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# East Bay Energy Consortium Communications Committee Initial Meeting Minutes, March 25, 2010

East Bay Energy Consortium

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**East Bay Energy Consortium  
Communications Committee Initial Meeting  
March 25, 2010  
Meeting Notes**

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. at The Customs House, West Main Rd., Portsmouth.

*Members Present:* Joe DePasquale, Beth Milham, Garry Plunkett, and Christine Weglowski Forster

*Opening Discussion:* A general discussion was held about the role of the committee, its limits, resources, objectives, and organization. Milham expressed concern about the negative connotation of the committee title, "Public Relations." Weglowski Forster suggested "Communications Committee" which was accepted. A wide ranging discussion followed about defining a general plan of action to present at the next EBEC meeting, summarized below.

There was concern over the lack of funding and professional resources, given the importance and demands of EBEC's public image, managing information, addressing misperceptions, and responding to press and public queries. Weglowski Forster noted that any public communication from EBEC would require a point of contact. After discussion of who that would be, the group agreed to bring the issue to the April EBEC meeting.

DePasquale agreed to contact ASA, RI EDC and other agencies with which he has ties to get their thoughts, suggestions and possible assistance. The challenge of differing public communication imperatives for EBEC member towns was noted, e.g. a town where turbines will be sited will have a heavier burden for carefully managing public communications.

In addressing the nature of an EBEC public release, there was concern over doing this without first communicating with municipality decision makers. Weglowski Forster proposed sending towns a report to update them prior to a public release. This report, complete with an executive summary, would briefly review EBEC's origin, current status, Phase I findings, and ASA's role in conducting the study.

Since the previous release announcing the selection of ASA to conduct the feasibility studies was never released, it was agreed to fold that into the report and subsequent release.

Weglowski Forster agreed to draft the report. DePasquale agreed to ensure the proper distribution of the report through the Town of Warren. Each town/municipality would receive one report addressed to their Town Clerk with proposed distribution.

It was agreed to present the outline of town report, and to solicit further input and guidance on EBEC's public communication program at the April EBEC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Recorded by Garry Plunkett