

Energy & Solid Waste Work Group Core

Meeting Notes of May 2, 2007, 4:00 p.m.

MVC Stone Building, Oak Bluffs

Members Present: Kitt Johnson, David Nash, Paul Pimentel, Kate Warner, Susan Wasserman (SC liaison)

Members Absent: Phil Forest (co-chair), Don Hatch, Fred Lapiana, Bart Smith, Russell Smith, Paul Strauss, Sharon Strimling Florio (co-chair),

MVC Staff Present: Bill Veno

Others Present: Chris Fried

The meeting started at 4:05. With both co-chairs away, Kate volunteered to chair the meeting.

1. Local Interest in Offshore Wind Potential

Kitt summarized a meeting held the previous day at the request of Representative William Delahunt. Mark Forest, legislative aid, met with a selectman from each town (but for Aquinnah), a Tribesperson, and some folks involved with energy on the Vineyard – including Kate and Kitt. Delahunt is promoting that planning be conducted to direct future energy providers to areas the community judges most appropriate. Nantucket has approached Delahunt about exploring the federal waters between it and the Vineyard to provide electricity to Nantucket, for which Delahunt is pursuing \$1 million for a study. The Edgartown selectmen have also requested a similar study for an area west of Nantucket's site. It was clear from the meeting that other Vineyard towns were also interested in the potential energy source. However, while all generally agreed that an island-wide utility makes the most sense, Edgartown does not want to get delayed in pursuing this opportunity by formalizing a multi-town agreement or establishing a regional entity – it wants to start moving. Kitt has been asked by the Edgartown selectmen to head this effort, which Kitt admitted has yet to be even preliminarily defined. Like the reaction at the meeting of the selectmen and legislative aid, core members were interested in the concept of the local offshore energy source, but were discouraged that Edgartown seemed to have adopted a go-it-alone position that is contrary to what the Work Group is trying to promote. The core decided it should draft a one-page proposal to Delahunt for planning funds for both land-based and offshore energy resource opportunities and constraints. Kate said she had provided Mark a short list of other energy projects that would not be as expensive as offshore wind energy.

2. Publicity

The group discussed concerns about bad publicity the Energy/Waste Work Group and Island Plan are receiving, partly due to the content of some of the Work Group's materials from past meetings which remain available on the website. Opponents of recent efforts to support the study of a potential energy-related DCPC have cited ideas such as "limit miles traveled by motorists" and

“generate electricity from kids playing on playground equipment” to discredit such a study, even though those ideas are from the Work Group’s initial brainstorming session when any and all ideas were recorded for subsequent consideration by the core group. Acknowledging that input from the larger Work Group and from the general public should be recorded, it was agreed that core members should exercise more diligence in reviewing the content and tone of its printed materials – including meeting minutes – and clarify what is and is not being recommended versus what were brainstorming ideas, unconstrained by reality.

3. Targets

The core reviewed the spreadsheet modeling production and efficiency targets Paul had updated since the previous meeting. The model’s purpose is to provide ballpark numbers to evaluate the reasonableness of the targets. Based on the projections in the Vineyard Energy Project’s 10-Year Action Plan, Paul reduced the rate at which gasoline use would transfer to another energy source. The combination of assumptions results in carbon dioxide being emissions being reduced to just 9% of 2005 levels by 2050. He emphasized that the numbers of photovoltaic and wind generators for each target year cited on the Graphics sheet of the spreadsheet are merely one set of combinations that could produce the desired total target level of renewable energy substitution. To reinforce that the numbers in the spreadsheet are just examples rather than recommendations, the group asked Paul to run additional energy production scenarios: residential-based, utility-based and offshore-based. Paul will also reexamine the factors that resulted in questionably high projections of wood as fuel.

4. Steering Committee Receiving Work Group Materials

Bill distributed draft materials the Steering Committee hopes to use in conducting a summer outreach program to the general public. The committee will need to review and compare work from all of the Work Groups.

Schedule of Seasonal Outreach & Proposed Timetable show an aggressive preparation of Work Group efforts to date for placing before the public and soliciting feedback. This will require meeting with the full Work Group prior to the end of May. Kate noted that she would be off-Island for the two weeks scheduled for Energy/Waste. Perhaps the schedule can be adjusted.

Emerging Goals, Objectives, and Possible Strategies from each Work Group are being compiled from the synthesis or summary documents, paring-out the most of the narrative and background materials. As most of the Work Groups are still drafting their synthesis document, the compilation will need to be updated over the coming weeks. There are already new versions of the Energy/Waste materials that need to be substituted. Core members should look over those of the other Work Groups to gain a sense of how the detail and scope of the materials varies among the groups. (The packet distributed contained only the first page for each of the Work Groups. Bill will forward the entire packet to core members.)

100-word essays for each of the “Ready-to-go” actions and Bold Initiatives are to provide readers a clear understanding of the proposals. Bill drafted the essays for the short list of Energy/Waste actions and initiatives forwarded in March to the Steering Committee, mostly using language directly from the different synthesis sections, but core members should examine them and offer changes. Members were provided a packet containing the draft essays for each of the Work Groups, as context.

5. Next Steps

Much remains to complete the Work Group's synthesis document and prepare for summer program. The core decided to move up its meeting schedule.

- Kitt will draft an introduction for the topic sections.
- Bill will prepare a more complete draft of the Transportation section.
- Core members will discuss what type of meeting to have with the full Work Group and when to schedule it.
- Core members review the compilation of Work Groups' materials to get a sense of other groups' work.
- Core members review and comment on the 100-word essays for the Energy/Waste items (maybe other actions/ideas should be substituted?)
- Paul run additional scenarios

Next Meeting: May 10, 2007, **9:00 a.m.**

Agenda: Plan for meeting with the full Work Group

The meeting concluded at 6:15 p.m.

Notes prepared by Bill Veno