

**Energy Futures Task Force 2/01/17 – recorded by Elise Woodward, Clerk
Minutes Approved: 3/27/17**

Attending: Pam Hill, Chair, John Dalton, Brian Foulds, Wally Johnston, Elise Woodward
The meeting was called to order at 6:30 am.

The purpose for the meeting was pre-planning for the presentation of the draft report to the Public.

The public meeting will be recorded by CCTV.

Alice Kaufman has agreed to submit her notes as record of the public meeting comments attached below.

The meeting adjourned to the public meeting at 7:00.

Energy Futures Task Force Public Meeting

Draft report presentation

2/1/17

7:00 PM Town House

The meeting is being televised

Members:

Pam Hill, Chair

Brian Foulds

John Dalton

Elise Woodward

Dan Gainsboro (absent)

Wally Johnston

Pam: Welcome with background to the charge for developing a framework for a low carbon future with short and long term goals

Cards for written comments available

Comment period closes 5:00 PM February 8

Each member of the EFTF presented a section of the report. Highlights are below but the full report is available on the EFTF website. <http://concordma.gov/1098/Energy-Future-Task-Force>

Pam Hill:

Reviewed PP presentation (attach presentation)

1. International commitments from Paris Compact and the MA Global Warming Solutions Act
3. Bold approaches and actions
4. Concord should contribute to a clean energy economy
5. Commitment to Concord's Sustainability Principles

Goals:

25% reduction in GHG by 2020 baseline 2008

80% reduction in GHG by 2050 baseline 2008

Recommendations:

Town drafts policy statement that GHG reduction

Hire both a consultant and an Energy Director to develop and manage a tactical plan

Appoint an advisory group to the Town Manager for implementation

Brian Foulds: Measurement

Commended CSEC for their data gathering and analysis

Gave an overview of GHG measurement acknowledging that Concord CO2 emissions are declining, but that further reductions are required

Ongoing measurement will require citizen commitment.

Data management and analysis will require an effort from Concord staff, and the recommended Director of Energy

Suggested that the town establish a town wide database for tracking Concord's carbon footprint and maintain this as we work toward the state GWSA goal of an 80% reduction in GHG by 2050.

John Dalton: CMLP

One of 41 MA communities with a muni power plant that has a successful track record of meeting customer needs at an affordable rate

Electric utilities offer close relationships with customers that is a valuable asset when customers are making consumer choices

CMLP purchases power and is responsible for 31% of the town's total GHG,. Important to a low carbon commitment is recognizing that energy efficiency is the first fuel with no GHG emissions
John detailed the following recommendations:

Recommendation: CMLP should engage in energy efficiency programs to break down barriers to customer choice

Recommendation: Develop a comprehensive set of cost-effective energy efficiency incentives comparable to those offered by the IOUs

Recommendation: Purchase renewable energy and retire the RECs, with an outcome similar to the regulated IOUs

Recommendation: By 2030 CMLP should be 100% non-carbon emissions sources Cost estimates range from 20% - 30% increase in rates. Concord rates are about 25% below those of the IOUs

Recommendation: Smart meter installation townwide

Recommendation: Consider time-of-use rate structure

Recommendation: De-couple rates

Recommendation: Consider DER and onsite storage

Recommendation: Encourage customers to switch from fossil fuels

Elise Woodward: Best Practices

Acknowledged the responsibility of the Town to plan for a resilient and sustainable future, recalling that in 2011, the Concord Select Board adopted four sustainability principles to serve as a filter for decision-making by town officials.

She described Concord as a "system" that supports all of the people who live within its boundaries as well as the natural and physical environment. A systems approach is required to achieve the goals of the committee.

Wally: Public Outreach (presented by Elise Woodward)

Importance of public involvement has been critical throughout this process

Citizen survey (120+ respondents) and comments to the EFTF brought many views

Stakeholder interviews – CMLP, Senior Management Team and others

Pam Hill: CMLP is key to a successful transfer to a low carbon economy.

Users shift away from fossil fuels to electricity and CMLP purchase green power

Send Comments to energyfutures@concordma.gov

Public Comment:

Sue Seabury. Question about whether the committee can project of cost hikes for renewable energy

A: John Dalton – Renewable supplies offer long term price stability after an initial investment in the fuel source.

Lori Gill Pizaris: Concern that report misses discussion on soils for carbon capture. Lawn care ought to be factored into GHG emissions in Concord and deserves attention not provided in report.

Arthur Walker: What is the relation between other Concord entities and the EFTF? Specifically he mentioned Rt 2, MBTA, DOC facilities, MMNP. Ms. Woodward offered that the town has little authority over these entities but the Town seeks to influence their behavior when feasible. Pam emphasized the role of Energy Director would be to build important relationships with these and other stakeholders.

Peggy Briggs CMLP board: Pleased with Dan Gainsboro's participation on EFTF and acknowledged that has kept CMLP up to date on discussions. CMLP's current policy is to maximize low carbon supplies, (currently at 21%). She emphasized the number of programs CMLP led include Concord's solar challenge, energy efficiency programs, Green Your Heat, and a heat pump incentive. She said that rate setting is key driver of CMLP strategy. She suggested, however, that there may be room to expand renewable program to bring rates closer in line with those of IOUs.

Ms. Briggs speaking for herself: Praised the committee's work and the fantastic report and expects that 99% will likely be supported by CMLP. The bold step that moves beyond the key goals to decarbonize 100% by 2030 is a hurdle. Director of CMLP is concerned of having a goal that he cannot meet. Strategic planning is underway that would provide financial modeling and cost projections under various scenarios. Phased approach to implementation would be favored. Ms. Briggs mentioned that the EFTF report of survey results found that 26% of respondents do not support rate increases greater than 15%. That is important to factor in to the affordability of 100% renewables by 2030.

Ms. Briggs suggests that the SB accept the report but should keep it open until the strategic planning process is concluded.

Ms Briggs concluded that she is proud to be part of a forward thinking community and would like to see the goals to reduce carbon footprint in a manageable, thoughtful manner.

Lindsay Kafka: Thanks EFTF for continued commitment. GWSA may be enforceable on the state entities in Concord, referring to the comments made by Mr. Walker. Ms. Kafka also opined that leadership on local level is critical. On the issue of rates, she offered that climate change is an urgent concern and we may have to accept a one time rate hike both on the short term for the long term benefits to society.

Garret Whitney: Thank you to the board for their work. He said that the consequences of not paying more for the societal benefits are too great. He accepts the rate increase although he expressed concern with time-of-use rate structure. Many Concordians are indifferent to price signals. Questions whether 100% renewable is superfluous? Is there a framework to look at the cost across the town to implement these goals.

Ms Hill responded that this task force is 'setting the table' for future work.

Mike Jacobs: Thanks you and shared that the Union of Concerned Scientists has valuable information regarding time-of-use structure should Concord want to continue this research.

Charlie Parker: Thank you to the board for its work. Mr. Parker offered many comments including: 80% GHG reductions by 2050 is bedrock goal. Second goal of 20% reduction by 2020 should be pushed to 2030 or 2035, and coupled with renewable sources. Suggested dropping second goal altogether. On sectors, there has been a bias on residential sector. 51% of Concord's GHG comes from commercial sector. Town should develop strong partnerships with commercial/industrial customers. Town department to focus on are Planning, CMLP as they are key in an implementation strategy. Cost projections are estimates and not worth getting hung up on now. Renewable energy side of equation must be long term contracts for renewable sources. RECs are a great fallback but the right objective is for new long term contracts. Suggests grandfathering our current supplies from REC retirement. As contracts expire procure renewables and retire the RECs. More homework needs to be done at other potential solar in Concord including storage, sell excess to ISO, and encourage private distributed sources. PB would be helpful in having competitive rebates as incentives for energy efficiency, or new building and zoning code opportunities ought to be reviewed to meet these goals.

Rebecca Woodward, Mothers Out Front: Thank you for putting so much into this. Overwhelming scientific evidence tells us that we have to act now on decarbonizing Concord's economy. Our grandchildren will bear the brunt if we do not accept the cost of their future. These are investments, not costs.

Ms Hill responded: The Paris agreement is explicit about future generations, the imperative, seriousness of the problem have been included in the report. The Paris report addresses leadership and responsibility. Next step is to present to SB and present report.

Gordon Brockway: Speaking for himself not CMLP. Thank you for important report. Mr Brockway offered a number of considerations: CMLP has a responsibility to ratepayers and CMLP would bring rate questions to Town Meeting. High rates can have impacts on rental and lease costs, or even drive businesses from town. Stated concern that retiring RECs is an expensive proposition and someone should look at whether that is the best strategy for the use of monies to achieve outcomes. Is an investment in energy efficiency a better investment than the retiring of RECs. The RECs provide capital to long term assets. Ms Woodward reminded that the recommendations are a strategic framework and not prescriptive. The EFTF is limited in its charge for full analysis of options, or tactical approaches to meeting the goals. Mr Dalton commented that many Concordians are 'free riders' from the investments of the IOUs for the air quality benefits and a lower carbon sourcing. Mr. Foulds said that the state rules define the positive environmental benefits of owning RECs.

Brian Chatlosh: (from submitted statement) I'm speaking in favor of the EFTF recommendations. I've spent 35 years in the wholesale power supply industry working with fossil fuels and renewables. Power supply once was a pretty dull industry. But today it is very exciting to see what's occurring in the power industry as it moves toward de-carbonization of power supply. The pace of the change is rapid and it is being led by grassroots actions at the community level such as this.

To date, Concord has not asked CMLP to do as much on carbon reduction as what the state of Massachusetts has required by law of the investor-owned utilities. Following the EFTF

recommendations would allow CMLP to step up and voluntarily meet or exceed those requirements.

The EFTF is correct in recommending that the greatest carbon reduction can be accomplished by expanding renewable energy production, managing our power demand better and by electrifying more heating and transportation.

We should follow examples from communities across the country of carbon reduction policies that spur investment in local infrastructure, create jobs and have proven to be cost effective for ratepayers. There are many success stories that demonstrate significant carbon reduction is achievable.

Power supply used to be a dull industry but it is not the case now. Grassroots action is encouraging the shifts in supplies. CMLP can do more to step up. Carbon reduction strategies can, in fact, be better economically.

Charlie Parker: Explained what he meant by the term grandfathering 'leave them alone'. Going forward, purchase and retire RECs. We should be talking more about renewables not RECs at town meeting as it is too complicated.

EFTF thanks the audience for participation.

Ends 8:30