

Jan. 11, 2017 Alaska Wind Energy Task Group MINUTES

9:30-11:00AM

ACS BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Anchorage, AK 99501

9:35AM Introductions

Ben Smith, AVTEC

Daisy Huang, ACEP

Givey Kochanowski, DOE Office of Indian Affairs

Tom Wolf, Denali Commission

Eric Hanssen, ANTHC

Natalie Hanson, Nuvista

Bailey Gamble, ANTHC

Jessie Huff, USDA

Chris Rose, REAP

Josh Craft, AEA

Stephanie Nowers, KIS Consulting

1. Discussion of Composition & Goals

- Help identify funding options that might not otherwise be there
- Provide Technical support as needed
- Pool the resources of the group

Discussion of how to prioritize funding,

Should the group have subject areas that are priorities such as Help Identify Projects, Capacity Building & Training, Looking at New Technologies, etc. Should we focus on optimizing existing projects vs. helping get new projects going?

Chris: One option is really get existing projects working, then double back to look for new project financing. Unless a community already has funding to go forward for a project

USDA could help – Jessie said almost every utility in Alaska is available for USDA's REAP program. DOE can offer technical assistance, almost every community in Alaska would qualify.

USDA: For tribal entities that needed to optimize their system,

DOE could help with technical assistance to provide paperwork that USDA needs to give grants under REAP program. REAP grant program: Up to 25% grant, can also get a loan guarantee for 50% of project. Only have to come up with 25% match of non-federal money.

GIVEY said DOE has a project management guide. Noted that wind is far more technical than biomass projects, and that really good to capture in our priorities to go where the good wind resource is.

Givey: Need to Address in pre-feasibility and feasibility studies what is best way forward for energy solutions for the community - may not be just wind. Need to look at the whole picture

Jessie: Should have priorities for this group: Optimize existing systems, yes. But I wouldn't turn away new projects.

Givey: Should be hard edged about new projects whether they really make sense. Give them straight answer. Be realistic lot of communities are not able to pay back.

Josh: Are there general goals besides optimizing or putting in new systems? Is forecasting or labor force development a priority, for example?

Chris: Would like to see ways to encourage more labor workforce development for wind. AVTEC struggled because such small part of their program. REAP is hiring a workforce coordinator.

Givey: Noted hard for standalone communities to do wind. TDX is an example of outlier. Most are bigger like AVEC. Like to see as a goal finding ways to make this work for small communities. What technology is suitable for these small communities.

JOSH: Could this group do a technology assessment. For example, does Lithium Ion make sense. What size should your community be before you have an EWT turbine?

2. Funding Options

CAPITAL FUNDING

Josh: May be some capital funding coming available for project development. Hope to know with more clarity in next month. This is funding AEA already has, but is deciding where to put it. Could go for wind, could go for somewhere else. Some talk initially that AEA would use for MET tower. Josh encouraging a wider scope, project development, optimization, etc.

Discussion on how to prioritize projects

Eric: Noted that AEA/DOE has list of potentials. Can use that to make sure projects keep staying in pipeline.

Noted that AVEC got \$1 million for St. Marys/Pitkas Point partnered with local 3 tribes. DOE funding for the tower.

Josh: could provide list of 20 projects and general recommendations to this group.

Ben Smith: Whole lot of history with power plant program. Could pull from history for possible projects

NUVISTA FUNDING

Natalie Johnson: Nuvista has old hydro grant project funds of up to \$5 million that are good through 2020. Did a regional energy plan that was finished summer in 2016. Scoped a plan for regional wind energy and intertie.

Nuvista looking for technical and project development assistance to use the money most effectively. Question for the group is whether AEA should use time to help Nuvista do technical and project development assistance on regional basis.

Josh: Possible Ideas -- We know wind map needs to be updated. Off by 2 or 3 wind classes. Could do a couple hundred thousands dollars of met tower studies. Could use smaller and bigger towers. Could look at single communities, but also combination of communities. Pull together studies of different communities. AEA would be coordinator then bidding it out to the private sector to do research.

Chris: Don't want to see bunch of prefeasibility studies without ability to actually have some funding for a project.

Josh: Would do a MOU or some type of contract. Interest in wind is driving this but would approach this from a community energy perspective.

Givey: Set aside some of this funding for energy efficiency.

Chris: how much to AEA v private sector

Josh: Collect data and look at possible projects based on that data. Also put up MET towers to collect data. Ultimate goal to leverage this money.

ACTION ITEM: Task group members were asked if AEA should work with Nuvista. Members did not object to AEA working with Nuvista on contract to use the \$5 million to focus on wind and energy development and to leverage the money.

Josh: Queried whether the group thinks this is a good idea in general to move forward with this kind of work.

Members noted other people are willing to do this work. AEA has info that can help these efforts like wind maps. See how it goes the first time and go from there.

4. Next meeting date and agenda items

Friday, Feb. 24