ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, April 5, 2022

PRESENT
Jeremy Grip - Ripton
James Dayton - Panton
Cheryl Brinkman - Vergennes
Rich Warren - Starksboro
Ross Conrad - Middlebury
ACRPC staff - Maddison Shropshire
ACRPC staff - Andrew L’Roe
Guest - Steve Maier, CEAC
Guest - Richard Hopkins

AGENDA
● Call to Order: 7:05 PM
● Approval of March 1, 2022 Energy Committee meeting minutes
  o Moved by Cheryl; James second; all in favor.
● Discussion of regional climate action plan with guests from CEAC
  o Current draft of the ACCEAC Climate Action Plan ahead of the meeting: HERE
  o High level presentation of CEAC findings from GHG emissions inventory and Climate Action Planning process and feedback forums.
    ▪ Presentation can be found HERE
  o Discussion of agriculture as the greatest contributor to Addison Co. emissions. Steve indicated that few clear solutions are currently available but there is some movement at the state to identify a path to reduce emissions. Discussed potential initiatives include: cover manure pits and flare methane and encourage the use of feed supplements that reduce methane emissions from the animal (i.e. seaweed and Biochar). It is extremely difficult to measure sequestered carbon in soils and this prevents us from getting a clear picture of the potential benefits of things like rotational grazing and no-till agriculture.
    ▪ Cheryl suggests that promotion of Pollinator Pathways and No Mow May could be an easy way for community members to get engaged and learn about the larger issue.
  o Jamie asked how the micro-grid project in Panton could be applied in more Addison communities. Andrew indicated that the funding used for the Paton project is available again this year: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program. Please reach out to Andrew or Maddi for additional materials or questions.
    ▪ There is also an expected installation of a storage system connected to the Middlebury College solar field behind the hospital. This will provide the hospital emergency power.
- Ross expresses support for CEACs plan and expresses a concern that neither the regional CAP or the State CAP include policies that will reduce GHG emissions to a level consistent with the recent IPCC report. Group agrees that while it may not be sufficient in the long term, the policies included in the regional CAP provide a necessary foundation to build upon in the future.
- The Hannaford center is planning to renovate its old HVAC and heating system to gas. This is concerning because it goes against the “electrify everything” mentality.
  - There is a new grant program specifically intended for schools to upgrade HVAC and heating systems. There may be an opportunity to encourage Hannaford Center to consider electric heating with this additional funding.

- Energy Updates from Maddison
  - Vermont Housing Finance Agency
    - VHFA is currently developing a program to provide no-low interest loans to low and moderate income households for energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades. This program is in partnership with EVT, GMP, VGS, and others to allow for on-bill repayment. VHFA has asked for any opportunity to present to community leaders.
    - Jeremy suggests that VHFA and municipal energy committees be invited to the May regional energy committee meeting.
  - Drive Electric Events
    - Request for interested towns to host a Drive Electric event this summer / fall. Bristol has agreed to host one event but I am looking to have two or more.
      - Cheryl suggests Monkton as an option
      - Jeremy suggests Addison Field Days
  - Weatherization campaign materials
    - ACRPC expects to have excess energy funding that could be put towards supporting initiatives in participating towns. Maddi will reach out to towns once we have a concrete amount available. Envision the funding used to support outreach materials, provide discounts for energy audits etc.
  - Municipal weatherization webinar
    - The webinar went well and sparked a productive discussion. A recording can be found [HERE](#).
    - Questions were asked about services available to agricultural producers and small businesses. In response I have worked with Acorn and EVT to put a summary of available services in the Acorn newsletter to local...
producers. I have also reached out to the Chamber of commerce to connect with small businesses.

- Adjourn: 8:17 PM

**Note:** agendas and adopted meeting minutes for this and all other meetings are also available online at the ACRPC website: https://acrpc.org/minutes-agendas/

**UPCOMING MEETING**

- May 3, 2022