

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday January 18, 2013 12:30PM
MRPC Conference Room, 1427R Water Street, Fitchburg

MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome and Introduction

Sean Hamilton, Sterling Municipal Light; Ann Pierce, MassDevelopment; Mike Gary, North Central Workforce Investment; Joanne Di Nardo, Leominster; Victor Koivumaki, MRPC/Lancaster; Jay Donovan, NMCOG; John Hume, MRPC; Eric Smith, MRPC; Chantell Fleck, MRPC; Sheri Bean, MRPC; Stephanie Brow, MRPC; Jeff Anderson, Can Am Machinery; Brad Harris, MRPC; Brian Doherty, MRPC

S. Hamilton called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

II. Approval of October 12, 2012 Minutes

V. Koivumaki made a motion to approve the minutes of October 12th; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

III. Update of Current Activities, Project Timeline, and Lead Responsibilities for MRPC and NMCOG – John Hume, MRPC Planning and Development Director

J. Hume gave a brief presentation of the project, the scope of work and the upcoming tasks.

Mr. Hume indicated that MRPC, through an EDA Grant Application, received an Award for a Regional Energy Plan for the Montachusett Region by working cooperatively with the Private and Public Sector, WPI Students and Faculty, state and local officials including MA Department of Energy Resources, and energy experts.

The progression of Energy Related projects resulting in Products/Successes continues to evolve as MRPC forms additional partnerships with another RPA (NMCOG) and receives \$188,512 in funds for a Plan for the "Siting of Renewable Energy Facilities" including Wind, Solar, Hydro, and Manufacturing Facilities.

Mr. Hume presented the Scope of Work:

Task 1. MRPC/NMCOG Energy Advisory Committee Meetings

Task 2. Assessment and Analysis of Wind Energy Conversion Systems

Task 3. Assessment and Analysis of Geothermal Energy

Task 4. Assessment and Analysis of Photovoltaics

Task 5. Assessment and Analysis of Hydropower

Task 6. Assessment and Analysis of Biomass

Task 7. Regionwide Renewable Energy Manufacturing Lands Inventory and Assessment

Task 8. LEED -Certification

Task 9. Prepare and Conduct a Minimum of Six Community Workshops on the Siting of Renewable Energy Facilities.

Task 10. Conclusions and Recommendations

Mr. Hume then discussed the partnerships involved with this grant as well. MRPC will be working with the North Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) as well as students from both Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and the Mount Wachusett Community College.

The group discussed the interview process for consultants and goal of having it completed by the February 2013 MRPC meeting.

S. Hamilton asked if the rest of the meeting times were mapped out for the year.

J. Hume stated that MRPC and NMCOG are working on scheduling meetings and the committee will be informed as soon as a schedule is set.

IV. Presentation by MRPC Transportation Staff on Renewable Energy Manufacturing Lands Inventory

S. Bean gave a presentation on the industrial zoned lands in the area. The staff presented the information based on research they had conducted on the local zoning.

Based on these locations, GIS staff created maps of the industrial zoning and the traffic data and constraints effective in the identified zones.

The group voiced an interest in discussing the roadway and bridge along Princeton Road off of Route 2. The safety issue of the large trucks on that stretch of road was a general concern of the attendees.

The committee discussed potential solutions to this issue, also different steps to reach out for funding and assistance on getting an improvement project moved forward.

V. Administrative Matters

J. Hume indicated that hopefully at the next meeting the committee would be interviewing potential consultants to aid the project process. More information on the meeting schedule will be distributed at a later date.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, S. Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.