a grant application in a competitive round of nearly ~700 applications to the US Forest Service. It included sites for dry hydrants, along with a fire break and prescribed burn on the Woods Property, partnering with The Nature Conservancy. There was an intention to include a fire break in the Wapatequa Woods but the Land Bank Commissioners voted not to proceed with this project as they felt it was too impactful and the risk level did not merit this action. This was intended to also serve as improved access for two fire departments: Oak Bluffs and Tisbury.

A Community Wildfire Mitigation Specialist position salary for four years was also omitted because of disagreement over how the position should be managed and ultimately which stakeholder group should financially support it. Some Fire Chiefs feel the land conservation groups should be taking on more of the costs to provide this sort of capacity.

There is concern that the complexity of our wildfire mitigation issue is not well understood and we need more public dialogue around the issue.

The Climate Action Fair offers an opportunity to make the wildfire issue more public facing. Perhaps a forum to discuss this mitigation work in our community could be incorporated. DD will follow up with the Education C'tee whose members are planning this event.

6. Energy Planner – Year 2 goals and future of the position

KW had a meeting with the Vineyard Vision Fellowship. Natick serves as a precedent resource that we can mirror for an Energy Action plan to better inform the public and dispel myths surrounding energy

here on the island. She has held a number of meetings to discuss w/ stakeholders key facets of energy resilience.

Marc Higgins, SSA COO, has been looking at alternative fuels vs. pure focus on electrification.

KW is also involved in getting the school district trending towards E-buses; the island would be the first school system to provide electric busing to a Tribe in the East if we could make the fleet transition.

We will confirm that this position is in the draft FY25 budget for MVC.

7. Other items

MVC will apply for a Vision Fellow to be a Climate Communication Specialist.

Shoreside infrastructure needs could be provided by Eversource; should we be helping SSA prepare for that; is it possible to design ferries so that the charging infrastructure is only on one side (Woods Hole)? It may be too soon for Eversource to engage in this issue.

When can the SSA staff produce the report on electrification? We should all ask, individually as well as attend upcoming meetings. We should note that SSA is now at least acknowledging that we must meet the 2050 Resilience goals for the State.

Ferries NOW did SSA a favor as they are always putting out fires; this conference forced them to think about this issue more carefully. At Ferries Now event, Bob and staff talked about the SSA strategic plan and that it will be ready this Fall; this will be more culture oriented, within SSA.

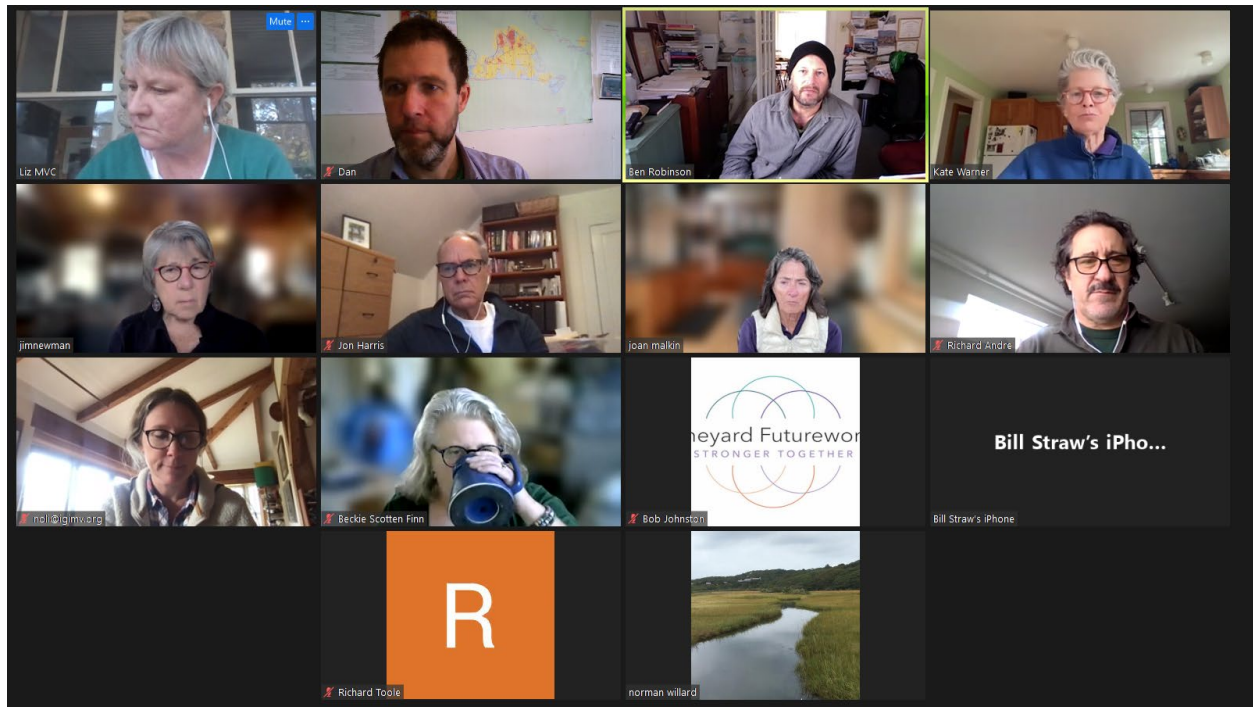
Jim Malkin will hopefully be joining a County Commissioners meeting in the coming future. Maybe we should revisit the State getting involved in the Steamship; let's consider asking the Climate and Energy Chiefs - Melissa Hoffer and Rebecca Tepper, respectively.

Long Term Planning C'tee at SSA was established but the C'tee has not met in years; KW will check back in with Steve Sears as he was the initial leader of the Long Term Planning C'tee.

We need to work with our SSA leadership without backing them into a corner.

We might consider inviting our grant admin reps (across many programs) to the Climate Action Fair

TI met with Rory Goldman who is focused on a climate music program to work with kids around climate.



CAP – Climate Action Plan

CATF – Climate Action Task Force

SSA- Steamship Authority

MVC Climate Action Task Force (CATF)
Friday, December 1st, 2023 at 9:30 AM on Zoom

Notes

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Bob Johnston (BJ), Joan Malkin (JM), Richard Andre (RA), Jonathan Harris (JH), Beckie Scotten Finn, Tristan Israel (TI), Richard Toole (RT), Norm Willard (NW), Steve Kass (SK), Rob Hannemann, Liz Durkee (LD), Dan Doyle (DD), Kate Warner (KW)

1. Education C'tee update

This C'tee is effectively the Climate Action Fair C'tee; there will be 3 panels; one is related to resilient landscaping practices at your own home; wildfire management; another TBD.

Vineyard Power will cover the evolution of landscaping equipment. MassSaves offers rebate to purchase electric leaf blowers. Towns can also consider putting out an RFP that includes an electric equipment requirement.

The issue of resilient landscaping and existing norms needs to be tackled incrementally; EcoSystem Resilience grant will include focus groups to better understand the industry and motivations, norms, etc. - we need that info first. That said, let's not miss the chance to use the focus groups as an opportunity to provide public health information, on the impact of two stroke engines on employees.

2. MVP 2.0 & NOAA grant update

MA wants consultants to guide the work (and will provide \$50K to that effect); we are working with the Town Climate C'tees and Select Board on this, knowing there will also be an emphasis on Env. Justice communities; our Community Action Plan Climate C'tee will be discussing the EJ piece.

How do we make the process useful to our towns knowing the first iteration of MVP was mediocre at best.

Town of OB got a CZM grant to focus on MVH, and MVH will also be included in our NOAA grant if we get the award.

3. Offshore Wind progress & Vineyard Wind resiliency funds update

Vineyard Wind (VW) is one of 20 offshore wind projects in the area being developed right now. In total, it will produce 20 GW of power (enough for 10 million homes or removing 8 million vehicles off the road)

South Fork Wind and VW are both racing to be the first to produce power.

Financing for these types of projects is upwards of \$4 billion; some developers are reevaluating their viability based on interest rates.

Cost to produce power is roughly 8 cents to 14.5 cents per MW hour.

MA has another bid process out right now and interested developers must submit their proposals by end of January.

Commercial ship strikes and Fishing equipment are the two largest mortality causes to whales.

1st \$500 million of funding for resiliency funds has been awarded to Vineyard Power; the next tranche will happen once power is being produced; pile driving will cease for several weeks beginning on 12/31 for whale protection; turbine tower installation can happen during the cease but not pile driving.

Blinking lights on turbines will not continue once they're operational. Automated aviation lights will amount to under an hour/year of lighting once turbines are operational.

A lot of income eligible compensation is being awarded through the CBA that Vineyard Power is administering. CBA funds will go toward LMI homes to reduce their electricity demand (20% reduction); this amounts to an average of about \$400/household.

900K is being committed to WT and the KMOV for solar and battery storage, along with the Tisbury Senior Center.

Appeals for lawsuits blocking wind farm installation are unlikely to advance. Vineyard Fisherman's Preservation Trust is in constant dialogue with Vineyard Wind.

4. Letter to DPU re solar installs / capital improvements pipeline

A letter was sent by Adam Turner directed by KW to our local legislators, DPU Commissioners, and our Climate Chief; Fernandes and Cyr will contact the DPU to move the Falmouth project forward, to get the substation approved; The Letter included the list of projects being delayed. Kuehn's Way Affordable Housing solar project is one of several that's been delayed.

KW will circulate the letter to the Task Force.

Boston Globe could be a good showcase for this sort of story regarding delays of key solar projects on the island and the human element involved at the Kuehn's Way site.

5. ETIPP grant update

It is off to a slow start. Most recent meeting included Sandia National Laboratory and the Water Dept's. The National Lab is highly technical and model focused. They must bring their requests of the Water Supers down to a level that is more understandable.

6. Steamship Authority fuel data collection update

SSA did not get either grant they applied for and they are somewhat discouraged. Their new website will be launched once the Headstart program is longer in effect. They will try to get us 2 years of backdata related to the types of fuels carried on their fleet, and its respective vessels. Vessel names will be redacted. They are more responsive when Adam Turner is involved in the conversations.

SSA needs a concrete plan that shows the level of investment needed to make a transition.

We get a lot of freight that comes through Packers as well; the impact of that facility not functioning would be enormous; we need to learn what the plans are for that property; the NOAA grant MVC has applied for would examine this area.

Barnes Road Eversource work has happened at an accelerated approval process with town of Oak Bluffs.

We need an ESMP for the island (a long range plan) from Eversource; they are presently focused at a far more regional, coarse level.

