

VSPC Public Participation Subcommittee Meeting  
April 14, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The Subcommittee met at 1:00 p.m. at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. Potential new VSPC public members were invited to join the subcommittee at the meeting and for lunch and informal discussion prior to the meeting.

Attendees

In person: Jenny Cole, Deena Frankel, Dotty Schnure, Mary Sullivan. Guest: Jesse Stowell

By phone: Steve Costello, Molly Hooker Hatfield

AGENDA

- Review of website redesign
- Discussion of draft VSPC op-ed newspaper article/column
- Further brainstorming about recruitment of public participants
- Initial discussion on public outreach for the next long-range plan

Molly will no longer be able to serve on the Public Participation Subcommittee. She is looking for another representative from VEIC/Efficiency Vermont.

Review of website redesign

Deena introduced the new web site. Committee members offered comments and suggestions—reconfiguration of the home page and the addition of other transmission topics of interest.

Social media was discussed as a possible option for public outreach. Burlington Electric has a page on facebook.

Discussion of draft VSPC op-ed newspaper article/column

Two draft op-ed articles were reviewed—one for VSPC recruitment and the other about forecasting. Several suggestions were made. It was acknowledged that it is important that the message of the articles be clear so the information is not misinterpreted. The group decided that articles generated by the subcommittee should be circulated to the full VSPC for approval prior to publication. The two drafts will be revised for the June VSPC meeting.

Further brainstorming about recruitment of public participants

Three people responded to the invitation to this meeting. Jenny will contact Bob Walker to see if he has further suggestions on VSPC member recruitment from energy

committees. Subcommittee members suggested upcoming conferences for further recruitment and public outreach.

Initial discussion on public outreach for the next long-range plan

There is discussion at VELCO about ways to make the long-range planning process more nimble to keep pace with the most up-to-date forecasts, with the regional planning process, and with economic transmission proposals. Among the ideas being considered is a more frequent, less formal updating. As these ideas evolve, VELCO will reach out to the VSPC and other stakeholders for an inclusive conversation.