

Energy & Solid Waste Work Group Core

Meeting Notes of May 10, 2007, 9:00 a.m.

MVC Stone Building, Oak Bluffs

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

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

MVC Staff Present: Bill Veno

Others Present: Chris Fried

The meeting started at 9:05.

1. Involvement of the Entire Work Group

The core group discussed how to most effectively structure a work session with the full work group to share information and to get input from the members.

Goals for work session:

1. Secure awareness and understanding of content of draft document
2. Demonstrate that the workgroup's input has been used in the development of the plan
3. Gather further insights from group
4. Determine the work group's assessment of clarity and persuasiveness of the document
5. Determine the work group's assessment of the relative priorities of the possible initiatives as structured by the core group

General Approach:

1. Review objectives for this meeting
2. Show where we are in the overall process
3. Review content of proposed plan and the issues developed during the process
4. Identify omissions and areas that lack adequate clarity
5. Determine work group's assessment of document's persuasiveness
6. Outline planned next steps

Core members agreed on several specific points to make in the work session (and in the various presentations):

- The core group started with the ideas developed by the work group at the December workshop in order to build the various options recommended. (Examples include: 1) geothermal was not part of the initial outline but became part of the final recommendation; 2) hydrogen was not included in the final recommendation because its feasibility is initially unclear and is dependent on developments beyond the Vineyard.)
- We have constructed a document that outlines ideas at a "big picture" level and we have "pushed the envelope" in terms of going beyond past practices.

- We hope to have your corrections of fact.
- We hope to have your affirmation of the direction we are heading.
- We hope to secure your assistance in bringing these ideas to the awareness of the general public on the island.

2. Work Group Products

Mark London briefly attended the meeting to review the intent and content of the 4-page status summary documents that each work group is to create by the beginning of June. The summaries will be part of a summer outreach campaign informing the general public about the directions the Island Plan is exploring and to solicit feedback. This coming Saturday, the Steering Committee will be reviewing the list of goals, objectives and strategies from all the work groups. Everyone understands that all the documents are works in progress and subject to change.

Core members were confused about the various written documents it was being asked to produce for the Steering Committee. Bill explained that the intent was that the main document the core has been working on essentially contains all the information the core has considered and identified as still needed. The subsequent documents were intended to be subsets of the main document. The fact that each work group has addressed each of the documents slightly differently has made the tasks more complex for some groups.

After discussion, the core group came to an understanding about the various documents it is being asked to produce:

1. Plan Document conforms to format guidelines from the Steering Committee. This is what the group has been working on by topic and was given the moniker "16-page plan" even though the ultimate number of pages is unknown.
2. Ready-to-Implement Actions and Long-Term Initiatives (AKA Low Hanging Fruit and Bold Ideas) is a list of less than a dozen effective steps the community can take immediately and some of the major directions identified as of the beginning of March to give the Steering Committee a sense of the work groups' progress and direction.
3. 100-Word Narratives elaborate on the list of Actions and Initiatives to provide better understanding of the proposals and concepts, allowing the Steering Committee to judge potential conflicts and synergies among the work groups.
4. 4-Page Summary is a status report to the general public on what the work group has concluded as of June conforming to the following format guidelines from the Steering Committee:
 - An introduction to the topic
 - The emerging big overall directions of the work group
 - A set of a half-dozen or so of the most interesting, high priority, specific initiatives to date that would be part of executing the plan (as examples of and a preview of the final plan content.)
5. In addition, the core group plans to leave a final appendix to the requested Plan Document that includes copies of our models of consumption, the foundation documents that underlie our conclusions, and other resource materials that may be valuable to others who build upon or reference this work.

6.

3. 4-Page Summary

The group agreed that it must press to produce the document to be used this summer. Kitt distributed a sheet with a proposed outline of the fundamental touch points and a sample narrative [attached to these minutes]. The core group agreed with the outline; the narrative was too focused on CO2 impacts, although there was some good text that should be used.

4. Follow-up to Delahunt Initiative

After the group's last meeting, Paul spoke with Mark Forrest of Rep. William Delahunt's office regarding his invitation for renewable energy initiatives for possible federal funding from pending legislation. Paul prepared a list of projects, primarily based on the work group core's work to date, and assigned some initial, ballpark cost figures. The core generally concurred with Paul's list and agreed that it would be appropriate for the list to be sent under Paul's signature – as a response to his conversation – stating the basis for the projects and that the list had been shared with the core group. Susan is editing to improve the introduction of the various topics.

Homework: Bill - draft intro section for 4-page summary, lifting text from the group's existing drafts and from the MVC's Energy DRI Guidelines committee.

Kitt – draft a prioritized list of the goals, objectives and strategies.

Paul P. – start developing a PowerPoint presentation for the full work group meeting (tentatively set for Wednesday, May 30, probably 5:00, location TBA)

Susan – inquire with facilitators for technique ideas for conducting the full work group meeting.

Next Meeting: May 16, 2007, **4:00 p.m.**

Agenda: Discuss draft of 4-page summary

The meeting concluded at 11:00 a.m.

Notes prepared by Bill Veno and Kitt Johnson

What is the Message in the summary?

The Mission of the Energy and Waste Work Group was to characterize a shared vision of the future of the Vineyard community with regard to the island's energy (the island's largest import) and waste (the island's largest export) on the island and to outline strategies and actions that could move us toward that vision.

- The Island currently receives all the energy that people want in order to support their lives on the island.
 - Energy represents one of the single largest imports to the island
 - Trash and CO-2 are the island's largest exports
- Unfortunately, this energy supply is neither secure nor benign.
 - Over 98% of the energy used must be transported to the island and those transportation links can be disrupted by system failures, natural disasters, or hostile actions.
 - Virtually all of the energy we use is derived from burning hydrocarbons, either here or in electricity generation plants elsewhere.
 - Hydrocarbon consumption currently leads to CO-2 release into the atmosphere which contributes to rising global temperature.
 - Other gasses and particulates released have been implicated in a variety of health and environmental consequences.
 - The supply of Oil and Gas will be largely depleted by 2050.
- Current trends of practices and management efforts will result in a 51% increase in energy usage on the island by 2050.
- The need to dispose of waste on the island will increase by XX% in the same time-frame.
- The island can avoid these problems by:
 - Using the energy it does import more efficiently
 - Producing “non-hydrocarbon based energy” on the island
 - Re-using current waste products
 - Restricting the potential waste products that come to the island.

DRAFT OF SIMPLE INTRODUCTION TEXT

There is a growing awareness in the island community that human society is creating CO-2 on an unprecedented scale and that this is altering the earth's climate... essentially making it warmer. While warming the earth has a few benefits to some areas, in net, the feeling is that global warming will do more damage than good, that we can not control it well and that we should try to avoid it.

Here on the Vineyard, we contribute to this CO-2 creation. On the Vineyard, we use about 4,420 giga-BTUs of energy in a year. And that number has been growing steadily at over 1% per year, despite our efforts to be more frugal and efficient. Using that energy, which is derived primarily from burning various hydrocarbons, creates about 328,700 Tons of CO-2 in a year, most of which will still be floating in the air a century from now, along with next year's and the next year's, and the next years, etc. Changing that situation is not going to be easy.

About a third of our energy is in the form of electricity (most of which was created by burning oil, gas or coal over on the mainland.) The other two-thirds is created by burning oil and gas here on the island. Half of that burning is for transportation in various forms and the other half is for heating our buildings or power appliances. But it all creates CO-2.

It's not really very practical to try to swiftly change our transportation systems or our buildings. Those are things that can be changed steadily over time, but it is going to take a long time ... perhaps fifty years. However, it is possible to make a change in the electricity piece quickly. If we had a few, ...and I mean a few, not hundreds..., of the current commercial sized windmills we could let the wind supply that 1,500 giga-BTUs of electricity that we use and cut our CO-2 production by a third. We could achieve a comparable impact with about 100 acres of Solar PVC production of electricity.

5/10/05