

WORKGROUP FOR INNOVATIVE SOLAR ENERGY RESOURCES (WISER) MINUTES

May 5, 2021

Present

Kimberly Newton, Bill DeBusk, Bill Young, Nick Sanzone, John Constantinide, Bruce Lindsay, Amanda Elmore (Planning & Development), and Michelle Adams (Administrative Secretary)

Call to Order

Called to order 5:00 p.m. by Nick Sanzone, Chair

Determination of Quorum

Quorum was determined

Approval of April 14, 2021 Minutes

Motion by John Constantinide, seconded by Bill Young to approve the April 14, 2021 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

John Constantinide will compile and edit the final document.

Nick Sanzone will bring a draft of the Board presentation to the next meeting for edits. The group will produce a final version.

Nick Sanzone asked about sharing their document with outside reviewers. It was determined that they would invite certain people to review the document as it's a public record. Amanda Elmore confirmed that feedback could be given to her, given in person at the last meeting or returned to a Board member individually. Amanda Elmore said only one Board member should reach out to an individual and send any communications to her.

Bill Young passed out literature to include an ASES National Solar Tour flyer, a Florida Renewable Energy Association Guided Bike, "Ride By" Solar Tour flyer, a list of organizations for John to include in the document appendix, a Florid Solar Energy Center Flyer and a Solar Today Spring 2021 magazine. He explained that the tours are for education and first-hand experience. The magazine is from ASES who does education and outreach. He showed the group one of five training manuals produced by FSEC for ages 9 to 12. One manual deals with Energy Whiz and is available on the FSEC or Energy Whiz webpages.

Old Business

Bill DeBusk began with an overview of his edits. He said he went through John's and his documents noting where they were the same and different. Nick said they will go through the document on screen and make the edits live. John Constantinide said he took out the duplications of his and Bill's document, anything that he removed went into the appendix. Bill Debusk said he was concerned that the document may not have enough meat, with all the information in the appendix. Nick Sanzone said they will use John's version to edit live. Changes can be rejected if what's removed is determined as needing to stay. Nick Sanzone said he will reference the appendix where needed in the presentation.

Amanda Elmore facilitated live edits by the board members using John's document.

John Constantinide said the overview is intact and he highlighted what the County could achieve as far as an average annual savings if they implement the ECMs and install the Solar PV. In light of the County joining Solar Together, he identified the savings associated with ECMs with a payback period. He moved other effects of transitioning to clean energy to the appendix such as pollution in the IRL. He reworded the overarching recommendations and the FPL Solar Together program; he moved

Mark Bernath speaking to the appendix. The recommendation to maintain the WISER Board was moved above creation of the Energy Manager position. Bill DeBusk added two additional goals; develop an integrated plan for Solar PV systems, EV charging and mitigation of peak demand charges and power resilience. The second is, take actions to make recommendations to empower Brevard County residents to transition to clean energy sources. Nick Sanzone noted that because of the way Florida Building Code is written and property rights, it's easy for the County to make a recommendation, but very difficult to change code. Bill Young gave the example of the County, by resolution, removing the fee for putting solar on.

Bill DeBusk said he added two paragraphs in the overview that highlighted what the County had done so far, including Solar Together and IGA. John Constantinide was concerned about redundancy. Bill Young said that the executive committee at FSEC said they'd have time to read a 10 to 20-page document, but not the length as was. Bill said that the Public Works Director's comments regarding the Energy Manager position carried a lot of weight and shouldn't be moved to the appendix.

FPL's PV program and what each municipality is doing in the County as well as a map of charging stations will be added. John Constantinide said that information found during the meeting can be emailed to Amanda for immediate sharing. Bruce Lindsay asked about the fuel used each year for County vehicles in order to use in a conversion to electric calculation, to show revenue and savings. Amanda said she'll see if she can find it if it's not in the Greenhouse Gas draft. Bill Young said that Dr. Fenton had a comparison of gasoline cost vs. electric cost in his presentation. Kimberly Newton suggested including the cost of building the grid in that equation as it's a substantial cost. Nick Sanzone said he will send Amanda whatever he finds out on the formula for the electric vehicle cost benefit analysis, to send to John.

Kimberly Newton asked about the possibility of a workshop outside of the regular Commission Meeting. Amanda Elmore recommend they make it part of their public comment on the plan.

John Constantinide said he will state that the solar he addresses for the buildings on the cost benefit analysis does not address all solar needs. Considering the County is going to grow, government will need to provide services proportionally. He is not even including sherriff's offices, supervisors of elections, clerk of courts, all court houses or roads. Solar Together is great as an offset but, they need to make this solar functional, useful and reliable, to be able to keep running. Bill Young explained the significance of fault tolerant architecture. John Constantinide explained where it will be put back in as well as having battery backups.

Nick Sanzone asked if they could include a cost benefit analysis summary as part of goal one. Kimberly Newton suggested looking at and referencing the Multi-Generational Building in Cape Canaveral; it includes battery backups and solar and will act as a command post during emergencies.

Regarding the request for the County to implement energy efficient construction, John Constantinide explained that the only way to amend building code is to make it more stringent. The stringency cannot make another part of the code less lax. The County Commission would need to pass it, then the building permitting department would need to process and enforce it, then inspectors would need to go out to make sure it gets done.

Kimberly Newton said that the movement in the County and municipalities is to make housing more affordable. Suggesting things that will add additional cost to building a home, may not go over well. It

may be an overreach if it's a point to pass or fail on the adoption of the proposal. Nick Sanzone suggested they phrase it as, recommend where feasible. Bill Young said that due to the lifecycle cost, it is better to build for solar power than to add later. Kimberly Newton said it can't be exclusionary, there is no equity in mandating that these new higher cost ordinances be put into building code. John Constantine said that grants to homeowners or builders could be a solution. It would empower a homeowner to build a house that causes less stress on the grid, water structures and sewage. It would be in the County's interest to, reduce demand, allocating the money to the people, instead of investing in the infrastructure. John Constantine said they are recommending more stringent codes but giving a solution that will benefit the people dealing with building codes and the County. FPL has promoted energy conservation measures and have saved having to build seven power plants.

Bill DeBusk wanted to make sure that what Solar Together does and doesn't do is noted in goal one. Bruce Lindsay said it's important for them to know that Solar Together will not solve all of their problems. Bruce Lindsay sent documents to be included in the appendix.

John Constantine facilitated the review and live edits of the document's four appendixes.

Topics and Resources for Next Meeting

John Constantine will make final edits and send the document to Amanda by May 18, 2021, who will send it out to the WISER members.

Amanda Elmore will send the edited draft document to a list of peer reviewers, determined by the WISER members, on May 20, 2021, asking for comments to be returned by June 1, 2021. She will send the returned comments out to the WISER members.

Each Board member will reach out to particular reviewers as to not have duplicates, to alert to the document being sent to them. Nick Sanzone will reach out to David Dunn, Kimberly Newton to Wes Morrison and Lisa Ruckman, Bill Young to Jim Fenton and Coleen Kettles, John Constantine to Chris Castro, Jeff Benavides and Ian Lahiff, Bill DeBusk to Brooke Alexander. Zach Lovering and Eddy Galindo will also be contacted; any others can be sent to Amanda.

The next WISER meeting will be on June 2, 2021, in the Florida Room, (Building C; Room 313), 5 p.m. The presentation and PowerPoint will be discussed and developed. Amanda Elmore suggested the PowerPoint be 5 to 10 slides long.

The last WISER meeting will be on July 7, 2021, in the Space Coast Room (Building C; Room 216), 5 p.m. The peer comments will be discussed, a final document will be adopted, and the presentation and talking points will be formed.

General Public Comment

No public comment

Final Comments

Great job everybody.

Adjournment

Motion by John Constantine, seconded by Kimberly Newton to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.