

Ocean Energy Task Force
Subcommittee #4 Economic Development & New Technologies
Thursday, April 2, 2009, 2-4pm

Subcommittee members present: Tim Agnew (chair), Cathy Renault, and by phone Parker Hadlock, Leslie Harroun. (Habib Dagher and George Hart not present). OETF chairs Don Perkins and Beth Nagusky. Interested parties: Jake Ward (UMO), Chris Sauer (ORPC), Tom Fetterly (Blue H), Diane Messner (Midcoast Green Economy), Ernie Hilton, Dean Girdis.

Meeting Minutes

I. SET AGENDA FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTION OF THE APRIL 14 MEETING OF THE FULL TASK FORCE

A. Focus on Jobs

- Chair Tim Agnew underscored the need to determine where the jobs are; how the jobs will be filled in order to address workforce issues.
- Parker Hadlock suggested developing a workforce timeline focused on how reaching the goal of 5 GW can be translated into the jobs needed now as well as in the future and help set the priority for training.
- Cathy Renault suggested inviting John Dorrer (MDOL) to anchor his comments around how do companies in Maine grow into position for ocean energy related manufacturing with current workforce and how to recruit companies into Maine to cover additional needs.
- Chris Sauer offered workforce data relating to his recent project in Eastport. In addition to the numbers and types of jobs (marine services, manufacturing) created, his report will include 5 year projection to meet the 100 MG goal for electricity produced in and out of the state.

B. Consider Demand-side

- Jake Ward suggested that a better definition of the problem would be helpful. It could include a better understanding of the challenges to getting consumers to switch their energy sources from oil to alternative sources and set the groundwork for upcoming meetings.
- Beth Nagusky linked the potential of off-shore energy coming in at a higher price with being prepared to quantify the “exchange” for job creation. She also acknowledged the overlap with the OETF Transmission Subcommittee as it relates to defining when the demand starts driving the need for new systems.
- Don Perkins reminded the subcommittee that the April 14 agenda should build toward the ultimately completing the report with recommendations: to legislature on economic strategies to reinforce; and how to create the competitiveness of the ocean energy industry with other states and other countries.

C. Review incentives to developing ocean wind power

- Tim suggested that George Hart speak on the Rhode Island program that is tied to a revenue generating formula. Rhode Island is forming its own state power authority that among other duties will have bonding capacity. Hart can also speak on how the state can influence the feds to extend investment tax credits for wind projects to include eligibility for the supply chain as well as developers.
- Jake identified the need for the following incentives: for those companies that generate power; for those companies that can manufacturing equipment to generate power; for those transmission companies interested in investing; and for consumers to switch to alternative energy sources.
- Rita Heimes' project and Cathy's state incentive comparison will be considered when determining how incentives of on-shore wind project apply to water projects.

ACTION: Cathy invites John Dorrer, Parker forwards his diagram, Cathy invites Betsy Biemann from MTI to review awards to renewable energy projects as a base line of what is happening in Maine.

II. OPEN SESSION

Diane Messner asked how “new technologies” will fit into the subcommittee’s work. She specifically cited the Flow Design (Kliner Perkins investment, CA) as an example of a technology to consider. Cathy said that the role of state is not to identify which system or product will work but rather reduce the barriers of innovation getting to the marketplace.

Beth Nagusky asked how Maine should get in front of this manufacturing trend. Jake discussed two proposals that the UMO is collaborating on to development new technologies and to receive funding to building the manufacturing cluster so that it is prepared to transition and expand.

Jake said a smart grid working group is being lead by Calvin Luther and will consider how the DOE stimulus money can be utilized in this effort.

Tom Fetterly asked what companies currently make towers or blades. Members of the subcommittee identified BIW, Cianbro, US Windblade, Harbor Technology. And, Tom suggested a “state of the state” as it relates to the fledgling industry in Maine would be helpful. Who is in this business? Who is doing what?