

SWFRPC Energy and Climate Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2010

Members

Commissioner Ray Judah, Lee County BOCC (Co-Chair)
Mayor Mick Denham, City of Sanibel
Mr. Mel Karau, Hendry County Governor Appointee
Councilman Don McCormick, City of Punta Gorda
Mr. Phil Flood, SFWMD
Commissioner Karson Turner, Hendry County BOCC
Councilwoman Teresa Heitmann, City of Naples

Guests

Charlotte Miller, FPL
Buck Martinez, FPL
Jim Paulmann, WilsonMiller, Inc.
Ken Sneed, Ken Sneed & Associates
Don Nen, WilsonMiller, Inc.
Beverly Grady, Roetzel & Andress (Member of WRAC)
Chris Swenson, Wilbur Smith Associates
John Morgan, SFWMD
Brad Cornell, Collier Audubon Society – Audubon of Florida

Staff

Mr. Ken Heatherington, Executive Director
Mr. Dave Hutchinson, Planning Director
Mr. Jason Utley, Regional Planner
Mr. Jim Beever, Regional Planner
Mr. Daniel Trescott, Principal Planner
Mr. Tim Walker, GIS Coordinator
Ms. Jennifer Pellechio, Regional Planner
Ms. Nichole Gwinnett, Sr. Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Heatherington called the meeting to order at 11:30 am and introductions were made.

1. Approval of the July 16, 2009 Minutes

Commissioner Karson moved and Councilman McCormick seconded to approve the Minutes of July 16, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

2. The Regional Energy & Climate Communications Plan – Mr. Ken Sneed, KenSneed & Associates

Mr. Sneed gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Regional Energy & Climate Communications Plan.

Mr. Martinez stated that the one thing that he would differentiate is that he feels that the environmental movement gets people nervous, so he looks at it as energy independence and economic development. If there is one thing that we should all agree on is that we should distance ourselves from having to be dependent upon foreign oil.

Mr. Sneed stated that he agrees with Mr. Martinez on energy independence but it only reaches a segment of the population, it may be the largest segment but other segments of the population react to other stimuli and he feels we have to deal with all of those and that is why there is a research component. The research component is not only about the renewable energy issues within the community, but also all of the research that he and other colleagues have done over the years in terms of how to get the message out and have it acted upon.

Commissioner Turner stated that if you take a certain emblem/logo and promote the energy independence and that angle how you get buy-ins from that particular sector (i.e. Hendry County) of America.

Councilman McCormick stated that he would like to fully endorse Mr. Martinez's comments regarding the incentives for our country and being independent, but you are making a good point about the individual consumer needing a rationale incentive.

Mr. Sneed stated that since the solar hot water initiative was already underway, we feel from the standpoint it is not like solar voltaic that it would have been a \$30-40,000 project, but a \$4,000 project and with some of the incentives and tax rebates there is a savings of approximately half of the initial cost and then there are immediate savings in the monthly electric bill.

Mr. Karau stated that he feels that it will take going back to the schools and starting with educating the students. Mr. Sneed said that he fundamentally agrees that you can do a lot of work in the schools with this effort.

Commissioner Judah asked Mr. Sneed to attend the Lee County BOCC meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd at 9:30 a.m. to give his presentation because Lee County is going to be hearing from Algenol, a company who converts algae to ethanol, who is interested

in possibly relocating to Lee County. Mr. Sneed said that he would be happy to attend the Lee County BOCC meeting on February 2nd.

Commissioner Judah suggested having Mr. Sneed make a presentation to the full Council and perhaps have follow-up presentations to the local jurisdictions, especially the Horizon Council in Lee County. Mr. Sneed stated that he will make the presentations, but in order to move forward with the project there needs to be dollars attached.

Mr. Heatherington thanked Mr. Sneed for all of his time and effort and emphasized that there needs to be funding. Commissioner Judah stated that he feels that is where the Horizon Council of Lee County would come into play with regards to the outreach.

Mr. Flood stated that if this project is going to be successful the word needs to get out through the Communication Plan and change people's mind on how they do business.

3. Solar Energy Retrofit Initiative – Mr. Chris Swenson & Amy Davies, Wilbur Smith Associates

Mr. Swenson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Solar Energy Retrofit Initiative. He stated that there is a website www.solarswf.com which contains the narrative of the grant.

Mayor Denham gave an overview of the efforts that the City of Sanibel is doing with the solar hot water retrofit program.

Commissioner Judah asked if Lee County proceeded without the grant does it jeopardize the grant. Mr. Swenson explained no, Lee County just won't be able to be reimbursed for those activities.

Mr. Heatherington stated that he had a discussion with Mr. Utley and Mr. Mike DelMonte of NADO in Chicago about having the Washington lobbyists go after the grant and one of the suggestions here was to compile a letter addressed to U.S. Senator LeMieux, Senator Nelson, and Representative Connie Mack and have them track the grant so there is some Washington involvement from Southwest Florida.

Councilwoman Heitmann stated that she would make that motion and also she is going to Washington D.C. next week to meet with U.S. Representative Connie Mack so she would be happy to hand deliver the letter.

Councilwoman Heitmann moved and Councilman McCormick seconded to compile a letter addressed to US Senator George LeMieux, US Senator Bill Nelson, and US Congressman Connie Mack regarding the DOE Solar Energy Retrofit Initiative Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Committee Discussion

Councilman McCormick asked if the committee could encourage a consortium of non-profit groups to come under the Council's umbrella. Mr. Heatherington explained that it can expand the idea out to other Councils or a consortium because it is region wide.

Commissioner Judah suggested having it discussed at the next Council meeting to explore the opportunity.

5. Public Comments

Mr. Cornell asked if there has been any examination of approaching the water utilities as the point of distribution or the element to distribute the hot water heaters as a way of guaranteeing numbers.

Commissioner Judah said that Lee County has been trying to work with Lee County Utilities because it is a perfect conduit and for some reason they have not wanted to do it.

Mr. Swenson explained that it doesn't capture the energy savings.

6. Adjournment

The meetings adjourned at 12:50 p.m.