

RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKING GROUP BOARD MEETING
22 January 2014 (Teleconference @ 1:00 pm CST)

AGENDA

- I. **Roll Call** (Susan)
 - A. Kimberly Wells
 - B. Greg Forcey
 - C. Patrick Burke
 - D. Susan Rupp
 - E. Brian Boroski
 - F. Manuela Huso

- II. **Old Business**

- A. Action Item Updates (see list below from minutes)
 - 1. Meeting Minutes
 - a. 2013 annual meeting draft comments (Greg) –Will be approved/voted on at next annual meeting by membership. Will keep them on the website with Draft label for potential new members to see.
 - b. December minutes (Patrick/Greg/Susan) – Motion to approve made by Greg, Brian seconded. Objection to consent? None. Minutes approved as circulated and ready to post on website.
 - 2. 2014 Conference Planning (Patrick, Jerry) –3 proposals in front of us
 - a. **Shale proposal:** Discussion about whether it is within our governance structure because not renewable. One option is to not sponsor, but to help publicize so that there is not a potential endorsement issue. Brian moved to provide notification that we cannot sponsor, but that we provide support in information distribution. Greg seconded. No objection to consent. So moved. No further discussion.
 - b. **Climate Change Working Group co-Sponsor:** Climate change WG doesn't have enough information to support full symposium, so request to co-sponsor. Merits in the suggestion; often many of the issues we focus on as the Renewable Energy Working Group do not take into context climate change and they should. However, not enough time before next week to get proposal together. It was suggested that we wait and follow up with something for 2015. Do we need a vote? Didn't think we needed a formal vote.
 - c. **Wind Farm field trip:** Greg had been in contact with Brad Romano. They are in collaboration with others to give wind farm tours at a facility about 2 hours from Pittsburgh. They have done this several times, have charter buses, and have given tours up to 200 people at a time. Greg

mentioned the question of whether it should be a field trip or a workshop came up. He said in Brad's mind, he thought this was not quite at the level of a workshop but more along the lines of fun field trip, although he was open to branding it as a workshop. The way it is currently laid out, the day starts out in the morning with a trip to wind farm, walking around and getting idea of turbines and function. They have also given presentations with wildlife tilt. People have brought lunch in the past. If we charge a fee we might be able to provide drinks or sandwiches. There may also be time to walk around on their own. Two hour trip back to Pittsburgh. Do we want to do it? What about lunch? What sort of travel arrangements? These will depend on size of class.

Kim asked the group for thoughts.....Greg said he is biased, but thought it would be a good idea. Brian also thought it was a good idea. What may help attract attendance is to really focus on wildlife effects and how they are managing facility in that regard. Greg said that the timing will be good for hawk migration, so there may be birding opportunities as well. Greg asked about a workshop versus a field trip. Kim said it definitely is a field trip and doesn't fit a workshop. Kim asked if we support it. Brian said he was in favor of supporting it. When they did something similar in Hawaii they estimated attendance, which dictated size of charter bus. In Hawaii they had sponsorship for lunch and snacks. Greg likes idea of providing lunch and snacks and mentioned we could charge for it.

After discussion, Kim asked for motion to sponsor. Greg said he is inclined to get a better idea of sponsorship before we make financial contribution. Greg moved to proceed with proposal and provide some level of sponsorship to be determined later based on what we find out. Brian seconded. Any objection to consent? None voiced. So moved.

Kim asked Patrick to connect back up with Schoener (?) group and figure out what we need to do to submit by the January 29th deadline. Patrick redirected it to Greg. Greg asked about current bank account. Patrick said it is close to \$1200. Greg asked what we'd be willing to spend. A third? Half? What is safe? Kim said it will depend on number of people and cap for registration. Greg will follow up with TWS to see what they have done with field trips in the past and then will get back with Brad. Kim asked if Brad has used particular bus company in past? Greg did not know.

3. Changing of LinkedIn preference. Susan will assist with LinkedIn management so that it is moderated. Members need to request to participate.
4. The Wildlifer article (Brian, Kim) - Brian updated the group on the possible solar article and will develop an outline and abstract for group's review for Wildlifer. Solar good first choice because sector is often underserved.

5. Renewable Energy Impacts Matrix (Kim) –In a previous meeting, the Board discussed producing a high-level fact sheet to communicate relative impacts of various renewables in wildlife. Two examples (NYSERDA and Sweden article) were provided for discussion. Members mentioned it may be difficult to provide broad sweeping statements about impacts to wildlife that cover all aspects – especially if we are going across all technologies. We need a way to make things comparable. There was some discussion about whether we should have matrices that are sector specific. What is our objective and who is our audience? The original idea was that if something was raised at high level what kind of things might show up. It was not meant to be a meta-analysis table, but more of a high-level overview. It was mentioned that this could dovetail into our literature library on the website. The Board agreed that between now and next meeting we each pick a sector and just quickly sketch out impacts and what a high-level chart would look like for that sector.
- B. Other Officer/Committee Updates (open) - Manuela was tasked with potential for developing position statement for solar power and wildlife. She spoke with Laura Bies and she said they are currently revising how they are going about position statement. At this point if we submit they would not look at for a long time, so Laura suggested we hold off for 2 – 3 months until they get their side straightened out so we know how to proceed. Manuela will contact Laura again in first couple of weeks of March.

II. New Business (open) – None discussed

III. Action Item Summary/Wrap Up

- A. Patrick will follow up with Chad/Climate Change Working Group to see if we might consider a joint proposal for a symposium in 2015.
- B. Greg will follow up with Brad to determine costs associated with wind farm field trip and how TWS handles those trips
- C. Susan will follow up with Kim to assist her with the LinkedIn website/screening
- D. Brian will develop an outline and abstract on the solar article for group's review for Wildlifer.
- E. Between now and next meeting, Board members should each pick a sector and just quickly sketch out impacts and what a high-level chart would look like for that sector. Kim will ask what sectors everyone is doing and then focus on those in next call.
- F. Manuela will follow up with Laura Bies regarding position statement protocol in early March.
- G. Greg will combine the annual minutes from Patrick and Tim and resend them out to the board