

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

**1 PM, Friday, September 25, 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 1:05 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  
Randy Grissom  
David Van Winkle  
Brendan Miller

**Member Excused:**

David Griscom

**Member Absent:**

Patti Bushee, Vice-Chair

**Santa Fe RPA Staff:**

Mary Helen Follingstad, Executive Director

**Others Present:**

County of Santa Fe  
    Lisa Salazar  
    Nicholas Schiavo  
    Duncan Sill  
Don Pearson, Environx  
Steve Pearson, Environx  
Rick Lass

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Holian removed Information Items iv., v. and vi. from the agenda.

**Mr. Grissom moved to approve the agenda, as amended, seconded by Mr. Van Winkle and approved unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- **Renewable Energy Financing District Act**
- **Update on County Implementation**

Mr. Duncan Sill, Santa Fe County Economic Development Coordinator, stated that the schedule of events for the act includes a request for authorization of title and summary of the ordinance that is scheduled for the BCC meeting on Tuesday, September 29. He invited the members to attend and give their support. This meeting sets off a series of actions related to and including making the draft ordinance available for public comments and feedback for a two-week period. He said that more information on the processes of the application will be made available as they move further into adoption of the ordinance that is slated for the BCC meeting on October 27, 2009. The policy and program should be in place 30 days later.

Mr. Don Pearson asked how many applications will be accepted for the pilot program. Chair Holian replied probably close to 50 as a manageable number for the first couple of months to offer an opportunity to iron out the wrinkles and make the program productive.

Mr. Sill added that relevant information will be distributed as it becomes available and the web page will be updated on a weekly basis.

Mr. Schiavo asked about the interest rate for the first applicants.

Chair Holian replied the interest rate will depend where the financing comes from, which will be a part of the RFP. She has asked the legal department to put a priority on getting the RFP finalized and out as quickly as possible.

Mr. Pearson asked who the intended audience is for the RFP.

Chair Holian replied that right now it is Renewable Funding and they will also contact the Housing Trust or Homewise. Mr. Sill added that local banks will get a copy and might want to respond directly to the financial services. The RFP is a fair technical process pursuant to the procurement code.

Mr. Blackman asked who will review the responses to the RFP.

Mr. Sill replied that he and Ryan Heltsin from the State of New Mexico will review the responses. Under consideration is an annualized contract with the option to renew for up to four years to keep open-ended options for development of resources.

- **Update on CID Involvement**

Mr. Miller said he has received no response from the County CID.

Mr. Don Pearson asked if it would be advisable to have someone from CID on the ETF.

Chair Holian replied the CID could be brought in as a consultant and Mr. Miller said he would invite a representative to come to the next ETF meeting.

- **Discussion of possible energy efficiency projects**

Mr. Miller reviewed his handout that listed the principles of energy efficiency programs and barriers that have kept state and local initiatives at a relatively small scale. His handout included the details for how the New York State Green Jobs-Green New York energy bill is structured. He noted Ed Mazria's 14x Stimulus Plan that recommends using stimulus money for retrofits. He reviewed advantages to the Midwest Energy How\$mart Program that links utility payback to the meter, not the customer.

Mr. Don Pearson said he has learned from NM Energy & Minerals that the DOE is announcing funding for retrofit rampups in energy efficiency. Basically it will be modeled after the rollout of cable TV and the Internet. He said he thought that funding is starting to free up quickly.

Chair Holian requested that Mr. Schiavo bring information to the next meeting on statistics and projects that have been done through the county's energy program.

Chair Holian requested that Mr. Van Winkle further research the energy board idea and to bring to the next meeting possible proposals to promote.

Chair Holian, Mr. Sill and Mr. Miller will talk with PNM. Mr. Grissom suggested that the gas company be contacted for heating. Mr. Schiavo stated they could start rolling something out for the residential side.

Chair Holian requested that Mr. Blackman go to the local community banks and identify funding from them for energy programs like this. Mr. Blackman noted there is some sentiment within the banking community that renewable funding is competition, and they are resistant to providing the initial revolving fund. He said it would be good to go bank-to-bank and they may get positive response. He also suggested that the NM Association of Counties and Municipal League be contacted. Chair Holian said she would be glad to go to the meetings as well.

On the financing side, Mr. Blackman said he received a call from the Charter Bank and will have conversations with other lenders regarding the impact of the assessments and underwriting of loans.

Mr. Grissom said he would like to make Santa Fe County a place to pilot Ed Mazria's project and to get the financing people to pull things together to do refinancing for new houses or retrofits. He suggested stimulus funds might be used.

Chair Holian suggested Mr. Grissom could do research on the website for examples of places where the program has been implemented, and Mr. Grissom said he would talk with Ed Mazria.

Mr. Steve Pearson said he would get the information for a contact in Boulder, Colorado, regarding their energy efficiency program.

- **Resolution on federal energy legislation**

Chair Holian stated that the last newsletter for the Union of Concerned Scientists mentioned that there is a renewable electricity standard energy bill currently in Congress being considered by

the Senate. The UCS is urging people to contact their senators, who will be voting this fall. The recommendation is to urge the Senate to require 25% renewable electricity by 2025. She said she is willing to write a resolution for the BCC on the issues and send it on to the Senators if the resolution passes.

Chair Holian added that there is a movement afoot to water down the bill. The coal and nuclear companies do not want limited federal loan guarantees and the biomass companies do not want limits put on them.

Mr. Van Winkle said that an important part of the bill is building codes. Chair Holian said she would put that into the resolution and asked Mr. Van Winkle to help her write the resolution to bring to the BCC. She also asked Mr. Schiavo to take a similar resolution to the City Council to create a more powerful joint resolution to take to the Senate.

Mr. Van Winkle said a concern of the Sierra Club and others is that so much attention is being put on healthcare that the energy bill may not go anywhere. Therefore, the more communication to the senators via letters and phone calls the better.

#### **MATTERS FROM THE ENERGY TASK FORCE**

Mr. Miller said it is good that Mr. Schiavo is keeping connected to city leadership and asked about participation by the city in the ETF. Mr. Schiavo said that he will speak with Councilor Bushee about her participation. He added that she has a full time job and holding the meetings at noon might make it easier for her to attend.

Following some discussion about whether another City Councilor might be more available for the ETF, Ms. Follingstad suggested that Chair Holian poll the members of the RPA.

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

Chair Holian said that she will not be able to attend the October 9 and suggested the next meeting be held October 23, which will give the members more time to follow up on their projects. She received consensus to change the time to noon for the convenience of Councilor Bushee.

The next regular meeting of the Energy Task Force will be held at 12 Noon, Friday, October 23, 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 2:00 PM.

Approved by:

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

Minutes transcribed and drafted by: Kay Carlson