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East Bay Energy Consortium Meeting Minutes

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10-5-2009

## East Bay Energy Consortium Meeting Minutes, October 5, 2009

East Bay Energy Consortium

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### Recommended Citation

East Bay Energy Consortium, "East Bay Energy Consortium Meeting Minutes, October 5, 2009" (2009).  
*East Bay Energy Consortium Meeting Minutes*. 8.  
<https://docs.rwu.edu/ebecminutes/8>

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East Bay Energy Consortium

October 5, 2009

Library Board Room

Roger Williams University

Meeting called to order at 8:45 a.m. List of attendees:

Anne Wolff Lawson, Lee Arnold, Walter Burke, Dennis Culberson, Joe DePasquale, Gary Gump, Philip Hervey, Allan Klepper, Beth Milham, Jeanne-Marie Napolitano, Robert Palumbo, Jenny Pereira, Garry Plunkett, Andy Shapiro, June Speakman, Andy Teitz, Christine Weglowski Forster, Joe Fraioli.

Call to Order made by Lee Arnold.

Minutes from the 9/21 meeting were reviewed and motion (DePasquale/Napolitano) accepted and approved with corrections:

1. Page 2: Andy Shapiro requested that the following be added to the end of the second paragraph "*These suggestions were not accepted.*"
2. Page 2: Andy Shapiro requested a revision in the second sentence of the fifth paragraph. It will now read "He stated that the RFP **suggested** EBEC to spend 20-25% on Phase 1, which is \$18,000 - \$35,000.
3. Page 2: Andy Shapiro requested a revision in the first item under New Business. The first sentence will now read "Joe DePasquale asked if there had been any successful contact with the Navy by **the City of** Newport."

Announcement of Executive Session:

Attorney Andy Teitz reviewed with the group that he feels that per the Open Meetings Act and Rhode Island General Law, this meeting can be legally be held in Executive Session. The consultants were notified by email regarding the executive session and may elect to open the meeting. Meetings are regularly announced on the Secretary of State's website under Bristol. This will be changed to "East Bay" shortly. Mayor Napolitano underscored the importance of being on board with the Open Meeting Act.

Andy Shapiro followed up with a point of order regarding clarification between open session and executive sessions. He further clarified that the previous situation which prompted the inquiry for executive session no longer existed. Discussion followed regarding the need for the executive session which resulted in approving a motion (DePasquale/Gump) to waive the Executive Session. The motion was approved.

#### Technical Committee Comments:

Andy Shapiro next briefly discussed the process the Technical Committee brought forward to arrive at today's meeting with two qualified candidates for the EBEC Feasibility Study.

Joe Fraioli, lead contact for the group which worked with ASA, Inc., gave a brief summary of their background:

- They were part of the Portsmouth team which erected the wind turbine in spring, '09.
- Richard Gross, PE is knowledgeable of connectivity issues.
- They are well-versed with redistribution of power and financials of such.
- References were favorable: 7 were contacted, 1 was nonresponsive. Their work was described as timely and with good interaction.
- Lee Arnold pointed out a typo on ASA's RFQ submission. It was noted by the group.

#### **ASA Presentation: 9:10am**

Daniel Mendelsohn, group leader, introduced the ASA team and gave a 30 minute interactive presentation with PowerPoint followed by Q&A with EBEC members. They have 30 years experience and have municipal experience with Portsmouth, Tiverton, Newport Navy Base and others. The presentation was RI-focused with emphasis on their team's local renewable energy experience, pointing out details specifically working with North Kingstown. An estimated project development schedule was shared along with a flow chart of project collaborators. The presentation concluded at 10:20am.

Gary Gump, lead contact for the group which worked with EAPC, gave a brief summary of their background:

- Positive overall references from some large firms involved with investing.
- They work with a local firm, Pare Engineering, which comes highly recommended.
- Wind energy is their specialty

During the break between group presentations, Mayor Napolitano spoke to her discussions with the Navy. She reported that her contact informed her that the Navy is taking some of the land for itself and is also considering wind turbines. She will meet with them next week. She is meeting with the local Native American tribal representatives in

the last week of October to discuss their interest. She is also meeting with Senator Reed and federal Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and invited Joe DePasquale to attend.

**EAPC Presentation: 10:30am**

Bob Sherwin, group leader, introduced the EAPC team. He spoke about their international and local New England experience. He described their focus on bankability, which can clear a path to success. They have collaborated with the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, the East Bay Bike Path, Bristol County Water Authority, and the town of Tiverton. They recently worked on a wind farm project in New York with four municipalities over eleven months. They have wind modeling expertise. Bob Sherwin spoke with Ken Payne and feels that municipalities have latitude to build projects. Site suitability requirements and reverse engineering were discussed. Their presentation concluded at 11:30am.

**Consultant Selection:**

Lee Arnold informed everyone of his decision matrix and asked them to keep this in mind during the discussion:

1. Responsiveness to the RFP
2. Technical Capacities
3. Demonstrated performance or experience
4. Ease of access
5. Ability to suggest options

Each individual Technical Committee member was asked for their selection process and to highlight each group's strengths and weaknesses. Afterwards, each municipality was asked to caucus with its members to prepare for a vote on the consultant.

**Roll call results:**

**ASA (7 votes)**

Bristol – W. Burke  
Little Compton – J. Fraioli  
Middletown – C.W. Forster  
Newport – B. Milham  
Portsmouth – G. Gump  
Tiverton – Plunkett  
Warren – DePasquale

**EAPC (2 votes)**

Barrington – P. Hervey  
East Providence – W. Barnes

ASA's fee structure came to \$34,500 and EAPC came to \$32,900, a \$1600 difference.

A motion (Burke/DePasquale) to authorize the Chairman of the Technical Committee, Andy Shapiro, to enter into contract negotiations, acting in the best interests of EBEC while negotiating without waiting until the EBEC November meeting. This was approved. Joe DePasquale volunteered to accompany Andy Shapiro in the negotiations.

Next steps:

- Andy Shapiro will contact ASA to meet at Bristol Town Hall
- ASA will draw up a contract
- Andy Teitz will review contract
- Diane Mederos will sign the contract on behalf of Bristol as the host community for the grant.

Joe DePasquale reminded everyone that there will be an October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Legal and Budget Committees at Bristol Town Hall. The Legal Committee will discuss drafting the bylaws and will bring the draft bylaws for review at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 2, 2009 at Roger Williams University at 8:30 a.m. in the Library Board Room.

Motion (DePasquale) to adjourn at 1:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Anne Wolff Lawson.