

WORKGROUP FOR INNOVATIVE SOLAR ENERGY RESOURCES (WISER)

Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2020

Present

Melissa Powers (Assistant County Attorney), David Dunn, Bill DeBusk, Jr., Nick Sanzone, Kimberly Newton, Bruce Lindsay, John Constantinide, Bill Young, Logan Hemenway (Space Coast Government Television) and Amanda Elmore (Planning & Development). No members of the public were present.

Opening & Welcome

The first meeting of WISER was called to order shortly after 5pm on August 13, 2020 via Zoom Webinar and in the Board of County Commission Room at the Viera Government Center by Amanda Elmore, staff liaison for WISER. Amanda introduced herself and introduced Melissa Powers, Assistant County Attorney.

Government in the Sunshine

Melissa Powers reviewed the Sunshine Law. She advised that any questions regarding public records could be referred to her in the future. She referenced the memo previously emailed to the group. Sunshine Law, or Open Meetings Law, provides right of access for the public to participate in public proceedings. It is based in statute and the Florida state constitution. The requirements are three-fold 1) meetings of public boards must be open to the public 2) reasonable notice must be provided, and 3) minutes have to be taken, but not verbatim. Unless those three requirements are met, two or more members may not discuss an item upon which the group may act. This includes written correspondence, phone texts, emails, in-person communication, and Facebook/social media. You can issue position papers on a particular issue, but not solicit feedback. If you are going to talk about the group's business, please do so in a public meeting.

Meeting locations must be publicly accessible and cannot prohibit or suppress access (restaurants). Size must be adequate for the expected group. Discussion must be audible. If assistance is requested to access the facility or proceedings, the County has an ADA coordinator and interpreter. Reasonable public notice must include the time and place of meeting. Seven days prior to the meeting is reasonable. Identify the general subject matter to be discussed or an agenda, if available.

Minutes do not have to be verbatim. They should at least provide a general summary, be promptly recorded and open to public inspection.

Michelle discussed who is covered under Sunshine and not using staff as conduits to convey information informally.

Sunshine does not mean you can't socialize outside of public meetings, you just have to be careful to avoid impropriety or an appearance thereof. You can have direct communication with staff one-on-one. Two or three members cannot have a meeting with staff.

Any texts or emails with regards to group business should be maintained and can be requested through public records request.

You can participate in other public meetings. You can have more than one person at those meetings, just no discussion of board/group business.

If members are going to be voting on something that could create a gain for them or their business, there could be a voting conflict. Please let Amanda know or contact Melissa directly at the County Attorney's Office (321-633-2090) and it can be talked through. If you have a concern, please ask.

Public comment is required under county code. Public comment for specific items and under general public comments must be allowed. As a group, you can create rules and procedures. Just be consistent. Generally, public comment is usually three minutes, but you can allow more time as necessary.

Melissa summarized - private side conversations about group business is not OK, please keep your discussion within the group meeting.

Amanda noted that Melissa's presentation slides did not advance past the title slide and ask if she could email the presentation. She said she would but all the information was also in the memo previously sent.

Melissa left the zoom meeting.

Scope discussion

Amanda began discussion regarding the group's scope and read the three items from staff report.

- Develop a cost-benefit analysis and plan for County government to transition to clean-energy sources.
- Make recommendations on improving public access to economically beneficial clean-energy technology.
- Identify policies and practices that serve as barriers to the adoption of advanced energy technology within the County, and make recommendations on policy revisions.

Amanda referenced the energy audit the county had performed in 2013 and facilities inventory. She cautioned against scope creep considering the tight timeline and the six

meetings authorized by the Board. David asked if someone was taking minutes. Amanda said she is and would continue to do so. Bill DeBusk asked about timeline and delay and said he thought that originally the group was to be done by December. Amanda said she would check the resolution and make sure the end date was appropriate considering the delay in start.

Introductions

All Board appointees introduced themselves and shared their background.

The District 1 appointee is Bill Young (Bill Y.). He worked for 20+ years at the Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC) in Cocoa on Eastern Florida State College's campus. It is really a part of University of Central Florida (UCF). He worked at General Electric (GE) doing solar and also at the Space Center. He had 20 years of industry and 20 years of government experience.

The District 2 primary appointee is David Dunn. David is an appointed official with the City of Orlando. He is the division manager for fleet and facilities. He has lots of solar and PV in his inventory. David is one of the two original remaining team members, along with Mayor Buddy Dyer, who began Greenworks in 2007. He was previously with the school board and shuttle. He is involved with IFMA, Drive Electric Florida, and many other sustainability initiatives. David lives in Brevard.

The District 2 alternate is John Constantinide. John is the Energy Manager at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station for the United States Air Force. He has both private and public sector architectural and engineering design experience. His current role is as the government representative managing installations and annexes for launch mission. He is involved in numerous other professional societies, most relevantly, the United States Green Building Council, Florida Chapter as Brevard Chair.

The District 3 appointee is Bill Debusk, Jr. (Bill D.) He is a retired Northrup Grumman electrical engineer. He drives an electrical vehicle and is installing solar on his house. Bill D. wants to move Florida forward to clean energy under the right circumstances.

The District 4 primary appointee is Nick Sanzone and he is the Environmental Programs Coordinator for the City of Satellite Beach. He helped the City go solar. They have a 232-panel system on City Hall. They also have 25 kW system at Pelican Park. He was involved with the Ready-for-100 program that the City has joined from Sierra Club. Nick has had conversations with NASA for full city-wide review of solar potential in the City. He wants to plug-and-play for solar potential for government, residential and commercial in the county. For the last 10 years, he has been branching into sustainable science in his environmental career.

The District 4 alternate is Bruce Lindsay. Bruce is the manager of Utility Services for Brevard Public Schools. They have ten, 10 kW panels for solar. He is a big advocate for solar. He is the President of Space Coast American Society of Heating, Refrigerating

and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Chapter. He is also involved with Sustainable Brevard and wants to get them on board the with our program.

The District 5 primary appointee is Kimberly Newton. Kimberly currently serves as Brevard Chapter president for ReThink Energy Florida. She is here to learn as much as she is to help decide where Brevard needs to be. She hopes to bring the educational aspect of her background to WISER. She helps educate through her kids' environmental education organization, Eco Earth Friends, reaching both kids and adults.

Quorum & Meeting Details

The group decided that four voting members would constitute a quorum. The group decided to try to meet twice a month. The group decided to continue meeting from 5-7pm. The group decided to meet virtually and possibly host an in-person or hybrid meeting for the last meeting depending on what the virus does.

Resources

Amanda advised that, per Board direction, the group is to be provided minimal staff support but she is also committed to getting the group the resources they need. Nick said he'd like to hear from budget, fleet, facilities, and the FSEC. Bill said he is part-time with FSEC now. Nick suggested we have a meeting before we start pulling speakers in to present to the group. David clarified that we should evaluate some of the information Amanda will send the group and then decide on the speakers to ask to present to the group.

Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair

David Dunn was nominated and elected Chairman. Nick Sanzone was nominated and elected Vice-Chairman.

Availability of Documents

There was discussion of what to email to the citizens who have expressed an interest in WISER. The group recommended the minutes. Bill asked if there would be a webpage where information could be posted. Amanda said she would look into getting a portion of the newly renovated Planning & Development website to share documents but that everything uploaded there has to be American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. Also, she said that if any of the group members needs ADA complaint documents to let her know. There was additional discussion about what to do if a member of the public requests a group document from a group member. Amanda advised that she could send that person the record.

Next Meeting

David would like the presentation he sent to Amanda prior to this meeting shared with the group. He'll work on an agenda for the next meeting. He proposes that the group review all information and come up with a list of actions, questions, and speakers the group would like to see at the third meeting. He believes we need to maximize our ask of the people who come and speak. We need to be mindful of their time with a concise request. Nick can help guide. All agreed.

Nick talked about partnership with NASA and Satellite Beach. He is to forward a link to Amanda to forward for group review. Nick wants to look at what is available and associated costs. He wants to focus on buildings and locations for digital survey. The group can review footprint and return on investment.

David Dunn and his energy manager participated in the Satellite Beach process and believes it is applicable to other municipalities. Other tools are out there from FSEC, but this approach is very comprehensive and David was very impressed with it. WISER can evaluate and see how we can expand on it.

John wants to know if the county has looked into performance or service contracts for energy savings. He sees lots of information regarding FSECs and USECs to use companies as a leverage for financing option to purchase upgrades. John is to send Amanda the contact to reach out to FP&L and cities to see what options they offer.

David offered that ESCOs make a profit so working through a utility is better.

Bill Y. wanted to know if the group decides how to allocate saved dollars. It was clarified that the group makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners as subject matter experts.

John talked about building energy quotient (EQ) to assist an ASHRAE certified building professional conduct a standard 211 energy audit, which John highly encourages us to conduct. It helps identify low cost and no cost energy measures. Then you can identify Level 2 and 3 deeper dives. John is to send information about building EQ to Amanda.

David asked if referencing Bill Y? was referring to the BWEZ ordinance which sets a level for building greater than 50,000 square feet.

Nick said that looking at the three goals, he wants to know what it means to improve public access? He believes FSEC does that as does City of Satellite Beach. Are we going to suggest when the county goes solar sharing live streamed data on a web page?

Kim interpreted the improving public access goal as education, CO-OPS, accessibility and energy assessments of homes targeting different neighborhoods and demographics. It is hard to tell someone why they need energy audit during a pandemic though. She believes it means one-on-one education for the public.

John thought more of the ability of the consumer to be able to purchase and install renewable energy equipment that isn't cost prohibitive, such as incentives, tax incentives, teaming with FP&L for Brevard rebates, or looking at water. Water conservation and the water/energy nexus. There was a study from Texas A&M that for every kW saved, you save one gallon of water.

Amanda said the county already waives permit fees for solar and she would send them information on that waiver. Kimberly asked if anyone else knew that. Two participants raised their hands.

Bruce thinks that solar co-ops and property assessment for clean energy funding is integral. Nick says he thinks we've all adopted PACE. Nick says the Solar Energy Loan Fund (SELF) is also an important program.

David said that when we talk about other agencies, we should recommend to the county things that they have the authority to act upon and focus on that. We can suggest other things, but keep that caution in mind. We can over-broaden our perspective.

John says perhaps just look at partnerships beyond the purview of the county.

Bill D. said it seems like we need to offer the county a menu of ways that the County can access solar power and electric vehicles. Define how the county proceeds through the future to hook into clean energy and EVs, and identify when it makes economic sense to do this. Identify the process, and review every six months to know when it's the right time.

Bill Y. already feels like there is an endless solar telemarketing machine of phone calls.

Nick said if we have enough room on the website for final findings, that itself may serve as a public access web portal. Putting internet access equity aside, perhaps FP&L could do an article on this board to raise awareness.

Bill Y. talked about the beginning of the FSEC in 1974, the energy crisis, and unqualified solar energy salespeople. FSEC was created for education and consumer protection. On the webpage, they have licensed and qualified solar energy systems. The presentation he sent earlier was the director's presentation for FSEC, Jim Fenton. FSEC is so valuable, our best kept secret and promotes qualified people. We need to make suggestions that tap into that \$10,000,000 of research money that goes into FSEC.

David said we can link to information like that. David talked about vehicle-to-grid and vehicle-to-grid research and information. There is no place right now that is a single sorting house of all this information. If that could be an outcome, that would be great. As far as a deliverable report, we need something with a strategic plan feel to it. What can Brevard do today and in the future given that technology is getting cheaper? Dive into the savings. By waiting, we are missing savings opportunities. The EVs on the market right now are limiting. Other products coming to market will make EV adoption easier. It will be easier for the consumer to get a charger at home. David believes we will end up with a plan that benefits Brevard for years to come as a clearinghouse of information.

Nick talked about EVs and innovation. He believes we can include things in analysis like the resiliency aspect of solar fleet that can, during emergencies, charge buildings. He believes we should add that in the report.

David said the new Nissan Leafs with bidirectional chargers can charge a building during emergency. Those are all things to be considered for the plan. He has worked as combined facilities and fleet manager. They don't always speak and it really should be a symbiotic relationship.

Nick asked if the sheriff is under the umbrella of the county. David said they have their own separate fleet. Bruce said the School Board is separate. Bill Y. said he's working with the School Board right now and emergency management and the idea he had in 1999 was solar powered shelters on schools. There were some solar schools. In 2010 additional funds were made available. Bruce has three schools with solar power for emergency. There is funding to review them now. The solar powers the shelter part of the school, there are 118 throughout the state. We need to look at that program because those people are guaranteed to go without power. When Bill Y. worked at KSC, there was fault-tolerant architecture. The concept at FSEC incorporates that. The County is building a new Emergency Operations Center and it should be a green building and solar powered.

Kimberly asked if we have a goal to establish 100% renewable energy.

David replied that he doesn't think we are going to know enough to recommend that as a goal. When Greenworks came online in 2007, he was over facilities. The fleet goal, however, David inherited. It wasn't potentially achievable because more economically viable alternatives needed to come to market. We need to establish goals that are achievable so they are comprehensible by the public long-term. The county will be deciding how to implement the recommendations. Right now, we have economic concerns and flat budgets. David said anyone can disagree with any opinion he ever offers

Bill Y. said Melbourne used to have a Solar Car Corporation. They made 200 cars. In the 70's Florida and Texas were the only two electric car manufacturing facilities in the country.

Nick recommends partnering with other agencies. Nick believes we could suggest goals with times and dates. David said we just can't set the county up to fail.

Bill D. wants to identify all the opportunities that the County has to implement clean energy – lawn maintenance, tractors. One of our goals could perhaps be to identify all those things that provide opportunities for the county, including all the ancillary things the county does that could benefit from clean energy.

Nick said Chris Castro recently posted the electric fleet (weed trimmers, etc.) transitioning off gasoline. Selling back to the grid is not always best as you are not getting top dollar, but perhaps power other equipment is an option.

Bill Y. talked about biodiesel and asked if that is part of our scope. David and Nick think perhaps. David said not all alternative fuels are as efficient, E85 an example, it costs more to make and pump and is not as efficient an operating vehicle but do reduce noxious emissions. There is a trade-off, more expensive fuel but the noxious emissions coming from the tailpipe are cleaner and that is part of the goal. David thinks we will get away from that ultimately. He's working on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) garbage trucks. They just don't have the range right now that he needs. Biodiesel is better than diesel but still not the end-product he wants. Propane is good and he used to convert vehicles but the market is volatile. During the winter due to demand in the north, we can't get it economically in the south. Natural gas is more of a standard commodity. It's not as volatile, a utility that never fails. A storm won't stop it from flowing, a backhoe will.

John believes we are starting to go beyond solar. Alternative fuel sources and electric, encourage county to partner or discuss partnership for electric grid that is more efficient, less CO2 emissions, more conscientious of resources like the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) and St. John's River (SJR). So maybe biodiesel doesn't go in a car, but on grid or land fill gas. It's on the fringe but you can supplement solar with alternative fuel sources.

Bill Y. said boat people put non-ethanol gas in boats, but diesel people could use biodiesel in case of spill because of reduced environmental impact. Less clean-up cost and future cost. Non-ethanol gas in the river is a long-term cost. Solar powered electric boat, or optional recommendation for biodiesel boats rather than something that doesn't fit the program. How important is saving the environment the cost of that? What about cleaning up the river? People get cancer from natural gas and propane. Don't put solar into things that don't quite fit yet.

David says most boat builders use the cheapest boat engine on the market, it's what the consumer will pay. In the boat industry, the consumer is continually buying that pure gas operated motor because there isn't any other motor available. Beyond our purview or ability to pay.

Bill D. says the county does have waste management facilities that process sewer. This waste can be used as fuel for their operation. This would help to keep solid waste out of

IRL. Burning methane from waste management is perhaps another opportunity, another place to implement clean energy.

David says Orange County operates landfill. City of Orlando has four wastewater plants. Wants to capture methane and put back in pipeline as renewable natural gas, it's expensive. There are other avenues. TICOS people gas maintains natural gas station in Orlando. Developing technology to partner with public entities to bring in equipment to process the methane. The trick is to find a public-private partnership to augment. He believes some of the methane from Brevard landfill is already going to power generation.

Nick brought up battery back-ups and Rivian technology and recommendations regarding on-site storage.

David wants to expand upon what was done at FSEC. Power from grid into storage battery and then provide power to EVs and OUC. Partner with utility as technology is getting cheaper all the time. Rivian specifically wants to manufacture storage batteries on a large scale. They are now in a relationship with Ford for Rivian F150 with Rivian skateboard underneath. They want to go after battery market. He has compared chemistry of Tesla v. Rivian and believes Rivian is higher grade because of products in it. Products in lithium ion batteries are limited.

Nick wanted to recognize the impact of harvested precious metals to make the batteries possible. Do we want to be accountable for that impact? Still a stepping stone to a clean energy future.

David thought about end product and stewardship that should be crafted throughout documents. Also think about resiliency.

Bruce spoke of Brevard County and LNG and cruise ships being converted. The Florida East Coast Railroad have all been converted. We want to position Brevard County as the pioneer in this clean energy technology that has huge impact in transportation and tourism.

Bill Y. says his house is over 100 years old. In 1903, a power plant was built in Titusville. Burning anything to make energy is a horrible thing as they did before the power plant. The idea of making buildings so they take care of themselves. Socrates wrote a book 3,000 years ago on solar powering a house. They used to attack neighbors to kill them for their trees to burn them. Sustainability/resiliency, structures should be built so that new buildings should need minimal external energy. He spoke of air conditioning coming to houses in to 1980s. Antique homes are sustainability. Burning something should be reserved for things you can't build any other way.

David brought everyone to a conclusion. The group decided on September 3rd for their next meeting from 5-7pm.

Amanda said she was so excited and talked about establishing policies for our county, perhaps in comprehensive plan. She asked them to think about partners and departments they wanted to hear from at future meetings, specifically Solid Waste, Fire Rescue, Transit Services, Library Services, Natural Resources Management, Utility Services, Central Services and Parks & Recreation.

Motion to adjourn at 6:58pm by Bill D. and seconded by Nick. Motion to adjourn passed.