

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday February 15, 2013 12:30PM
MRPC Conference Room, 1427R Water Street, Fitchburg

MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome and Introduction

Ann Pierce, MassDevelopment; Victor Koivumaki, MRPC/Lancaster; Jay Donovan, NMCOG; John Hume, MRPC; Eric Smith, MRPC; Chantell Fleck, Stephanie Brow, MRPC; Alan Pease, Ashby; Kelly Brown, Mass Dept. of Energy Resources

V. Koivumaki called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

II. Approval of January 18, 2013 Minutes

This item was postponed until the next meeting.

III. Interview of Consultant(s) for Siting of Renewable Energy Facilities Plan for College Student Oversight

The group interviewed two possible consultant s for the position overseeing the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) students during the course of this project.

The first candidate interviewed was Mr. Derren Rosbach.

Mr. Rosbach indicated that he is a professor of at WPI, where he teaches courses on renewable energies and sustainability. Mr. Rosbach highlighted his interaction with the students on a regular basis as a benefit of hiring him to work on this project. Part of his job in this field is also supervising research teams of students as well.

J. Hume indicated that staff has yet to narrow down a specific scope of work that the students will complete towards the final product yet. Mr. Hume asked Mr. Rosbach if the class he teaches specifically would be working on this project, and also if he was to be chosen, would his involvement go above and beyond what would typically be required as a professor in the class.

A. Pierce stated that she has concerns about a conflict of interest between Mr. Rosbach working with the student as a professor and also working with them as a consultant for this project for the MRPC.

Mr. Rosbach indicated that there is an overlap in his current duties and what he would be required to complete as a consultant for the MRPC for this project.

V. Koivumaki stated that he has a concern on whether or not there is a conflict of interest based on what the MRPC needs for a project and what Mr. Rosbach's requirements are for his students in his class.

The group and Mr. Rosbach continued to discuss his roles and responsibilities as a professor in comparison to additional responsibilities if he were to be working with MRPC as well.

The next consultant interviewed was the Boreal Group of Renewable Energy Development. The group consisted of three members; Thomas Michelman, Robert Shattan and Celeste Fay.

The group gave a presentation on what they have to offer this project and the skillset they could provide.

The consultants from Boreal indicated that they have extensive experience in wind and solar field development, as well as economic and environmental planning. This group has a long history of working in conjunction with WPI and its students as well.

C. Fay indicated that Boreal is also well educated and experienced in the field of hydropower.

Boreal indicated that they have been involved in projects similar to this numerous times in their history which provides them with a vast amount of experience in these areas of renewable energy. The consultants from Boreal also indicated that they have worked as consultants, on various projects within the Montachusett Region so they are familiar with the area.

A. Pease asked how the group would coordinate and oversee what is produced by the students.

T. Michelman indicated that Boreal would work directly with the professors and students to acquire the best possible results for the project. Mr. Michelman also stated that the staff at Boreal will be able to guide the students in the completion of their projects in order to produce a comprehensive and high quality final product.

The group discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each of the interviewees, and what each group could bring to this project in order to get the best outcome.

It was the consensus of the group that Boreal would be the most beneficial consultant to work on this project with the WPI students and MRPC.

The group then opened the cost proposals from each consultant. Both consultants proposed a total cost and budget of \$11,500 to complete the scope of work provided.

IV. Administrative Matters

The next meeting of the Energy Advisory Committee (EAC) will be held on Friday April 12, 2013.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, V. Koivumaki adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT THIS MEETING:

EAC Meeting Notice February 25, 2013

January 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Boreal Consultant Interview PowerPoint Presentation