

DRAFT Alaska Wind Working Group Meeting Minutes

Juneau, Alaska • 9/26/2011 1:00-5:00

In Attendance:

Stephanie Nowers, REAP

Chris Rose, REAP

Keith Walters, Usibelli Coal Mine

Jim Norman, ABS Alaska

Connie Fredenberg, Marsh Creek

Carl Remley, ANTHC

Mike Craft, DWF

Clinton White, STG Inc.

Fred Esposito, AVTEC

Kate McKeown, Alaska Conservation

Alliance

Billy Muhando, ACEP

Brent Sheets, ACEP

Richard Stevens, ACEP

Hector Campbell, Yukon Energy

Katherine Keith, WiDAC

Rich Stromberg, AEA

Josh Craft, AEA

Robert Bensin, BSDC, Banner Wind

Diana Ellanna, BSDC, Banner Wind

Phil Steyer, Chugach Electric Association

Greg Price, Northern Power

Sudie Hargis, Coast Guard

Hoss Figgeroa, Susitna Energy (online)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 with REAP Communications Director Stephanie Nowers facilitating.

Wind Working Group Structure

- A proposed charter and objectives for the AK Wind Working Group (AWWG) were distributed. There was discussion about how the AWWG can support and help create a successful wind industry in Alaska, including public outreach, certification, sharing information about problems, creating a turbine rating system, and data collection and dissemination. Rich with Alaska Energy Authority noted AEA currently requires performance data for Renewable Energy Grant Fund projects, but will begin pressing more for that data.
- By consensus, the charter and objectives were adopted along with a formal membership that does not include fees, but does include a signed membership form. Membership forms were distributed at the meeting and will be sent to all members of the Wind Working Group database.
- The group discussed how having a more formal structure can benefit the group and wind industry in the long term. Members will have voting rights. Meetings will remain open to non-members. A potential future membership fee was discussed. A sliding scale fee was suggested, but no action was taken.

Wind Working Group Committees

The purpose of the subcommittees was discussed and committee chairs were chosen for the AWWG's four subcommittees. A sign up list was circulated for those interested in participating on each committee. The list is as follows: (Anyone interested is welcome to add their name to the list by contacting the committee chairs.)

- **Small Wind Working Committee (Co-chairs Katherine Keith & Jim Norman)**
 - Keith Walters
 - Carl Remley
 - Diana Ellanna
 - Robert Bensin
 - Josh Craft
 - Hoss Figgeroa
 - Rich Stromberg
- **Wind-Diesel Committee (Co-Chairs Katherine Keith & Rich Stromberg)**
 - Keith Walters
 - Jim Norman
 - Greg Price
 - John Lyons
 - Connie Fredenberg
 - Carl Remley
 - Brent Sheets
 - Clinton White
 - Fred Esposito
 - Josh Craft
 - Billy Muhando
- **Railbelt Committee (Chair: Mike Craft)**
 - Keith Walters
 - Kate McKeown
 - Hector Campbell
 - Billy Muhando
 - Josh Craft
 - Kat Keith
 - Rich Stromberg
- **Policy Committee (Chair: Chris Rose)**
 - Jim Norman
 - Connie Fredenberg
 - Mike Craft
 - Clinton White
 - Kate McKeown
 - Hector Campbell
 - Josh Craft
 - Katherine Keith
 - Rich Stromberg
 - Greg Price
 - Gwen Holdmann

NEW BUSINESS:

Reauthorization of Renewable Energy Grant Fund:

- Renewable Energy Grant Fund will sunset in June 2013 unless reauthorized.
- A substantial portion of the fund so far has gone to wind projects. \$176 million total allocated so far to renewable energy projects through four rounds. The application period for 5th round just closed and there will be one more round before the fund sunsets.

- Chris Rose noted only two legislative sessions remain before the fund sunsets, and prudent to start work this session on asking for reauthorization of the fund, and any amendments to how the fund works.
- Chris Rose suggested asking the legislature to prefund the grant program to give Alaska Energy Authority the authority to disburse funds when projects are approved. Currently projects are approved in fall/winter, but the funding is not approved until the end of legislative session the following year, which creates delays for project managers to order equipment and schedule work for the summer construction season.
- Discussion ensued. Rich Stromberg noted AEA has given advances on projects. Others noted need for good performance data to support continued funding. Question was raised about other ways to create sustainable funding for renewable energy projects. Mike Craft discussed getting more private sector financing and need for having a clear IPP process.
- Consensus was to move forward with asking for reauthorization of the grant fund with amendment to prefund the program, and refer other issues to the policy committee for more discussion.

AK WWG Budget & Work Plan:

Status update given on budget for AWWG. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Wind Powering America Program has funded AWWG for \$25,000 for July 1, 2011- June 30, 2012. The amount is half the previous annual funding and the expectation is for funding not to continue past June 30, 2012. Funds are used for activities such as public outreach, publications, annual and quarterly meetings, and training opportunities.

- REAP will continue to work on soliciting funding for AK WWG.

REPORTS:

DATA COLLECTION UPDATE (Katherine Keith and RJ Stevens)

Report on work by ACEP to create database system for performance data on wind projects. Pilot projects ongoing in Unalakleet and Ugashik. Data being collected includes 250 different variables. Data will be stored at UAF Arctic Region Supercomputing Center. Have remote system for storing then uploading data. \$15,000 invested so far in developing program. Hope is to have a system for use for all wind projects. Possibly could be adapted for other renewable energy projects.

RAILBELT UPDATE (Rich Stromberg)

Three wind projects (2 proposed) on Railbelt. Common transmission and integration issues identified in Railbelt Integrated Resource Plan. Golden Valley Electric

Association installing 12 RePower turbines for Q4 2012 install. Fire Island installing 12 1.6 GE turbines for Q4 2012 install. Delta Junction has 1 MW currently.

SMALL WIND UPDATE (Jim Norman)

Jim Norman handed out "Is Wind Electricity Right for You?" out of Home Power Magazine for review. Article includes manufacturer review of different turbines. Sudie Hargis highlighted the need for the database to understand turbine performance and functionality in Alaska. Discussion about need to tap into network of people using small wind systems (<100kw).

WIDAC UPDATE (Katherine Keith)

The Best Practice Guide for Wind-Diesel Systems is now open for peer review. We are asking for all comments back by October 7th. Those interested should email Kat at kmkeith@alaska.edu for the full word version.

AVTEC Update (Fred Esposito)

- Wind Turbine Technician course was offered 5/21/12-6/8/12
- The existing instructor for power plant operator and advanced operator is incorporating wind
- Currently recruiting for a Wind Energy Instructor for a 1-year certification program
- Northern Power 100kW Turbine is not yet interconnected, but is almost complete with connecting to gen-sets
- They can certify students in tower climbing
- Looking to offer some distance delivery as well as providing training for regional centers
- Their website is www.avtec.edu
- Partnership with AEA and AVEC

WfS Update (Katherine Keith)

- Two new schools, one in Nome and one in Anchorage.
- Kodiak still on the horizon
- Wind-Diesel Short Course to be offered in 2012
- Webinar based on the short courses to be offered in December- January

Final Thoughts/Conclusion:

Next meeting will be in January. A Doodle poll will be sent out to set up a time.

- Greg Price - Wants to drive policy, that is their top priority-to renew the renewable energy fund and Northern will support the group financially and with in kind support.

- Keith Walters-The direction for certification process and the small wind test site will be critical for this.
- Jim Norman-Wind is not as economic as needed and other turbines in the small wind world need to be more apparent.
- Connie Fredenberg- Priorities are funding, and supporting the Renewable Energy Fund; and PCE.
- Carl Remley-More into conservation but is working with AVEC to work on sending wind to heat.
- Mike Craft-What we are doing now is molding the future and this is critical.
- Clinton White-Excited to learn about the “black box” data collection system discussed by Kat and RJ and would like to see it deployed at more sites.
- Fred Esposito -Thanks for being involved.
- Kate McKeown -Glad to be here and ACA would like to help with policy as they have an environmental lobbyist.
- RJ Stevens -Has been very interested in the conversation.
- Robert-Bensin - Gwen and Kat might talk about the Rime Ice Monitoring System.
- Hector Campbell - Very key in looking at policy. Information will be available from new installation . In the Yukon there is 25% loss in production due to rime ice build up and this data will be available online.
- Josh Craft-Interested in the development of small committees.
- Rich Stromberg -Rime ice detection and mitigation technologies need improvement. Regarding PCE-wind isn't going to provide benefit residential wind power.
- Kat Keith - Seems like a rime ice detection meeting should happen. (Jim, Hector, Robert , Matt, Kat); PCE snapshot will be written.
- Stephanie Nowers -Contact me if there are any relevant points about operation of the WWG. REAP is the state facilitator for the group and I'm the contact at REAP for this.