

# Environmental and Energy Stewardship Subcommittee

## Meeting Minutes - 9/16/2022

**Board Attendees:** Parker Sloane, Terri Wells, Meg Jamison, Lena Hansen, Maggie Ullman

**Staff:** Sybil Tate, Dane Pedersen, Rafael Baptista, Jennifer Harrison, Jeremiah LeRoy, Kristy Smith, Cassandra Lohmeyer, Max Taintor

- **Agenda and August Minutes Approved**
  - Terri Wells made the motion, approved unanimously
- **Public Comment**
  - No public were in attendance.
- **Solid Waste survey**
  - Dane and Max shared a presentation of the results of the Let's Talk Trash survey. Goal of the survey is to reduce traffic and determine if/how we should move forward with convenience centers.
    - Discussion about how to reduce traffic involved questions about cost.
      - Not interested in tax bill
    - Would there be additional bids if we went out to bid vs. renewal? Possibly
    - Would there be better negotiation if we went back out to bid? Possibly, but there is opportunity to renegotiate for renewal as well.
    - Discussion about quality of service. Focus on improving customer service
    - Majority of participants said that they would not want a convenience center
    - What is the cost of operating a convenience center? Review of existing county-owned land could reduce cost. Cost analysis is included in the study scope.
    - Potentially siting one convenience site and determine if we could fund via sticker sale
    - Looking at conducting 5 focus groups across the county – provide more complete financial question, ways to pay
    - Share specific questions with Commissioner Wells– over next 5 weeks- share two high level questions
- **Carbon Free Buildings**
  - Community buildings – difficult to do, we do not have control beyond the building code, could strategy be State legislation
  - New rebate program – earliest is 2023, tax rebates and point of sale rebates – State and IRS programs.
  - Programs would be like our efforts around solar
  - Wanting to raise awareness around new tax laws – education program- making the economic case for households
  - Waiting for DEQ to provide rebate program statewide, would be good to roll out; could iron something out to be part of comp plan
  - Is this a conversation for the lobbyists? What is the best timing?
  - Greenbank could be a priority- how do we get prepared with a list of projects? Contractor networks may not be able to handle the volume that will come from Green Bank; developing the pipeline in preparation for this

- Education to contractors
- Cost of implementation for retrofitting
- Is there an opportunity to work with a firm to identify the age of appliances in specific homes?
- Advertise the work that we are currently doing
- Raise public awareness about new opportunities
- Put more effort into educating the public on importance of decarbonization
- Opportunity to influence the RFP for managing the Blue Horizons group – can be more specific
- Provide an update from Greenbuilt- community update
- Subcommittee will discuss RFP details – Jeremiah to provide RFP and help organize outside subcommittee meeting
- Concerns about scope creep and the need to get things done
- **State ARPA project in Barndardsville**
  - Significant flooding issues in Dillingham Creek and Ivy Creek in Barndardsville
  - Years of issues and asking for help
  - Property owner has demolished one of his properties
  - Staff met to discuss/ Sen Edwards had reached out to Resource Institute to develop a proposal
  - Proposal was \$11M and it was reduced to \$9M
  - Proposal calls for buying out properties, realign the stream, put in a new bridge and clean out the culvert
  - State provided \$2.7M from ARPA for this project
  - How much will be NCDOT? How much can we accomplish with the \$2.7M?
  - S&W has submitted a grant for buyouts- \$1M requested
  - Slowing inching towards the \$9M goal
  - Resource Institute would champion the project, but work in concert with the county
  - Could be used as open space or passive recreation area
- **Project Updates**
  - Jeremiah LeRoy updated the committee on floating solar, solar on schools, electrification/battery storage, EV's and charging stations (received our first EV truck), and County Fire ARPA solar project (\$1M available).
  - IRA funds may help with the solar projects and provide tax rebate to the county. Timing may be an issue. 30% of the project costs could come back to us.
  - Could staff drive EV in the Xmas parade?
- **Motion to adjourn** - Terri Wells, approved unanimously