

7/10/15

VSPC Public Participation Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

VEIC, Suntek Conference Room (9:30-Noon)

Attendees: Dotty Schnure (GMP), Tom Buckley (BED), Mike Kanarick (BED), Johanna Miller (VNRC), Kelly Lucci (EVT), Ed Delhagan (PSD), Andrea Cohen (VEC), Deena Frankel (VELCO), Shana Louiselle (VELCO).

Welcome

- Deena Frankel provided an overview of the VSPC structure and the charges of the subcommittees.
- Johanna Miller will present at July VSPC quarterly meeting to discuss VSPC's public engagement efforts and how the public participation subcommittee can communicate more effectively about the transmission role. This meeting includes helping her determine what to address in that presentation.

Lesson Learned

- Ed Delhagan provided an overview of the Public Service Department's 2015 Comprehensive Energy Plan public engagement.

Phase 1—Gather formative input through outreach workshops (stakeholder groups/general public) and in writing

Phase 2—Digest input and develop draft plan

Phase 3—Conduct public meetings to obtain input on draft; finalize and file (January 2016)

- Johanna Miller reported that VECAN is helping organize the series of public meetings that will inform the draft (Phase 1) and seek public input on state energy priorities concerning:
 - Energy efficiency
 - Land use and transportation
 - Generation and power supply
 - Public education and engagement

The public wants more education and outreach but it is difficult to identify specifics.

- Andrea Cohen offered the suggestion of noon-time webinars as a convenient alternative for people who cannot attend public forums in person.

EAN Meeting

- Improving communications concerning energy issues and state's goal of 90X50.
- Message consistency—subset of messages need to be consistently communicated. Multiple groups have overlapping communications-related interests. Greater clarity is needed to locate the overlap, collaborate effectively and deliver more consistent messaging.
- Shared objectives

1. Consumer behavior change is necessary to achieve policy objectives (e.g., 90% renewables by 2050)
 2. Public understanding is needed for support of policy objectives (e.g., energy efficiency investments)
- How can the VSPC website help facilitate communication?
 - How can we weave that together with other organizations' and agencies' public engagement work?

VECAN

- Johanna Miller provided an overview of VECAN—informal network for local energy committees. Membership and partnership is growing. VNRC serves as a platform for programs and helps shape state policies on CEP. VNRC wants to strengthen their work.
- December 5—annual conference at Lake Morey
 - Placeholder at conference for VSPC related discussion
 - Johanna will attend July VSPC meeting to give an overview of VECAN and conference
- Regional meetings with energy committees

Social Media

- The group discussed the potential to provide VSPC-related content to VSPC participants for use on social media. Staff will look for opportunities.

Next Steps

- Next Public Participation meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, September 25 at 9:30am at VEIC. (This meeting is being rescheduled.)