

TOMPKINS COUNTY ENERGY TASK FORCE

Friday, Dec. 6, 2018

TCPL (Borg Warner Room East) 101 E. Green Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

Final Minutes

Attendance

Member		Member		Member	
Sharon Anderson	P	Bob Howarth	P	Staff	
Martha Armstrong	P	Tim Mount	P	Katie Borgella	P
Cliff Babson	E	Martha Robertson	P	Andrea Aguirre	P
Fernando de Aragón	E	Brice Smith	E	Kristin McCarthy	P
Brian Eden	P	Jennifer Tavares	P		
Todd Fox	P	Irene Weiser	P		
Nick Goldsmith	E	Gordon Woodcock	P		
Curt Gooch	A	Sarah Zemanick	E		

Guests – Terry Carroll, Joe Wilson

Welcome– Chair Sharon Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Comments from the Public: Round 1 – None

Agenda Review/Changes – The presentations on carbon pricing and methane accounting were moved to earlier in the agenda for scheduling reasons.

Anne Reynolds – Clean Energy Alliance

Katie Borgella introduced the first presenter, Anne Reynolds, from Clean Energy Alliance. The ETF Policy Committee invited Anne to speak on the New York State Independent System Operator (NYISO) proposal for carbon pricing in the wholesale electricity market. She joined the meeting via Zoom, as did Charlie Kruzansky, associate vice president for government relations at Cornell's office in Albany. NYISO is releasing the proposal Dec. 7th, and the Integrating Public Policy Task Force is hosting a discussion on Dec. 17th, which will be accessible via webex. The public comment period opens Dec. 7th as well. Points of discussion included how this proposal would complement and/or differ from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; that methane emissions are missing from the calculations; and that it is important to consider the redistribution of revenue from carbon pricing in terms of equity and social justice.

Accounting for Methane in GHG Inventories and Assessments – Bob Howarth

ETF member Bob Howarth spoke to the group on the need for dual accounting to show the impact of methane in the near-term in order to reach the COP21 Paris accord target of keeping global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius. The current system for measuring greenhouse gas emissions is based on a 100-year Global Warming Potential with outdated IPCC data from 1996. It does not factor in that the damage from methane is intense but short-lived, with molecules remaining in the atmosphere for only a decade or so. After a period of stability (1996-2007), methane emissions have been increasing again since 2008. Bob's research findings with his colleagues indicate that increase could be tied primarily to shale gas and shale oil development in the United States and not animal agriculture. Bob requested that the County explicitly endorse dual accounting for methane in calculating greenhouse gas emissions. His presentation can be found on the ETF webpage.

Action: Martha Robertson moved, and Irene Weiser seconded, that the ETF Policy Committee work to develop action ideas related to carbon pricing and dual accounting for methane that feasibly could

translate into policy decisions. The committee is tasked with bringing those recommendations to the entire task force for discussion. Motion carried.

Approval of October 19, 2018 minutes

Action: Martha Robertson moved approval of the minutes. Bob Howarth seconded. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee (*form for officer slate in January*)

In lieu of creating a Nominating Committee, ETF members decided to ask Sharon Anderson and Fernando de Aragón to continue as chair and vice chair in 2019. A formal vote will be taken at the January meeting, with the opportunity for additional nominations from the floor.

Monthly Meeting Length – Sharon Anderson

Members will block out two hours on their calendars for monthly ETF meetings, but in general the group will aim to meet for 90 minutes and the agenda will reflect that schedule.

Energy Strategy Update – Katie Borgella

The Dept of Planning and Sustainability has selected the Cadmus Group consulting firm to support staff in updating the Energy Strategy. The department hopes to bring the Energy Strategy to the Legislature in the Fall 2019. Brian commented that Cadmus has considerable experience with heat pump campaigns.

Business Energy Advisors – Andrea Aguirre

After a quick introduction by Katie, Andrea Aguirre updated the group on the progress of the Business Energy Advisors program. The program assists local businesses in setting energy goals and understanding energy options during the earliest stages of project design and conceptualization (new construction/major renovations/expansions). The program takes client confidentiality seriously and safeguards private business information. It is a seven-step process. So far, Andrea has had 14 program inquires, 9 introductory meetings, 7 Energy Options reports, 3 energy charrettes, and 1 goals follow-up meeting. Taitem Engineering and C.J. Brown Energy, PE, provide consulting services. ETF members should forward possible candidates to Andrea. Her presentation is available on the ETF webpage.

Member Announcements

Due to time constraints, this item was removed from the agenda. Members should email any announcements they'd like to share with the task force to Kristin for distribution.

Comments from the Public: Round 2 – Joe Wilson inquired if there are building size restrictions for projects taken on by the Business Energy Advisors program. Andrea explained there are not, but the dollar amount of consulting services available is tied to building size.

Adjournment – Ms. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 11:02 am.