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## East Bay Energy Consortium Joint Committee Workshop at Bristol Town Hall, Burnside Building: Meeting Notes, April 19, 2010

East Bay Energy Consortium

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East Bay Energy Consortium  
Joint Committee Workshop at Bristol Town Hall, Burnside Building  
April 19, 2010  
Meeting Notes

*Technical Committee members present:* Dennis Culberson, Joseph DePasquale, Joseph Fraioli, Gary Gump, Allan Klepper, Garry Plunkett, Andy Shapiro (Committee Chair)

*Budget Committee members present:* Joseph DePasquale, Andy Shapiro

*Legal Committee members present:* Jeanne Boyle, Joseph DePasquale (Committee Chair), Christine Weglowski Forster, Joseph Fraioli, Allan Klepper, Andy Shapiro, June Speakman

Also Present: Don Wineberg (Chace, Ruttenberg & Freedman, LLP), Dan Mendelsohn (ASA), Lee Arnold and Robert Palumbo (The Arnold Group, LLC)

*Opening Comments*

Andy Shapiro opened the meeting at 9:00 AM, welcomed those in attendance and then asked Garry Plunkett to distribute a copy of an “EBEC Progress Report for Member Towns and Municipalities” which Garry’s Communications Committee drafted. Garry asked all in attendance to review the document and to give him any feedback by April 23<sup>rd</sup>. He will then finalize the draft with Lee, Bob and Andy.

*RWU Law School Additional Charges*

Joe DePasquale reported on his conversation with Susan Farady from Roger Williams University regarding the additional \$900 charge from the law school. After their discussion, it was agreed that Susan did not state there would be an additional charge for researching a question asked by a Consortium member. There is no line item in the budget for law school costs beyond what was in the original contract. Susan agreed to reduce the bill to \$450 if the Consortium can find the funds; otherwise the Consortium would pay nothing. A letter to that effect will be sent to the Consortium.

*Governance Presentation*

Don Wineberg distributed a draft regarding a governance structure outline for EBEC. His interest was to solicit input on how the Consortium would make decisions. The first major point of discussion dealt with which decisions are more critical than others and should voting parameters be determined by the nature of the decision. Gary Gump thought items 4 and 5 (distribution of net revenues and selection of potential developers and /or partners) were of a critical nature. Dan mentioned that his feasibility report will shed much light on the way to move forward regarding using developers for almost the entire project or EBEC taking the lead and selecting various contractors. Joe DePasquale

reported that the owners of the gasification plant at the Tiverton Industrial Park had expressed an interest in the project to Andy. Jeanne commented on exploring municipal financing and Allan asked Don about the status of current RI legislation. Don responded to Allan by stating that the House Bill (7714) and the Senate Bill (2735) are currently in play and that there is still discussion on allowing public/private partnerships and increasing the net metering cap for cities and towns.

The discussion refocused on decision making and what recommendations should be made to the full Consortium membership. Lee and Bob gave their view that each municipality should have one vote regarding decisions and that revenue distribution should be proportionate to the net metering capacity given to the Consortium. The municipalities could then decide how to use their revenue. Jeanne and Gary agreed with this suggestion.

Don asked if EBEC should use the governance structure to reward municipalities and that membership criteria should depend on each municipality giving all its net metering capacity to the Consortium (with the exception of Portsmouth who would be grandfathered in). Christine mentioned that Middletown was exploring a single turbine and that timing was critical regarding knowing which was the least expensive option. Dan mentioned that there would be overwhelming evidence that a large scale project would be much more economical than a single turbine project. In either case, the amount of time needed for wind data results through MET Towers and/or SODAR was extremely important for financial institutions.

Suggestions were then forwarded concerning whether a super majority or a simple majority membership vote was necessary for decision making. Joe Fraioli recommended that a simple majority vote (5 of 9 municipalities) was sufficient. After discussion it was agreed that a simple majority vote for all decisions would be a recommendation to the full Consortium as well as the recommendation that each city or town will have one vote. Don agreed to redraft his outline and distribute it to those in attendance. This topic will also be placed on the agenda for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> full Consortium meeting.

#### *MET Tower Discussion*

Andy noted that Roger Williams University has made two MET Towers available to the Consortium and that the Consortium would be responsible for transporting, erecting and insuring the equipment at a cost of approximately \$3,000-\$5,000 per tower. Only one tower would be necessary and hopefully EDC would cover these costs.

Dan suggested there are other potential options for acquiring wind data. One possibility is that the owners of the SODAR data from the Eco Industrial project might be willing to sell the data to the Consortium. Additionally, there is a radio tower at 78 meters height near the site which may provide wind data. A motion was made by Joe DePasquale and seconded by Gary Gump to recommend to the Consortium that all options be explored. The motion was unanimously approved.

### Phase III Budget

Andy asked Lee to distribute and explain his chart which outlined the various stages of the project. Phase I is the pre-feasibility study which is completed. Phase II is the feasibility study which will be completed soon. Phase III is the project development/pre-construction phase which is typically 1.5% of the total project cost. Phase IV is the project development/construction phase which is typically 1.5% of total project cost and Phase V is the operation phase which generates revenue for cities and towns. The total project cost is estimated to be in the \$50-\$70 million range.

Andy stated grant funds only cover costs associated with Phases I and II. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, The Arnold Group will no longer be under contract nor will Don Wineberg, the Consortium's legal representative. As a reminder, the Assistant Dean of the Roger Williams University School of Business has notified us that the services of Anne Wolff-Lawson are unlikely to be available to EBEC after June 30, 2010. Andy also stated that he can no longer give 80% of his time to the project without compensation. The project needs to move from planning to implementation and funding must be identified for this purpose. Phase III is the next step in the process at a cost of approximately \$859,000. Dan distributed a breakdown of the Phase III costs and activities for review. Gary asked if there could be some timelines identified for Phase III. Dan noted that this could be difficult due to external factors not in the Consortium's control. Andy asked for permission from the group to seek funding alternatives with the assistance of Lee, Bob, Dan and Don.

Joe DePasquale commented on the need for public relations to move this project further. June was concerned that city and town councils are not up to speed on these activities and it is critical to confer with them. It was agreed that cities and towns must be aware of EBEC's activities as they are the final decision makers. Christine suggested several venues for presentations. All agreed that after Dan makes his Phase II report and the Consortium agrees on a way forward, a formal public relations process would begin. Joe DePasquale made a motion to move the Phase III budget estimate to the full board for discussion and action and to seek sources of funding. Jeanne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### Other Business

A report in the Providence Journal noted that as part of the state budget process, a recommendation has been made to take \$1,000,000 from the state's renewable energy fund for general revenue purposes. This action will negatively impact renewable energy projects, including EBEC's need for further funding. It was recommended that a lobbying effort from EBEC communities needs to focus on this issue. Joe DePasquale as EBEC's government liaison will contact the appropriate individual from each municipality to address this issue. Members of the group acknowledged that they will also follow-up with their city/town representatives.

A motion was made by Gary Gump to adjourn and seconded by Joe DePasquale. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lee H. Arnold  
Mr. Robert P. Palumbo, MBA  
The Arnold Group, LLC