

Western San Juan Community Energy Board
July 27, 2010
3:08 p.m.

Present: Bob Risch, John Clark, Will Clapsadl, Karen Guglielmone, Kim Wheels, Kris Holstrom, Elaine Fischer, Todd Brown, Chris Hawkins

By phone: Kurt Johnson

Absent: Keith Meinert, Bob Delves, Brad Zaporski, Ken Haynes, Jen Coates

Introductions

Bob Risch – GEO should be announcing hyro awardees soon. Microhydro power is ready to turn on but running into glitches with electrical inspectors. Should be resolved soon. FERC conference call with 6 staffers – though they want to help they don't know how to deal well with small micro-hydro. But Ouray County is breaking new ground.

Chris Hawkins – Mtn Village working on a comprehensive plan being done in a sustainability framework. Here to learn and listen. Doing the Green Gondola campaign and exploring political will for additional changes.

Will Clapsadl – year long anemometer program finished a month early and moved up to a site on Log Hill. Data showing no real viability for wind generation on the valley.

John Clark – not much to report from Ridgway. Are some issue doing microhydro on town water supply.

Jen Coates joined the meeting 3:16

Question regarding SMPA – Ouray county scored highest for criteria on location for Sun Edison project. Elaine had heard from Ken Haynes with issues regarding solar farm and BLM land. No one has had the opportunity to speak directly with Wes. One issue may be proximity to substations, potential properties that fit, etc.

Karen Guglielmone – New Town Building code – staff working with. Started grading for WWTP solar panels.

Kurt Johnson left the meeting.

Still waiting on the contract from GEO. Some parts are going ahead anyway. It's a shared project with MV. Chris asked who the keeper of the carbon spreadsheet is – Karen.

Agenda

Kim – TNCC Update:

All Building officials are being called together to get everyone on same page regarding enforcement.

Kris reported on the Sustainability 101 and Permaculture Design courses.
Integrated Design workshop coming up this Friday – appropriate for anyone interested in building design. Smoother construction and reduced costs with getting all to the table at the start of a program.

CEC meeting July 16 – Low Income weatherization and residential energy efficiency.
Weatherization – has been a program for 30+ years in our region. New rules mean more are eligible. People can be 200% of and can get more funds for houses. Free audit, info and implementation of some items. Through Housing Resources of Western Colorado – a new person has been hired, based in Montrose that should help with getting the word out.
Ouray – 11 houses SMC -16. Last year 1 in SMC and 4 in Ouray. GEO wants to see higher success rate for implementation. Also high on SMPA priority list.
Kim will bring additional brochures to Ridgway for distribution as appropriate.

Discussion of Goal & Action Plan Development

? Does the group want one document vs. a document for each govt.

Bob R. wants to get things happening that will impact energy use this year and so had lots of immediate things to do. Also attractive for a 2015-2016 timeframe. Must be aware of not overwhelming small staff. Must focus tightly on projects.

ToT – first drop in GHG below 2005 level in 2009 – but lost 10% of the workforce –

Jen got historical data from SMPA and Source Gas back to 2005 without much difficulty. Others can get that info as well. Going through govt archives is very painful. Will is just at the beginning stages of this. Utilities also need to be aware of the need for this kind of information. GEO has indicated that they are going to try to get info from Source Gas for certain regions where multiple jurisdictions are involved. Kim may be able to help govts with this leverage.

Looking at WSJCEB overall goals and objectives page 2.
Objectives, gaps, existing goals, potential goals.

I. Overall Energy Consumption

Goal 1 – 2012 is unrealistic – perhaps 2015 is better – and goal could be stated as 20% or more.

Will Clapsadl had to leave the meeting.

Consensus to use energy consumption (which would include fuels) rather than Greenhouse gases. Objectives will be changed to reflect energy consumption as well. Could 2015 be stated by 2020.

Chris asked about the binding nature of these – is the goal to get the regional govts on the same page? Each govt will want to adopt or have a Sustainability or Action Plan in place. Also helps in capital improvements planning.

Actions can be filled in later.

Goal 2 – same changes as listed above. John asked why the baseline was 2010. This is for commercial and residential.

Goal 3 – new construction covers anything that requires a building permit – should clarify in the goal to include remodels and additions. Change 1) to be 2006 IECC code or better.

Elaine asked about how to get builders to more efficient with trucks / construction traffic with new construction. Ex: Capella is storing its dirt in Ridgway and then moving it back. Snow removal is another issue for Mtn Village – operationally related (not construction) but reduce truck trips. Clarify that this goal is specifically addressing the energy use of the building, not the construction process.

Goal 4 – carbon neutral by 2035? Remove ‘beginning in 2020’ Work toward region being carbon neutral by 2035.

Subgoals are needed for this Goal. Exploring geothermal, efficiencies, new technologies.

II. Renewable Energy for Electricity

Goal 1 – increase the amount of locally-produced RE in the region to 50 MW by 2020 through large and small-scale systems. (not the per capita part)

This will be continued to next meeting so Brad can help with the discussion.

III. Transportation: Ground & Air

Add per capita to Objective.

Chris asked about Zero waste initiatives and the potential for methane production for vehicle use. Capturing food waste to create methane. Explore the concept of a Biodigester to create methane?

Goal for reducing fuel use – let’s pick an alternative fuel and promote it regionally (could the Skyway use this as a promotional scheme)

Goal : Effectively use air travel ---- Airtravel issue may end up being area specific (more geared towards TOT & MV)

Can we piggyback off light rail corridor – preserve corridor to Montrose. Long term – but may want to add in preserve rail way right of ways.