

## **Energy & Solid Waste Work Group Core**

Meeting Notes of January 31, 2007, 3:00 p.m.

Martha's Vineyard Commission Stone Building, Oak Bluffs

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Members Present: Phil Forest, Don Hatch, Kitt Johnson (via phone), Paul Pimentel, Bart Smith, Kate Warner

Members Absent: Dick Knabel, Fred Lapiana, Russell Smith, Paul Strauss

MVC Staff Present: Bill Veno, Mark London

Others Present: David Nash, Sharon Strimling Florio, Richard Toole

The meeting started at 3:10

### **1. Review Structuring of Ideas**

Bill reported that the Steering Committee's Process Subcommittee met with the Work Group Cores chairs and liaisons January 29 and finalized a template for which Work Groups to organize the information and ideas their groups are generating [*appended to these minutes*]. Kate added that an example of the framework using work from the Livelihood and Commerce Work Group was very helpful in better understanding the distinctions of what to include under topics versus sub-topics, and objectives versus strategies. She recommended the example be made available to the Core members. With that backdrop, the members began their review of individuals' structuring of ideas and strategies from the December 6 session of the entire Work Group and any additions since then.

Waste/Biomass – Don Hatch, David Nash and Phil Forest had collaborated in grouping the waste-related ideas into a logical sequence, which had earlier been e-mailed to all Core members [*appended*]. In running through the draft, the first Objective, "Maximize" was replaced by "Pursue known and emerging" opportunities... The second Objective was split into two; using waste as a local resource and develop facilities for converting waste into a usable form. When the wordiness of the third Objective was questioned, Don explained that the members had previously expressed the desire not to force a single structure (i.e. an island-wide agency) to achieve island-wide cooperation. The members agreed to delete the last clause of this Objective. "Waste sources" was substituted for "potential waste" in the fourth Objective. Discussion of strategies under the second Objective (the latter acknowledged as being incorrectly identified on the sheet as "Goal") focused on whether to add biomass from the state forest under the waste-oriented section. David argued that the biomass in the state forest is not waste, and that focus on its use has more to do with energy production than waste management. Kate cited that the 10-Year Energy Action Plan included combustion of state forest biomass and the group decided to include it in this topic. Kate suggested the use of clear garbage bags (allowing the monitoring of waste disposal) be included among the strategies concerning separation of the waste materials, others though that might be more appropriate under the Reuse/Recycle topic.

Use Energy Efficiently – Paul P. reviewed his ordering, also e-mailed earlier to Core members, as were Kitt's subsequent comments [*both appended*]. Kitt agreed with Paul's assessment that his

## Island Plan: Template for Synthesis Documents

comments focused largely on phrasing rather than substantive content. Bill cautioned members not to get too caught up in phrasing; he said members could count on the language being revised over the process – especially when edited into a common style with the rest of the Work Groups' products.

Members suggested that the 10-year target for reducing fossil fuel use should specify an overall percentage reduction (instead of just for fossil fuel used in buildings) that would correlate more directly with the 20-year and 50-year targets. Two questions were raised concerning the measurement of percentage reduction in the goals: 1) would reduction of use be calculated on a "per capita" basis, and 2) how would we obtain the usage figures? Kate stated that getting fuel suppliers to share their use figures for the 10-Year Energy Action Plan was very difficult; several providers refuse to share even baseline data. Bill said that this problem will be noted in the "obstacles" section of the synthesis document. There was discussion of whether the first "Objectives" bullet, about an energy DCPC, followed by a list of four strategies, should be reversed; i.e. that the DCPC is a strategy to implement the four objectives. Bill noted that this is a structural question that would come up throughout all of the Core group's work, as well as that of the other Work Groups. He suggested that placing the outlines into the structure of the Steering Committee's template should help clarify the relationships of the ideas. As with phrasing, however, he recommended the group not spend too much time on it.

Energy Production and Transportation – Time did not permit consideration of Kate's and Sharon's suggestions for these topics, so the Core will take them up at its next meeting.

### **2. Synthesis Document**

Using the new template, Bill will take a first crack at integrating the members' suggestions for all four sub-topics into a single synthesis document.

### **3. Energy DCPC**

Members discussed efforts by others to get non-binding resolutions on all the Vineyard's Town Meetings urging the pursuit of an Island-wide District of Critical Planning Concern to address energy issues. Kate noted that she had appeared before the West Tisbury selectmen, where the language of the resolution was softened. Now the resolution requests the selectmen appoint a committee of three people to work with appointees from the other towns in crafting guidelines and regulations for a potential energy DCPC. Richard Toole said he would be approaching the Oak Bluffs selectmen and attended the Energy/Waste Work Group Core meeting to learn if it is taking a position on the resolution. Acknowledging that they have no real authority as a group, nevertheless, the consensus was that, individually, the Core members endorsed the resolution.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 4:00 p.m. at the MVC Stone Building

Possible Agenda Items:

Examine initial draft of synthesis document

Determine manner by which to involve Work Group in

a) contributing in the preparation/evaluation of synthesis document

b) identifying "bold ideas" and "low-hanging fruit" actions

Discuss information missing from the synthesis and how it will be obtained

The meeting concluded at 4:35 p.m.

*Notes prepared by Bill Veno*

January 31, 2007

In order to help each Work Group pull together the vast quantity of material that we have do deal with, it is proposed that we create a constantly evolving working document that has the latest version of all the materials.

The Chair and staff person should work together to maintain a document of a maximum of about a dozen pages. It would include a general section, followed by a page or two for each of the sub-topics (generally four to six per topic).

Sources of material include: minutes of Work Group and Core meetings, notes from forums, Synopsis of Past Plans, results of surveys, research into best practices, etc. The material would include both ideas that have yet to be discussed and, as we move on, an increasing number of ideas that have been agreed to.

The following is the proposed format.

Introductory Section:

1. Mission - What the Work Group is Doing
2. Overall Purpose - What We Hope to Achieve for the Vineyard
3. General Discussion - Overview of the Topic Today (how it has evolved, current trends and where it seems to be going, and what the main challenges are)

For Each Sub-Topic:

1. Goal - What We Want to Achieve in the Long Term
2. Current Status - Where We are Now
3. Objective - The Issue and the Aspiration
4. Underlying Obstacles - What's in the Way
5. Strategies' - How to Do It
6. Information - What We Need to Know
7. Interdependencies - Primary Relationships with Other Topics
8. Emerging Concepts - Ideas Not Yet Ready for Prime Time
9. Previously Discussed Ideas - Proposals That Were Tabled or Rejected

For each of the potential strategies, we should include a brief description, timeframe (whether it is immediate, mid-term, long term), what we need to know about the feasibility and potential effectiveness, and references for follow-up (e.g. contact person or website). We should highlight the strategies that would be prioritized (one or two "bold ideas" and one or two "low-hanging fruit" per topic) and should be fleshed out in separate one- or two-page documents.

Once each working document has been assembled and looked at by the core group (no need to wordsmith or adopt), the current version should be available to the whole Work Group, whose members should be invited to contribute. The aim is to regularly update the document as new information comes in or after each meeting.

## **Waste/Biomass**

Reduce per capita waste potential and convert the remaining waste to resources

### **Goals:**

Implement programs and practices which will achieve or draw us nearer to a zero waste community

### **Objectives:**

1. Maximize opportunities to reuse and recycle waste materials
2. Use construction debris and available biomass (wood waste, leaves, organic wastes) as a local resource including the development of facilities to convert these materials into usable form
3. Develop an island-wide system(s) for management of wastes and available biomass in a cooperative manner without inefficiency and duplication of effort; develop the infrastructure to accomplish.
4. Reduce the generation of waste (packaging, mail, hazardous materials) on the island as well as minimizing the amount of potential waste brought to the island.

### **Strategies:**

Goal 1: reuse/recycle

education; promotion; target construction, cleaning, landscaping, seasonal residents

improve and increase options; improve availability i.e. satellite drop-off; more containers

develop SSA on-board recycling

latex paint reuse program

swap shops and thrift store promotion

prohibition on "tear downs"/incentives to not tear down/promotion of alternatives, i.e. restoration, improvement, relocation and de-construction

recycle septic tank wastewater

construct a biodiesel production facility using waste cooking oils

used CFL recycling

website for unwanted goods

Goal 2: use construction debris and biomass (wood waste, leaves, organic wastes)

mandate separated collection at construction sites

build facilities to handle, sort and convert materials

direct converted materials to "best use" facility for use as mulch, compost, direct fuel source (wood waste), indirect fuel source (pellets),

etc. i.e. a Building Materials Reuse Facility  
Construct an island wide composting facility; including sewage sludge

**Goal 3: island-wide management system**

involve town and county government and planning agencies in assessment  
and implementation of cooperative system  
negotiate and sign contracts and agreements  
build infrastructure necessary to accomplish goal  
town pick-up through taxes  
secure involvement from private sector sources to assure development of  
options better handled by those groups

**Goal 4: generation of wastes, packaging and use of hazardous materials**

reduce the amount of hazardous materials coming here  
education of individual consumer issues i.e. minimizing junk mail, re-using  
bags and packaging  
reduce packaging materials  
adopt packaging policies for retailers  
adopt packaging policies for shipping of goods to the island  
address 3<sup>rd</sup>-Class mail volume

**Comment on short and long term goals:**

timetable needed to implement individual strategies will dictate whether short or long  
term

**Subjects referred to other groups:**

Energy efficiency: laws and guidelines to require separation of construction debris  
items for reuse need to be attached to energy efficiency training requirements  
Transportation or Energy Efficiency: identify biodiesel potential; waste is only dealing with  
conversion of existing sources of biodiesel fuels and not development of new sources of  
biodiesel

## **Use Energy Efficiently**

Reduce per capita energy use by [providing options and (delete this phrase?)] employing efficient technologies and practices.

### Goals

Use public policy, regulatory power, information and emerging technologies to increase energy efficiency in all sectors.

Within 10 Years:

- Reduce electric energy use for lighting by 50%
- Reduce all other electric energy use by 5%
- Reduce fossil fuel use for buildings by 8%

Within 20 Years:

- Reduce fossil-derived energy use by 50%

Within 50 Years:

- No combustion of fossil fuels

### Objectives

- Establish an Island-wide Energy District of Critical Planning Concern (DCPC) as a vehicle for policy, regulatory, and funding mechanisms to implement efficiency and renewable energy initiatives. [This is repeated in Transportation, I know]
  1. Amend the building energy code within the DCPC requiring 30% greater energy performance in all new construction than compliance with MA code.
  2. Require an energy audit and efficiency upgrades upon sale of home (similar to Title 5 septic standards) for all measures with less than 5 year simple payback.
  3. Establish 25% tighter lighting power allowances for new commercial buildings and apply to existing buildings upon a change in tenancy.
  4. Establish a night lighting levels and compliance regulations.
- Enable a regional authority (perhaps the aforementioned municipal utility) to administer funds for efficiency implementation.
  1. Using Home Rule or DCPC provisions, establish a local tax on carbon imported to the Island. Island towns to contribute net proceeds to the regional authority.
  2. Net proceeds from any penalty assessed through inclining block rates or other excess consumption are also committed to the Authority.

- Organize and implement a Vineyard Lighting Challenge to stimulate widespread switching to more efficient lighting
  1. Get each residence to replace 15 incandescent lights with compact fluorescents.
  2. Develop and implement disposal plan addressing CFL (compact florescent bulbs) mercury [may belong in Waste].
  3. Establish lighting teams that calls on every significant business to call out unnecessary lighting, explain alternatives, arrange incentives, distribute lamps and otherwise encourage commercial lighting efficiency.
  
- Staff and maintain a technical outreach and assistance organization to identify opportunities, evaluate/recommend technologies, inspect construction, extend financial assistance, and generally support the implementation process for existing buildings.
  1. Offer incentives to encourage upgrading energy efficiency of existing buildings such as tax credit, grants or low interest loans.
  2. Implement energy performance upgrades for 1,500 homes within 5 years.
  
- Organize and implement a widespread education and outreach initiative designed to educate island decision-makers, residents and visitors on the energy challenges confronting the Island and multi-year strategies for addressing the challenges [the Island Plan].
  1. Continue to offer energy education programs in schools to educate future consumers about the energy choices they will face.
  2. Mark the 20 and 50 year projected sea levels at prominent places on Island
  3. Create energy “thermometer” showing Island’s monthly energy usage
  4. Set a maximum personal carbon footprint
  
- Put an inclining block electric energy rate in place within 5 years.

**PFP Notes:**

In my opinion, the 25 year goal of 50% reduction in fossil-derived energy is aggressive based on current technology but achievable on the assumption better technology is over the horizon. Fossil-derived energy includes electricity made with coal but not from wind or nuclear fission.

We haven’t yet addressed the 50-year goal of zero fossil fuel use – although that could be a market reality by then.