

Energy & Solid Waste Work Group Core

Meeting Notes of March 21, 2007, 4:00 p.m.

MVC Stone Building, Oak Bluffs

Members Present: Don Hatch, Fred Lapiana, David Nash, Sharon Strimling Florio (co-chair), Paul Strauss

Members Absent: Phil Forest (co-chair), Kitt Johnson, Dick Knabel, Paul Pimentel, Bart Smith, Russell Smith, Kate Warner, Susan Wasserman (SC liaison)

MVC Staff Present: Bill Veno

Others Present: Chris Fried, Fred Thifault (Tisbury Public Works Commissioner)

The meeting started at 4:00

Materials distributed:

- Updated Core member contact list
- Initial list of Bold Initiatives and Ready to Go Actions forwarded to Steering Committee on March 10
- EPA webpage General Information on the Link Between Solid Waste and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- EPA webpage of tools for determining greenhouse impact of individual and organizational activities

1. Consideration of Waste/Biomass Section of Synthesis Document

The group continued its refinement of each section of the synthesis document before forwarding them to the full Work Group for broader discussion. This meeting considered the Waste/Biomass section.

Goals/Objectives - With Tisbury Public Works and the MV Refuse District represented, the group focused on the Goal and the Objectives. Fred L. said that they all seemed to coincide with the direction Tisbury is headed. He added, though, the idea of cleaning up the landfills by mining them for reclaimable waste and returning the remainder into a membrane-lined landfill, would provide much better groundwater protection. The group thought the idea posed a win-win-win opportunity. Discussion of the goals and objectives appeared to have affirmed for Tisbury that the group's proposals reflect the town's interests while still looking Island-wide.

Island-wide Coordination of Waste Management – Don and Fred L. relayed how the District and the non-member towns of Tisbury and Oak Bluffs have been meeting for some time discussing the conditions under which the two towns would join the district. Both sides see the discussions to be progressing. It so happens that some real estate has become available that the District considers essential to provide the expanded functions set out in the group's objectives. An initial impasse has resulted from the District not wanting to commit to the property without assurance that Tisbury and Oak Bluffs will be part of the initial purchase of the property, but also sources of materials that are necessary if the expanded operations are to be feasible. Tisbury, on the other hand, cannot commit to provide funds for the purchase of land by the District the town is not a member of. While both sides are pursuing the same thing, negotiation of details and politics are not likely to make for resolution before the desired property is offered to another purchaser. Members discussed whether

the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection might have or know of revolving loan funds to assist local governments in such situations. Both Don and Fred expect to be speaking with DEP in the coming weeks and will pose the question. Bill will look into whether there may be private sector sources of bridge loans for public facilities. Paul S. suggested a selectman from each town be spoken with to get a sense of how they feel the District should proceed and then, perhaps, address the All Island Selectmen's meeting. David shared that the Vineyard Conservation Service has sent a letter to the selectmen and the MVC supporting the efforts of the Island Plan Energy/Waste Work Group and urging the boards to act to implement the objectives. This letter of support may serve as a springboard to request the assistance of all towns in obtaining the property.

David suggested that since there had been very little changes suggested by the Core for the past two versions of the Waste section draft, it is ready to be sent to the entire Work Group for discussion and feedback. Bill said he would like to quickly insert the suggestions from the Work Group's December meeting that the Core is not recommended going forward with. These will be slipped in to the Previously Discussed Ideas section, acknowledging the other contributed ideas and perhaps explaining why they are not being recommended. This revised draft can be circulated via email for comments before sending to the Work Group. Bill mentioned that this is the same procedure the Core is following for the Energy Efficiency section.

2. Next Steps

- Tasks
- Bill will add remaining suggestions from December to the Waste draft and circulate to Core members for final comment prior to sending to entire Work Group.
 - Bill will draft a note for Sharon polling Core members as to their availability to meet in April

Next Meeting: To be determined

Agenda: Review/finalize the Energy Production section

The meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m.

Notes prepared by Bill Veno