

WORKGROUP FOR INNOVATIVE SOLAR ENERGY RESOURCES (WISER) MINUTES

June 2, 2021

Present

Kimberly Newton, Bill DeBusk, 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 May 5, 2021 Minutes

Motion by Bill DeBusk, seconded by John Constantinide to approve the May 5, 2021 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Nick Sanzone said they will review their peer comments of the Clean Energy Transition document.

Bill DeBusk made recommendations to move several paragraphs to the section on Florida Solar Together, because he wished to create another section called Beyond Solar Together. He said they have Solar Together and wants the audience to understand that alone, it's not good enough. He said they will need more power in the future, likely solar on roofs; they will need more power for electric vehicles. His comments were emailed to the group.

John Constantinide took over navigation and edits to the Clean Energy Transition draft document.

Nick Sanzone suggested mentioning the goals before stating "to achieve these goals", in the executive summary. A description of the what the WISER Board was tasked to do will be added, using language from the website.

Amanda Elmore reminded the Board members that the font must be at least 12 point to meet ADA requirements. The document will need to be made ADA compliant for the website; formatting will happen at a later time.

Amanda Elmore said that Ken Lindeman's view was that it was too complicated for the general public. John Constantinide said that the City of Orlando said it needed to be more technical. Amanda explained that some of the Board members will read every word and others including staff might be more thorough. She said that staff may do their own research and may reach out to the offices that appointed the WISER Board members or to the Board members if they need explanation. Questions they may have would also be addressed at a briefing prior to the Commission meeting. Kimberly Newton said she believes the document is readable as is, John Constantinide agreed, particularly for the executive summary.

John Constantinide said Dr. Ken Lindeman addressed some grammar, the order of some paragraphs, added some clarification and suggested some parts regarding nitrogen and phosphorus in the Indian River Lagoon were too technical. Amanda Elmore said the Board is accustomed to hearing pretty technical stuff and they are very interested in the Lagoon. Dr. Lindeman suggested that ideally, the Energy Manager that is hired would have some training in behavior change, to be able to influence policy. Kimberly Newton said they would influence at minimum if not be directed to write policy. John

Constantinide said Orlando thinks the Energy Manager should be purely technical and have a policy person later on. It will be easier to find an Energy Manager that knows the technical and can be trained on policy, which could be distracting and time consuming. Nick Sanzone said an entire department can be built off of the one position. John Constantinide said Orange County's Jeff Benavides recommended a collaborative approach to policy that would begin with an Energy Manager who would collaborate with others who are more familiar with policy until a policy position can be developed. Amanda Elmore explained that currently, each department is responsible for particular codes and comprehensive plans; when changes are made to those, the department does it. If the Energy Manager were to recommend changes to site plans, subdivision or other code, Planning and Development would do it. She does not see one person in Public Works that would be writing policy for other departments. She agreed that a technical person to start with would be best, who can collaborate with the policy person in each department.

John Constantinide said Zach Eichholz addressed the summary. He suggested changing wording regarding Solar Together to clarify that it provides solar offsets not solar power as the County has not made a switch to hard solar infrastructure. Bruce Lindsay shared that FPL maintained the solar panels across the street for five years before transferring ownership to the school district and they found out that half weren't working. They were able to have them go back to make repairs before accepting ownership and were going to have their own maintenance staff maintain them as there are no funds for outsourcing it. The energy staff member who was going to train to do the work, passed away.

Kimberly Newton suggested adding the mention of resiliency hubs as part of the grid, in the appendix under goal two. John Constantinide explained that when power is sent from a vehicle to a building, that power is not the same as utility power, which requires a conditioner to condition the power from the vehicle to the building, which costs money. Kimberley Newton said if the priority is preparedness, that's the preference of a resilience hub, it wouldn't be applied to every building in the County, but on a resiliency hub, it would house that type of infrastructure. John Constantinide said they may ask why not just natural gas or solar generators, or solar panels. Kimberley Newton said they should introduce the concept and not necessarily propose that they do this first. She explained that a resiliency hub is a community building that is prepared for time of disaster. It has alternate water supplies, portable water connections, community accessible charging stations, use of power grids, off grid capabilities and houses showers where needed. It would be a place where government could meet and have power. The Multi-generational building in Cape Canaveral meets a lot of the criteria for a resiliency hub. She suggested that FSEC, as a source for information about bidirectional batteries, be mentioned in the appendix.

Amanda Elmore advised that they can go short on this meeting and add that time to the next meeting if they want to adjourn this meeting at 6:30. They could have three hours for their next and last meeting.

Nick Sanzone reviewed the following presentation slides explaining that it is a basic layout and most are talking points.

Slide one: Workgroup for Innovative Solar Energy Resources (WISER), Brevard County, Florida, Energy Transition Plan

Slide two: Executive Summary Overview

- Why we're here:
- What we achieved:
- How we got there (briefly):

Slide three: Cost savings estimates

Image/table/graph

Brevard County can further achieve average annual savings of over \$2.3 million over 20 years through continued implementation of energy conservation measures (ECMs) and installation of solar PV systems. Without the installation of solar PV systems, the ECMs are projected to provide over \$1 million in savings, with a simple payback period of 4.64 years.

Note, data is a subset of County buildings

EM can do full data analysis

Slide four: This Energy Transition Plan (ETP)

This Energy Transition Plan (ETP) is the initial product of WISER. The ETP addresses the challenges and opportunities related to the transition to clean-energy sources. Economic sustainability, job creation, energy reliability and independence, and long-term resiliency will all be addressed as beneficial results of the plan. The ETP recommends changes that will support the sustainable and resilient growth of Brevard County, its employees, departments, programs, as well as its residents, businesses and other community stakeholders.

TALK ABOUT THE DOCUMENT IN BULLET

Slide five: Goals

WISER Goal 1: Cost-benefit analysis and plan for County government to transition to clean energy sources

Through this ETP, Brevard County would be positioned to commit to Ready For 100, a national movement with a vision of resilient and healthy communities powered by 100% clean, renewable energy. Ready for 100's goals are to achieve 100% clean, renewable energy for electricity by 2035 and 100% clean and renewable energy for heat and transportation by 2050.

Approach, dates, recommendations

Slide six: Goals

WISER Goal 2: Recommendations to improving public access to economically beneficial clean energy technology

Approach, dates, recommendations

Slide seven: Goals

WISER Goal 3: Identify policy and practices that serve as barriers to the adoption of advanced energy technology within the County, and make recommendations on policy revisions

Approach, dates, recommendations

Slide eight: Recommendations

1. Maintaining WISER as permanent Board with broadened responsibility to address ongoing energy, water, and resource conservation and transition;
2. Creation of an energy manager position
3. Investigating and considering energy conservation and clean energy adoption strategies in light of Brevard County's participation in Florida Power and Light's (FPL) Solar Together Program
4. Preparing for the imminent transition to electric powered vehicles
5. Develop an integrated plan for solar PV systems, EV charging, mitigation of peak demand charges, and power resilience
6. Take actions to empower Brevard County residents to transition to clean energy sources

Slide nine: Cost Benefit

As described in the cost-benefit analyses, Brevard County can further achieve average annual savings of over \$2.3 million over 20 years through continued implementation of ECMs and installation of solar PV systems. Tables 1 and 2 summarize the information from the cost-benefit analyses.

Slide ten: Table 1. Facility ECM and Solar Cost-Benefit Analysis Summary

Slide eleven: Table 2. EV Cost-Benefit Analysis Summary

Slide twelve: Appendices

1. Energy Reduction Implementation Plan (Appendix 1)
 - This is a clean energy strategy to reduce energy footprint through building energy audits, energy conservation measures (ECMs), such as weatherization, and installing solar technologies on facilities to the meet remaining energy needs.
2. Facility Clean Energy Transition (Appendix 2)
 - This provides clean energy solutions for facilities, with a primary focus on solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. Cost-benefit models are included to strategize solar system implementation with ECMs.
3. Electric Vehicle (EV) and Fleet Transition (Appendix 3)
 - This is a strategy to help Brevard County leaders understand and uncover the opportunities available to get municipalities on the path to electrify municipal fleets and public transit. Furthermore, this provides guidance for how to best encourage

Slide thirteen: WISER and EM

- We should stick around
- We work with the community
- We do great things

- Professionals
- Galore

Regarding slide two, Kimberly Newton said they should agree on the three points, why we're here, what we achieved, and how we got there. Regarding slide three, Nick Sanzone said that the image will come from the appendix that shows the buildings looked at from the study, noting that the data is a subset of all County data. Bill DeBusk said that the presentation should be about their recommendations and why they are making them. Kimberly Newton confirmed that they will be able to speak afterward by filling out a speaker card. Regarding slide number four, Nick Sanzone said he will create bullet points to explain the document, including what's in it, how it's laid out, its length and the appendices. Amanda Elmore explained that the commissioners will receive the document in the agenda packet on the Friday before the Tuesday meeting. Nick Sanzone said that the Goals slides will include approaches, dates and recommendations. Slide number eight, titled Recommendations, will include transition date recommendations.

Amanda Elmore will email the presentation slides to the WISER Board members who will return their comments to her by June 11, 2021. She will send out comments to the WISER Board members by June 14, 2021.

General Public Comment

No public comment

Adjournment

Motion by Nick Sanzone, seconded by Kimberly Newton to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.