

Renewable Energy Working Group – Annual Meeting

October 28, 2014, 7:30 – 9:30 AM

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at 7:39 AM by Chair-elect Greg Forcey

In attendance:

Officers: Greg Forcey, Brian Boroski

Members: Tim Green, Jim Ramaka, Mike Maier, approximately 15 others in attendance.

Sign-in sheet was passed around, but was not retrieved.

- I. Additions to the Agenda – none specifically added at the beginning of the meeting
- II. Goals of the Working Group – Greg provided an overview of the goals of the working group for new members. Goals include: Professional Development, networking opportunities, field trips, workshops, sharing information, providing information to industry.
- III. Minutes from 2013 Meeting – minutes were not approved as only 2 Executive Board Members were present.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report – Patrick provided balances to Greg who reported that the WG had around \$1100 at the time of the annual meeting in 2013, and the balance was approximately \$1350 just prior to the 2014 Annual Meeting.
- V. Working Group Status – Greg Provided an overview of the current status of the WG
Membership is at 106 members
Elections are held annually – New Treasurer (xx) and new member-at-large (xx) were elected
Wildlifer Article covering the field trip was prepared.

Strategic Planning

The Focus and Goals of the group was discussed including:

Development of online list of resources on the WG website – a suggestion was made to add BMPs related to wildlife for each of the Sectors.

Examine having a meeting outside of the TWS Annual Meeting - Discussion on this revolved around whether it was Doable or not at this time. Locations East Coast, Palm Springs. The WG should still consider putting together an outside meeting.

Brian Boroski suggested developing networking opportunities.

- VI. Sector Updates
 - a. Wind – Greg gave update on the settlement by Duke Energy - \$1 Million fine for killing eagles.
FWS – issued Eagle Take Permit to Shiloh Wind Energy
Northern Long-eared bat about to be listed and will become more of an issue for wind industry. Increased discussion within the industry and agencies.
 - b. Solar – Brian gave update. FWS sent letter to Solar industry requesting implementation of Best Management Practices. There is a heightened awareness of wildlife related issues concerning Solar especially migratory birds.
AFWA has added Solar to its Agenda. There is an urgency to address impacts and there is a lack of science with regard to needs. Need to understand the ecological foot prints

of Solar. Groups getting involved ABC, Audubon, etc. There was also a discussion on the Ivanpah bird vs. solar flux. Ivanpah, NRG, BLM all looking at issue and engaging FWS to look at Power Tower avian impacts. New reports have tended to sensationalize reports and over exaggerate what is actually happening.

- c. Biomass – Susan Rupp has been to 6 events and has published articles on Biomass. There was \$800 million appropriated for Biomass in the recently passed Farm Bill. DOE has issued RFP for sustainable Bioenergy Production. There is high potential for turning habitat (CRP) into biomass production.
 - d. Others – a discussion was had, led by Mike Maier about the need for a Hydro sector. More information on Hydro and wildlife concerns is needed. Informational needs assessment for dam removals, safe harbor agreements, etc.
- VII. Elections for 2015 – Tim covered need for candidates. Positions open for 2015 include Chair-elect, Secretary, and one At-large board member.
- VIII. 2015 Annual Meeting
- a. Symposia – ideas included: Climate Change Impacts and Renewables; Resilience; Communicating Climate Change; Working w/Industry – Bringing Industry In Discussions about the meeting with some focus on Industry. API – climate change?

Jim Ramaka indicated that the International Working Group is interested in a collaboration – possibly a symposium on Energy and Worldwide Energy Issues. He and Martha Desmond at NMSU have discussed this possibility and could tap into a Symposium that was held in Berlin, Germany on Renewables. Greg was to check with Robin?

Greg to move forward with the two ideas

- b. Workshop – a possible Saturday workshop on Climate Smart Conservation; Scenario based, cumulative impacts – a discussion ensued on need to get decision makers into workshops and symposia or get out to Industry Associations.

Other ideas presented – Workshop on Sage Grouse, Habitat Conservation Planning for Transmission.