

Meeting Minutes

OETF Subcommittee 4: Economic Development and Promotion of New Technologies

May 21, 2009

Subcommittee Members: Tim Agnew, Chair; Parker Hadlock; George Hart; Cathy Renault; Senator Kevin Raye (absent); Habib Dagher (absent); Leslie Harroun (absent)

Interested parties: Rita Heimes, Jeff Thaler, Bill Franks, Jim Page, Des Fitzgerald, Diane Messner, Sibyl Masquelier

Special guests: John Henshaw, Maine Port Authority; John Richardson, Department of Economic and Community Development

I. Introduction and review of agenda – Tim Agnew, Chair

II. Role of Maine Port Authority, John Henshaw (comments attached)

- A. Henshaw discussed the different ports and their role with importing wind-related materials: Searsport, Eastport, Portland.
- B. Presque Isle is becoming a pivotal point of access by rail.
- C. Henshaw's recommendations were to reserve land for landbanking, develop industry-lead initiatives, and amend tax laws.
- D. Other discussion included:
 - 1. Renault inquired about the status of a consortium that has met and questioned the intent and potential for redundancy. Henshaw explained representatives from small companies have met to explore transportation issues and is modeling their efforts after entities that already exist in other states. Hadlock mentioned a coordinated effort is needed so that there are not gaps in scope.
 - 2. The industry-lead ocean energy cluster (formed through the MTI cluster enhancement grant) can be the catalyst for gradual funding and sustainability.
 - 3. There was discussion around starting a Maine chapter of American Wind Energy Association and possibly broadening the definition beyond ocean energy to reflect a more cohesive effort. The Ocean Energy Cluster (coordinated by E2Tech) will hold a meeting June 23, from 8am-noon at Pine Tree Arboretum, Augusta) and these suggestions can be revisited after that.
 - 4. Additional information requested: a) Which Port is expected to experience the most industry development (MPA); b) What is the inventory of projects on the ground as April 1; c) What is the impact and options of the Foreign Trade Zone on the three Ports?

III. Updates from George Hart (Chicago) and Commissioner John Richardson (Nova Scotia)

E. George Hart, American Wind Energy Association Conference, Chicago

1. The international financial distress is far reaching. The Administration has had to limit money allocated for renewable energy standards. Large corporations are stepping back from off-shore renewable energy.
2. Hart met with representatives from the Norwegian-based StatoilHydro about their interest in developing a ten platform pilot plant in the Gulf of Maine. Understandably co-investors are important to StatoilHydro.
3. Efforts are being made to arrange for a teleconference introduction to BIW and Cianbro
4. Iberdrola Renewables of Madrid is now the owner of Central Maine Power. They could be a co-investor that would make StatoilHydro more comfortable in proceeding.
5. Hart suggested that airports might be useful for importing components to manufacture turbines and can be a part of a rapid delivery system. Maine's delegation should get in front of the Sec. of Energy to underscore this asset.
6. Hart emphasized that UMO can become a national leader in deepwater wind because there is no substitution for actual wind measuring by manless buoys with upward looking sonar instead of erecting an expensive tower.

F. John Richardson, Ocean Renewable Energy Group, Halifax, NS

1. The conference was attended by 4 of the 5 top energy developers in the world. There is a race between Canada and Quebec and the Midwest to develop technologies.
2. Maine must move faster than the projected 10 years to get in the water in order to reinforce the state's asset connection between tidal and ocean energy.
3. NS shares Maine's high energy costs. Coal fire plants in the northern region of the province provides 80% of their energy; whereas, most of the wind and tidal potential exists near population centers in the southern region.
4. NS enforces penalties for standards or regulations violated. The Fundy Tidal Institute issued an RFP - not designed to have a predetermined emphasis – to create new zones to test three projects during the course of 2 years (with potential 2 year extension). The proposals are funded from the government (\$5m), Eco-Trust (\$3m), and an alliance between universities.
5. Richardson's recommendations and observations include: a) Maine become a OREG member; b) address the transmission challenge; c) focus on the coercive effect of metal in the water as an opportunity for Maine's composite industry; d) NA is ahead in tidal energy development and Maine is ahead in off-shore energy.

IV. Review of Final report outline and Discussion of Economic development content

G. Hadlock suggested determining what the equation is to meet the targeted goal of renewable energy and be able to articulate the "case" to a wide audience (net jobs created and economic impact).

H. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.