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Meeting of Energy Task Force  
Santa Fe County Building, Legal Conference Room  
102 Grant Avenue  
June 9, 2011 - 4:00 pm- 5:30 pm

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. Minutes of May 12, 2011
- IV. PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
- V. MATTERS FROM STAFF
- VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - a. Review and discuss the various utility rebate/efficiency programs
  - b. Update from County & City staff on energy efficiency efforts
  - c. Continued Discussion on Strategic Plan
- VII. ACTION ITEMS
- VIII. MATTERS FROM THE ENERGY TASK FORCE
- IX. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT ETF MEETING  
July 14, 2011
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

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COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss ENERGY TASK FORCE MIN  
PAGES: 8

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Deputy County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

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

**4 PM, Thursday, June 9, 2011  
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 Chris Calvert at approximately 4:10 PM on the above-cited date in the County Manager's conference room at the Santa Fe County Administration Building.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Chris Calvert, Chair  
Kathy Holian, Vice Chair  
Erik H. Aaboe [*arrived after role call*]  
David Griscom  
Randy Grissom  
Craig O'Hare  
David Van Winkle

**Others Present:**

County of Santa Fe  
Mary Jane Parks, Energy Consultant  
City of Santa Fe  
Nick Schiavo, Energy Planner

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 12, 2011**

**Ms. Holian moved to approve the Minutes from the ETF meeting of May 12, 2011, seconded by Mr. Griscom and approved unanimously.**

**PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No public was present.

**MATTERS FROM STAFF**

Mr. Schiavo said he has now completed one year as the staff person for the ETF, and as has been customary it is time to hand over the responsibility to the county staff.

Mr. O'Hare said that he will handle the staff responsibility. Ms. Holian suggested he work with Tina in the County Manager's office to reserve space for the meetings. Mr. Schiavo requested that Mr. O'Hare have the agenda to him by Wednesday the week before the meeting so it can be posted. He will also be sure that the agenda is sent to recorder Kay Carlson so she is aware of when the next meeting will be held.

Mr. Calvert will continue as Chair of the ETF.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- **Review and discuss the various utility rebate/efficiency programs**

Mr. Aaboe said he felt it would be useful to update the ETF members of the various programs in place for energy efficiency.

The Gas Company of New Mexico has residential programs for water heater wraps. They do not have any significant residential program, but do have commercial rebate programs that are of potential benefit to their customers, mostly aimed at the restaurant market and mainly associated with cooking and water heating, such as high efficiency water heaters, Energy Star branded convection ovens, fryers, dishwashers, griddles.

Mr. Schiavo said that the City did boilers for some of their buildings and was told that, because they were not bought from the gas company, they would not be given a rebate.

The more interesting rebate programs are with PNM. If a resident goes to Home Depot and buys compact fluorescents, PNM pays a dollar per lamp to the retailer to support the discount. There is a program to recycle refrigerators. If a refrigerator is upgraded and the current one still runs, they will haul it off, recycle the Freon and steel and give the consumer \$30. Those are the only efficiency rebates offered for residential customers with PNM.

PNM has two commercial programs. There is a suite of lighting improvements for large commercial institutions, a certain amount per lamp and chillers. As a custom measure, calculate how many kilowatt hours will be saved in a year, and they rebate 6 cents per kilowatt hour. If someone is interested in doing the work, it is icing on the cake.

Another program that has wider potential in the city and county is PNM's Quick Saver program that relies on service providers, electricians primarily, to be a sales force to calculate the cost of an improvement, such as lighting. Certain specific requirements have to be met with PNM. The electricians go through training and meet insurance requirements. If the deal is closed, PNM will pay up to two-thirds the cost of the project. There are restrictions on the quality of equipment and there are inspections while the project is ongoing. Mr. Aaboe and Mr. O'Hare (henceforth referred to collectively as Staff) went to the training in Albuquerque as if they were contractors and said that the training consists of walking through their software on how to do this.

These are programs that have been developed elsewhere and are used in New Mexico.

Currently in Santa Fe, there are two electrical firms that are qualified, Rodeo Electric and Energy Wise America. At present, the only training sessions are in Albuquerque and staff is looking for a place in Santa Fe to make the training sessions more convenient for the contractors.

Staff views their roles as having a strong presence and offering assistance to the contractors to familiarize them with the program and market them to businesses that will benefit. They are also working with the Chamber of Commerce. Convenience stores are perfect for the refrigeration efficiencies and the paybacks are phenomenal. The training is done by KEMA.

Mr. Griscom said that the SFCC has computer labs for the training. A challenge is that the contractors are not sales driven and need help with the marketing. He added that PNM has \$12 million to be spent by the end of next year.

PNM has sent an invitation to their large commercial customers for a breakfast co-hosted by the Chamber of Commerce on June 22 at the Outlet Mall where they will talk about regulatory issues and efficiency programs for commercial customers. Property management people were targeted in the invitation. The NM Association of Restaurants should be contacted because restaurants are a perfect size and candidate particularly for refrigeration and lighting. Mr. Griscom suggested the Santa Fe Alliance be contacted to help get the word out.

Ms. Holian suggested that she and Mr. Calvert could talk to reporters and have them write an article.

Mr. Craig agreed that PR should be implemented when they are ready to go with the training. Perhaps the information can be taken to both City Council and BCC and bring KEMA and a contractor who is familiar with the program. The conclusion is that this appears to be the most promising program for Staff to spend their time on. They need to connect the dots between the programs' availability and getting them utilized.

KEMA did some advertising in Albuquerque that did not work. The objective is to target the people who want to reduce electrical bills and those who want to get work out of this industry. When the article runs once in the paper, there is only a general awareness effect. The idea is to copy it and bring the newspaper article to meetings with the right organizations for a degree of credibility.

Mr. Schiavo said that he, Mr. O'Hare and Mr. Aaboe need to get their names out so that when they meet with businesses they can be reassured it is not a scam. They would bring a degree of credibility because they do not stand to benefit from the program and it would overcome the skepticism of PNM programs.

Mr. Van Winkle asked if there is record of who has participated in the program from PNM to obtain testimonials for a future energy efficiency oriented program. Mr. Aaboe said he will ask KEMA.

Mr. Schiavo said the last change order that was done with Omega was through the Quick Saver program that made a huge difference. It was close to a 45% discount.

Ms. Holian asked if the county or city can take advantage of the program. Mr. Aaboe said he will run it through legal.

Staff needs to inform electrical service contractors and various lighting commercial groups that it will be in their best interests to participate. Restaurants, small grocery stores and convenience stores are the best targets. This is a good program because PNM's contractors are skilled and bring expertise to help electricians learn about the market segment.

Mr. Grissom asked what will happen to the money that has been accrued if it is not used. Staff replied it is tariff rider funds that have to be spent, and PNM wants to demonstrate it is utilized so it can happen again. The amount taken out is a fraction of the total electrical bill as an energy efficiency fee under the Efficient Use of Energy Act (EUEA). PNM has to demonstrate by 2014 that they have reduced usage by 5% over the 2009 usage levels.

Mr. Van Winkle added the reduction is 10% by 2020. If PNM is not getting savings out of the program, the PRC will look at it as another rate increase.

The retrofit program covers the same applications as the Quick Saver program, which has a limit on the power demand per month. The retrofit program applies to the bigger facilities that do not qualify for Quick Saver.

Mr. Calvert pointed out that PNM lists under rebates and discounts a home program in the PNM Power Saver Program. Staff explained it is a peak reduction, demand response program, not an efficiency program. The resident pays \$25 to sign up and then \$25 a year.

Mr. Schiavo stated that the city received \$40,000 for participation in PNM's Inter Knock Program, although it is now fully subscribed and done. It is a demand response, where they spin down the chiller and fans for half an hour so PNM does not have to buy dispatch power from elsewhere.

Mr. Calvert said there is an advanced evaporative cooling rebate for construction of a new energy efficient facility, of up to \$500. If indirect evaporative cooling is used to cool air, but does not send moist air inside, it sends the indirectly cooled air inside. There is also a \$500 rebate if a new Energy Star home is built.

- **Update from County and City staff on energy efficiency efforts**

Mr. Craig handed out a version of what he and Mr. Aaboe presented before the BCC on May 31. Staff reminded the BCC of policy direction that has already been established by way of the Sustainable Growth Management Plan and to help in understanding areas that are supposed to be focused on through the plan.

Mr. Aaboe is taking the lead on "Lead by Example" for the county facilities and operations.

Mr. Craig is taking the lead on the community energy programs for residential, commercial, and agricultural. There are many good incentives, both in renewable energy and energy efficiency,

that need to be realized. Staff feels their time is best spent playing a role in getting them utilized through marketing and outreach, especially since there is no funding at either the county or city level.

Commercial solar energy projects – Mr. Sill is in charge of the Renewable Energy District/PACE program. Ms. Holian said that Mr. Sill is in discussion with County Counsel Peter Franklin to determine if the county can bond for funding for the program. Staff has also met with Mr. Franklin.

The residential PACE program has gone by the wayside, but it is hoped the commercial PACE program will be viable. Staff met with PPC solar out of Taos who did the BDD one megawatt. They are working on commercial financing for renewable energy projects with credit unions on becoming a merchant lender, and having the solar installer be an agent for the credit union to do most of the paperwork on the loan.

Residential Solar Energy and EE Projects – a Homewise program for replacing the residential PACE. They have a 4% loan, with terms anywhere from 5 to 30 years, and no down payment program for both energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Mr. Craig said there is planning at the county level to link arms with Homewise and establish a formal arrangement to co-market for energy efficiency, renewables and rooftop solar. It does not cover everybody, but covers a good demographic. The money can be borrowed and when the money comes back from the federal government, Homewise will adjust the loan with no points and no fees. The payment can be reduced or the money used elsewhere. The program starts paying for itself from month one.

Grant Driven Projects – Unfortunately, the grants deadline is next week and word came too late to line up projects. Other entities in Santa Fe County are pursuing projects. Any business in the unincorporated county with revenues of \$6 million or less qualify. This is done every year, and it is expected that Staff will be in a better position to take advantage of it next year.

Staff is considering a commercial energy audit program up to \$100,000 for the county. The downside is that the business has to contribute 25%. Staff is skeptical about a business in this economic climate coming up with that kind of money for just a report.

Mr. Craig asked the ETF members to keep Staff informed of funding opportunities for how to get solar deployed at the local government level, such as the DOE solar challenge. Mr. Schiavo suggested the city and county could partner.

In response to Mr. Calvert, Staff explained that Google News can be set up to look for funding opportunities. DOE and EPA send out aggregated energy efficiency, renewable energy information.

Mr. Grissom suggested reaching out to the pueblos for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and encouraged that they be included on mass communication to electrical contractors or to business entities.

Other regional jurisdiction issues were discussed.

Land Use, Zoning and Building Codes – the county is in the process of adopting and developing its Sustainable Land Development Code, which is the direct outgrowth of the Sustainable Growth Management Plan. The county is playing a role in making sure that energy efficiency and renewable energy gets plugged in wherever it makes sense. Included in this is the possibility of having the county adopt the city's green building code.

In general on the commercial/residential side, Staff will work in all of Santa Fe County, which includes the incorporated City of Santa Fe, where most restaurants are, for the Quick Saver program. There is a suggestion to co-brand with a city/county label and do the work collectively.

Mr. Schiavo agreed there should be no borders when looking at these programs and noted that the ruling from City Procurement is that all of Santa Fe County is local for considering contractors.

Mr. Schiavo reported that the PV system at transit was approved. He added that he will continue to attend the ETF meetings.

- **Continued Discussion on Strategic Plan**

Mr. Calvert said that while everyone wants to focus on action items and doing things, he still would like to use the strategic plan as a simultaneous effort to pull together background information. It is good to have it for justification and to keep it updated, because the regulatory climate is always changing. It can be used as a reference.

Mr. Schiavo will put the strategic plan on Google docs.

Mr. Craig reported that the city of Boulder is going through an exercise to buy their utility from the Public Service Company of Colorado. In order to look at the economics and do a thorough and defensible job, Boulder is spending \$800,000 on a consultant to produce a quality substantive defensible document that will include assumptions and methodology. He said this is a demanding discipline that requires years of experience and familiarity in econometrics of electric utilities.

There was a discussion about the PNM solar program and it was suggested that the members contact PRC Commissioner Block and tell him it is important to job creation and economic development.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

There were no Action Items.

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

There were no further matters discussed.

**DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT ETF MEETING**

Suggestions for the agenda for the next meeting:

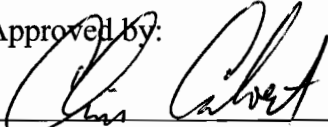
- Continued discussion on the strategic plan
- Review of the resolution
- Outreach to local businesses
- Homewise
- Progress, follow up, updates

The next meeting of the ETF is scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 2011. Mr. Craig will develop the agenda and work with the members to be sure there will be a quorum.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the ETF, this Regular Meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:45 PM.

Approved by:

  
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Chair, RPA Energy Task Force  
Chris Calvert, Santa Fe City Councilor

*Drafted by Kay Carlson*

SFC CLERK RECORDED 09/07/2011