



Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

May 7, 2013 AGENDA

2:45 PM

Committee Members:

Cindy Kurpil Gieger, Chair, Cora Edwards, Vice-Chair, Jonathan Rouis, Alan Sorensen, Kitty Vetter

Call to Order

Attendance

Reports:

1. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart
2. Agricultural Planner Report/Ag Advisory Board Monthly Report- Jennifer Mall
3. Update – DPW
4. Agricultural Roundtable Update
5. Update Wind Project Funding

Presentation:

1. Marketing of Local Product/Branding

Discussion:

1. Role of SASD in Future Eco Development
2. Food Hub Possibilities
3. Possibility of Summer Bus Tours to Include Farmstock, Farm Markets – SCVA
4. Climate Action Plan

Resolutions: None

Public Comment

Adjourn

OSE Activities Report for May 2013

Reporting on April 2013 activities

I. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES

Pursued lighting evaluations with NYSEG/Enerpath for SC buildings.

- Now scheduled for 4/30/2013.
- NYSEG is now offering LED replacement lights for certain applications – Exterior lighting using metal halide lights are prime candidates for LED retrofit.

Reviewed HelioSage PV proposal for SCCC.

- Concern about siting of the system – over the well fields for the campus ground source heat pumps, which could cause problems for maintenance of the well fields in the future. A walkway from the classrooms to the ball field is blocked – are there remediation plans to correct this?
- HelioSage would be deriving large benefits in the form of Investment Tax Credits, accelerated depreciation formulas, and (possibly) direct payments through the NY Sun Initiative. They should be leasing the land from Sullivan County and offering the electricity at a lower cost per kWh and with no escalator.

Reviewed BQ proposal for PV at the landfill site.

- Concern about the potential for damaging the cover of the slope of the landfill during construction. Will they post a bond to cover any DEC penalties, damage remediation, etc.?
- Their price of \$.11/kWh is extremely high, and their offer of \$10,000 per annum is extremely low considering the large tax benefits that would be realized.

In addition, neither project specifies using panels made in New York State. This should be explored as a requirement – while it may increase the cost slightly, it could also increase production by 30% and help boost the NYS economy.

Liberty wind project

A follow up meeting was held on Tuesday, April 23 to discuss options for financing. Attending were Legislator Cindy Gieger, County Attorney Sam Yagur, Loren Pruskowski of SED, Chuck Leven of Forsyth Street Advisors (via conference call), Dick Riseling, Stephen Stuart and Carol Roig.

Mr. Yagur explained the legal constraints on a county legislature relative to Installment Purchase Agreements. The group agreed to explore the option of a third party entity to purchase and operate the facility in year 7, possibly a Local Development Corporation that would function as a non-profit power authority.

Prioritized List of Projects

OSE has prepared a table chart showing the high priority projects in a suggested sequence. The projects are: GC HVAC, Liberty wind project, GC atrium skylight, space symposium for the Liberty Health Complex, and a Feasibility Study for the Deep Energy Retrofit at the Liberty Health Complex.

Main Street Grants

Participated in scoping process for Division of Community Planning Main Street grants program with Ethan Cohen.

Also ongoing:

We continue to research options for standby electricity utilizing the existing PV arrays at Travis and Mobility Management Center, to help reduce peak demand at county facilities by utilizing the stored excess energy to reduce the peak demand loads of County operations.

Attended Northeast Biomass heating Conference, April 3-4.

Participated in first planning session for NESEA BE14 Conference.

II. SC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- Tuesday May 7 at 10:30AM, we will hold the next CAP workshop session. The topic will be all aspects of materials management, including waste management and opportunities to derive energy from waste. The meeting will be held in the OSE office
- Presented the Climate Action Pledge to Town of Thompson Town Board on April 2nd and met subsequently with Town Board members to discuss the Climate Smart Pledge and next steps for collection of data. Presented the town data surveys. We have received preliminary energy use data (documentation of electricity charges).
- Working with the Tusten Energy Committee on alternative strategies for LED street lighting. Recommended they join MEGA and the DOE Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Consortium to access information and possibly become a pilot project for LED street lighting.

IV. ENERGY EFFICIENCY “CONCEPT OF THE MONTH”

Walgreens net zero-energy retail store

Ag Planner Projects:

Dairy Processing RBEG: I delivered lease agreement language to equipment lessee for his review and approval.

Microenterprise Assistance Program: Continued administration of ag projects. As of April 24th we have submitted 13 draw requests, totaling over \$100,000, and we are currently processing two more requests.

Sullivan County Farmland Protection Planning Grant: Received corrected grant agreement from NYSDAM in Mid-April, submitted to County Attorney's Office for review. Continuing to refine request for qualifications, to solicit professional and technical services in support of the plan update.

Red Meat Processing Facility: Continuing to work on the transfer of RBOG from the Ag LDC to the IDA. Continued work on Ag LDC dissolution. Facilitating communication between IDA and Ag Advisory Board regarding the red meat facility.

NYS Agricultural Districts: During April I received approximately 175 phone calls in response to the Ag District 1 mailing. I have been responding to each call to help landowners understand the effects of being in the Ag District. I have also received hundreds of completed forms from landowners. I am working to gather information on inclusion and removal requests and set up site visits.

Sullivan-Wawarsing REAP Food Distribution Hub Project: Together with others in the Planning Office, the Department of Grants Administration, the Town Supervisors, SCVA and CCE, I have been assisting the IDA and HVADC in the development of a grant proposal to assist in the development of a local food aggregation and distribution facility. The first grant deadlines are May 1st for the USDA-RBEG and June 1st for the USDA-RBOG.

Recent Events & Happenings:

Ag Advisory Board: AAB had a regular meeting on April 1st to plan for the value added dairy processing roundtable scheduled for April 25th at CCE.

Emerald Ash Borer Training: Together with Kristin Porter of DPW, I organized a DEC training on emerald ash borer detection and planning, which was held on April 12th. Approximately 23 people attended.

CCE Program Committee: I attended the program committee orientation and training on April 17th. The committee met with staff to discuss CCE's history and mission, define the committee's role with regard to CCE's program areas and initiatives, and develop a meeting schedule for the upcoming year.

Upcoming Events:

CCE Dairy Lunch and Learn: I plan to attend this April 30th event at CCE to continue promoting the County's Dairy Processing RBEG project and hear from dairy farmers about their current work and goals.

Ag and Farmland Protection Board: Will meet on April 30th to develop recommendations regarding the Ag District 1 8 Year Review and Ag District 4 30 day window, and to discuss the draft request for qualifications that I have developed for the Farmland Protection Plan Update Grant.

Sullivan-Wawarsing REAP: The REAP Board will meet on May 1st for a regular quarterly meeting.