

**MINUTES OF THE  
ENERGY TASK FORCE  
of the  
CITY OF SANTA FE / SANTA FE COUNTY  
REGIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY**

**1 PM, Friday, December 4, 2009  
Santa Fe, New Mexico**

The Regular Meeting of the Energy Task Force (ETF) of the City of Santa Fe / Santa Fe County Regional Planning Authority (RPA) was called to order by Chair Kathy Holian at approximately 1:00 PM on the above-cited date in the legal conference room of the Santa Fe County Administration Building.

**ROLL CALL**

Kathy Holian, Chair  
David Blackman  
David Griscom  
Randy Grissom  
Brendan Miller  
David Van Winkle

**Member Absent:**

Patti Bushee, Vice-Chair

**Others Present:**

Mary Jane Parks, Energy Consultant  
Katherine Mortimer, Supervising Planner  
Nick Schiavo, Energy Planner  
Cary Weiner, Renewable Energy Planner

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Grissom said he would like to speak about the PNM negotiations at the next meeting on December 18.

**Mr. Blackman moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Grissom and approved unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Minutes of September 11, 2009**

**Mr. Blackman moved to approve the minutes of September 11, 2009, seconded by Mr. Grissom and approved unanimously.**

**Minutes of September 25, 2009**

**Mr. Blackman moved to approve the minutes of September 25, 2009, seconded by Mr. Van Winkle and approved unanimously.**

## Minutes of October 23, 2009

The spelling of attendee Mariel Nanasi's name was corrected.

**Mr. Blackman moved to approve the minutes of October 23, 2009, as amended, seconded by Mr. Van Winkle and approved unanimously.**

- **RENEWABLE ENERGY FINANCING DISTRICT ACT**

- **Update on Financing**

Mr. Blackman reported that he and Chair Holian met with Paul Gutierrez of the New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC) to discuss a proposal for the counties to be a source for green investment policies that would allow consumers to finance loans at a reasonable interest rate. He explained that NMAC would arrange funds with local banks to finance a credit line, which would be drawn on up to \$2 million. The NMAC would then package those funds into a bond and sell it. The loans would be at no risk to the banks and backed in a way similar to property taxes. Mr. Gutierrez was amenable to the idea and will discuss this with the NMAC.

If this concept is accepted, an RFP would be issued to banks and a good percentage rate for a loan program could be negotiated, resulting in a significantly lower cost of improvements to the consumers. It is not yet known what the ultimate interest rate would be to the consumer until administrative costs are determined that would have to be rolled into the program because those costs cannot come from county coffers. The program may be expensive initially until it is generating a lot of projects.

Mr. Griscom asked if there were stimulus funds from the county to help in startup. Chair Holian said there are some funds that might be used for administrative costs. She suggested that Paul Gutierrez be invited to the next meeting.

Mr. Miller added that the MFA is thinking about whether loans could be packaged using state bonding capacity, which may result in a lower interest rate. He suggested that Mr. Jeremy Turner, Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA) also be invited to the next meeting.

- **Informational Brochure**

Ms. Parks noted that the county is encouraging residents and commercial customers to use energy more efficiently and in a way to encourage county staff to do the same, such as turning off lights in the work space and carpooling, she suggested the creation of an informational brochure to distribute to county staff as a message for how to practice what is preached.

Mr. Van Winkle pointed out that this could be a similar process that has been used to cut energy consumption in schools.

Mr. Grissom asked how the county currently markets messages to employees. Chair Holian replied that emails are generally used and suggested that short emails with one energy saving idea at a time be sent out.

Mr. Van Winkle asked whether energy saving ideas in the county arise because of policy or if they happen because a small number of people suggested them, such as building using LEED practices. Chair Holian said she thought that a specific commissioner had brought up the LEED level and it was not the result of a policy.

Ideas for energy savings:

- Stickers asking for lights off next to every light switch
- Motion sensors in bathrooms
- Green Team similar to City of Santa Fe

There was consensus that gathering ideas from employees is a good approach. Chair Holian agreed that creating a green team could be a solid recommendation from the ETF to the RPA.

Ms. Parks added that an information brochure could be developed as a handout at town hall meetings that explains the renewable energy projects available to the homeowners and that would be helpful for the county and a model for the region.

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS DISCUSSION**

Chair Holian reviewed the matrix as it was developed at the last meeting and requested further discussion from the task force members.

The consensus was that the Mazria mortgage interest plan is long term and would be more difficult to implement. The PAYS program could be considered in the sense that representatives could talk to the utilities, but totally relies upon the utility implementing it. Energy Works seems a real possibility to pursue because stimulus funding might be used. It is low tech and fairly easy to implement and could happen on a short-term time scale.

Mr. Schiavo added that the City applied for a grant to expand Energy Works to middle income and to businesses, but was not successful. However, the application is ready to go for that opportunity.

Information was added to the remaining programs of Energy Efficiency Assessment District, Energy Efficiency Upgrades of Public Buildings, Retrofit Ramp-Up, Building Codes and Energy Board as depicted on the updated matrix below.

City/Co	Energy Savings	Job Creation	Econ. Dev.	Time Scale	Funding	Community Served	Obstacles/Opportunities
Y	Y	High	High	Med	?	Entire	Anti-donation clause; Issues with mortgages and lenders
Y	Y	Low	Low	Med.-Long	Utility	Entire	Dependent on utilities for an agreement.
Y	Y	Low	Med	Soon	Stimulus	Low-Income	Can use stimulus funding; Low tech.
Y	Y	Med	High	Med	Banking Institutions	Entire	More bang for the buck. Need legislation. There could be a loan issue. Incentivize energy audits.
Y	Y	Med	Low - Med	Soon	RPA Stimulus	Local Government	Good model for community. Saves money for local govt.
?	Y	Med	Low - Med	Soon	Stimulus	Specific Community	Deadline December 14 <sup>th</sup> 5-1 match required.
Y	Y	Some	Med	Soon	None req.	Entire	City/County could share inspectors.
Y	Y	Med	Med	Med	Stimulus Banks RPA Bonds	Entire	Can be starting point for County/City energy strategy. City/Co must create structure. Removes dependency on utility companies. Fast track to carbon reduction.

In the discussion on whether an energy audit is required in order to qualify for the green building code, Ms. Mortimer said that she can obtain information for that requirement and will bring it to the next ETF meeting.

With regard to energy efficiency upgrades to public buildings, Chair Holian said she thought that stimulus funds could be used. She also noted that County Attorney Ross has said that RPA regional GRT funds might be used for public buildings in projects that benefit both the city and the county. At present the income from the GRT cannot be used to bond. Mr. Ross has recommended the GRT be re-written so the revenue could be used for bonding; however, that decision will have to go back to the voters. Chair Holian said it would be good to rewrite the GRT so the funds can be tied to any kind of sustainability project.

Mr. Miller suggested that the GRT could be used in a software upgrade for servers to shut off computers.

Mr. Schiavo said that he has used energy audits as recommendations for how to use stimulus funds. He has gained great experience by going on the initial energy audits and now has the ability to do them and can go to a building, look at the vital components and make sound decisions.

With regard to the retrofit ramp-up program, Chair Holian noted that Eldorado has its own energy group and has approached her to see if the county could help create an energy savings or renewable energy program for them.

Mr. Griscom suggested that if the majority of homeowners in a community agree to do something like solar panels, the program could be developed to bring the cost down.

Chair Holian reported that almost overnight, one of Glorieta's mutual domestics received an off-the-chart rating of radium. Every time a highly radioactive filter is disposed of, it has to be taken to Utah at a cost of \$100,000 for a single filter. Glorieta could be an ideal area to have a whole community on water collection.

Mr. Van Winkle explained that the energy board concept came out of discussions with Margo Stedman. It does not serve everyone, only participants. It is not limited to efficiency and includes renewables. It can be created by ordinance and does not require a popular vote. The basic purpose is to meet carbon goals and generate local economic development in a proactive way to address energy strategies.

Chair Holian requested that the members think about the programs and then discuss which program to work on. Research will need to be done on where the funding would come from, how it will work, what will the city and county have to do to put it in place, and what is gained in things such as jobs and energy. Once the focus is established and questions are answered, a presentation can be made to the RPA.

#### **DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT ETF MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the ETF will be held at 1:00 PM, Friday, December 18, 2009, in the Legal Conference room at the County Building.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the ETF, this Regular Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 PM.

Approved by:

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Chair, RPA Energy Task Force  
Kathy Holian, Santa Fe County Commissioner

*Minutes drafted by: Kay Carlson*