

WORKGROUP FOR INNOVATIVE SOLAR ENERGY RESOURCES (WISER) MINUTES

October 1, 2020

Present

Kimberly Newton, David Dunn, Bill Young, Bill DeBusk, Nick Sanzone, John Constantine, Bruce Lindsay, Lisa Ruckman (Public Participant) and Amanda Elmore (Planning & Development), Marc Bernath (Public Works Director), and Anne Rembert (Geographic Information Systems Analyst II).

Call to Orders

David called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM as a quorum had been established.

Approval of September 3, 2020 Minutes

The draft September 3, 2020 minutes were moved and unanimously approved without discussion.

Old Business

David asked if any member of the Board or public had discussion relating to old business. There was no discussion.

New Business

Staff Speakers

David thanked Brevard County staff for attending the meeting.

Marc Bernath, Brevard County Public Works Director, spoke of his background, current position and the current challenges for Brevard County Public Works (Facilities). He asked that WISER be mindful in their recommendations of resources, both budgetary and staffing and limitations thereof. He advised that there is currently no Energy Manager and he would like to see that as a recommendation of WISER to the Board. Bruce offered Marc some easily implementable ideas for change as he currently serves in a similar position for the School Board. Marc advised that he was meeting with School Board representatives the next day and collaboration was discussed. Sustainability and resiliency initiatives were discussed. Amanda offered that Brevard County had recently signed the Memorandum of Understanding with many other municipalities for the East Central Florida Regional Resiliency Collaborative. John asked about the Memorandum and Amanda said she would send it to the group. WISER asked that Marc be provided the members' contact information to continue dialogue throughout the process. Amanda responded that she would forward that information to Marc. Nick recommended that WISER put forth a motion including the need to add an Energy Manager position to Public Works.

Anne Rembert, Brevard County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst II, introduced herself and talked about the GIS program. She said she had reviewed Satellite Beach's project and that it was very impressive, that Brevard had not taken on a project like that before. She had some questions about the layers used. There was a discussion of LIDAR and python scripting that would perhaps have to be outsourced or copied and stripped, if possible. Nick Sanzone was to look into providing the script to Anne.

WISER Objective Presentations

Bill DeBusk (Bill D.) summarized the highlights of his documents previously provided to the group regarding the first goal, County Cost Benefit Analysis (1A) and the Transition to Clean Energy Technology (1B). There was discussion of the following cost-benefit analysis tools: Brevard Solar CBA, Renewable Energy Integration and Optimization (REopt), and NREL System Advisor Model (SAM) Model. Bill D. identified potential cost-benefit metrics such as 1) Reduction in Brevard County Yearly Spending for Power and Fuel, 2) Percentage of Brevard County Facilities transitioned to Solar Power, 3) Percentage of Electric Powered Vehicles in Brevard County Fleet, and 4) Percentage of

Electric Powered Machinery in Brevard County Inventory. Bill D. also went through the rough draft Brevard County Florida Clean Energy Transition Plan and identified the following potential plan metrics: 1) Reduction in energy cost for Brevard County, and 2) Percent of Municipal Electricity Demand Powered by Solar Energy.

Kimberly Newton presented a PowerPoint regarding Improving Public Access to Clean Energy Technology. Most notably, she highlighted the recent formation of Solar United Neighbors (SUN) cooperative (Co-op) and the importance of emphasizing weatherization. Lisa Ruckman was also able to speak about SUN. Lisa said that Heaven Campbell would be the contact for Brevard SUN. The recent Florida Today article was discussed. One metric identified was Co-op enrollment. Currently, there are 32 members, with a 200 member goal. Per the last two years of the Space Coast Solar Co-Op, 114 homeowners went solar, 665 residents were educated about solar energy, and almost \$2 million was invested in local and sustainable jobs. (Source: Solar United Neighbors). Kimberly asked for input regarding suitable gains for Goal 2. Amanda asked if Kimberly would send the PowerPoint she presented via screen share and she said she would.

John Constantinide presented his documents for goal 3, identifying policies and practices that serve as barriers to the adoption of advanced energy technology within the County, and make recommendations on policy revisions. Available resources were discussed and input possibly being provided through social media. Identified end products were as follows.

- Recommendations to, first, assess and implement energy conservation measures across all County buildings based on current technologies, with the option to utilize financing mechanisms to pay for the implementation;
- Recommendations to, second, implement mass energy and renewable energy technology within County government based on energy consumption after implementing energy conservation measures, with the option to utilize financing mechanisms to pay for the implementation; [NOTE: Policy should be clear that adoption of technology does not intend for the County to generate more energy than is consumed.]
- Recommendations to modify policies to increase access to residential and commercial property owners to implement the adoption of mass energy and renewable energy technology within County government, with the option to utilize financing mechanisms to pay for the implementation;
- Recommendations to establish partnerships between the County and municipalities associated with revised policy removing common barriers and increasing access to renewable energy and mass energy technology; and
- Recommendation to establish partnership with the Florida Solar Energy Center on keeping the County advised, after the completion of WISER's work, on updated State policy related to renewable and mass energy technology and opportunities for the County to better align with or take advantage of those updated policies.

Metrics to consider were as follows:

- Energy consumption percentage reduction, compared to current or past year consumption, by a future calendar or budget year;

- Renewable energy generation increase that is a percentage of County electrical energy by a future or calendar budget year; and
- Amount of dollars financed to renewable energy and mass energy technology programs to residential and commercial property owners in Brevard County.

WISER's Ask

The group discussed the next meeting date and the need for more meetings. The next meeting date was determined to be Friday, November 13, 2020, 5-7pm. The group approved a motion made by Nick, with a second by Bill D., requesting up to six additional meetings from the Board of County Commissioners. Amanda will bring the request to the Board.

Topics/Resources for Next Meeting

WISER determined that every Board member and their Alternate, if one is designated, would review all information and resources considered to date and submit a summary of what may apply to the three prime tasks set before us by the Board of County Commissioners below. These summaries are to be submitted to Amanda Elmore, Planning & Development Department, via email (amanda.elmore@brevardfl.gov) no later than 4:00pm on Friday, November 6, 2020 for distribution to WISER on Monday, November 9, 2020. The Board Members are to review the summaries in advance of the Friday, November 13, 2020 meeting and all Board Members (Primaries & Alternates) are to be prepared to provide a no more than 10-minute overview presentation of their summaries.

Public Comment

Lisa Ruckman expressed general support for the work presented and the progress to date.

Final Comments and Adjournment

David said much material had been covered and asked if anyone had anything else to share. There was no further discussion. The meeting was adjourned shortly before 7pm.