

## Balancing Economic Development & Environmental Stewardship Meeting Notes February 15, 2010



**Team Goal: Community members steward both a vibrant economy and our human and natural resources so that all generations thrive.**

**Next meetings:** March 15, April 12 at 8:00 am (Tri-County CAP Resource Center)

**Attendance:** Noreen Downs, Pat Jones, Raymond O'Brien, Chuck Henderson, Leona Simon, Brian Walker, Jerry Cline, Nancy Sepe, Wendy Scribner, Marletta Maduskuie, Annie Riecken and Cyndi Paulin.

- The meeting primarily focused on energy (biomass) and broadband.
- The team decided to start with a tour of an existing biomass project or two (at least one school) for school and town personnel rather than a workshop since actually seeing a boiler in action and talking to the person who runs it is more likely to raise people's interest.
- Brief discussion on business incentives. The team is discovering that they can only focus on so many topics at a time and that prioritizing will help them be more effective.

### Energy

#### Biomass Tour

- Team is working on putting together a tour of the new Winnisquam wood-chip boiler. Leona spoke with Ian Raymond from Winnisquam who is willing to do a presentation.
- Wendy Scribner will check with her UNH Extension colleague about other biomass projects that are in the Winnisquam area that we might visit on the same day.
- The target audience for the tour includes the people who are responsible for the maintenance and replacement of systems
- Team plan for biomass tour
  1. **Identify potential need** - Contact schools and find out when they will be replacing their boiler, how many gallons of oil they burn & whether they have an energy committee and/or who is the energy "go to" person.
  2. **Resource page to refer people to**- Put together a resource sheet and page on the website (Include compelling biomass video, BEREC, example schools, etc.)
  3. **Identify champions** – who in schools & towns who would come on tour
  4. **Set up tour** – select locations, set-up transportation, invitations, choose date, etc.
  5. **Possible follow up forum**
- Wendy joined biomass subcommittee which now consists of Chuck, Ray, Noreen, Brian, Jerry, Leona and Wendy! Thanks to all of you for pitching in!
- Background
  - Vermont has about 40 schools that installed biomass boilers, NH has 4-6. Vermont initially funded 90% of the installation cost, now funding 50%. Chuck toured 6 of the facilities.
  - Economics are viable even without a government subsidy because of large fuel savings – up to 60%.
  - Available technology – systems are 70-85% efficient, one Denmark systems is approaching 100%. There are companies from Germany, Denmark and Sweden visiting NH because NH is perfectly positioned to make use of this technology given our vast

forests. This technology is commonly used there, people are surprised there is very little use of it here.

### **Broadband**

**Broadband video** - Noreen taped a 5 minute informational piece about broadband including what we have learned and asking people to take the broadband speed test on the I Want Broadband NH web site ([iwantbroadbandnh.org](http://iwantbroadbandnh.org)). Thank you to Mark McConkey for lending his voice and face to the video and to Noreen for putting together the informational slides and taping and editing the video piece. Noreen can run it on Mad-TV and will go to Valley Vision and ask them to run it as well. Leona will ask Wolfeboro Community TV. Cyndi will put it up on the website. Other ideas of where to post it or play it are welcome!

**Broadband report** – Part I has been mailed. Leona offered to help Cyndi get Part II out.

\$44.5m state grant – Annie reported that Carroll County is scheduled to “get wired” last for the middle mile portion of this project, in 2013.

**Tamworth Wireless** – Annie reported that they are finding that people want to regularly stream video such as Netflix. They weren’t anticipating the degree of use for that purpose and this will need to be factored in their plan going forward since there is only so much bandwidth available. (The Time-Warner line is \$300/mo and the two FairPoint DSL lines are \$800/mo.)

**Internet4Eaton** – Nancy Sepe shared that she is starting an effort to get broadband in Eaton. The idea was suggested to announce her effort at the Eaton town meeting as a way to connect with others in town to work on the issue.

**Business Incentives** – brief discussion. Team will continue to think about this topic.

- Survey results are in a draft report format.
- Look at what is available from the state, etc. Is there something that can be promoted for the area in terms of favorable business climate?
- Do towns have policies that support or hinder the expansion of broadband?
- Do towns have a business district map?
- Small businesses and entrepreneurs – what are local resources to support them?

### **Follow up tasks (See team’s action plan):**

- Broadband press release (Cyndi & Noreen)
- Post broadband video on YouTube (Noreen), Facebook (Cyndi) and the website (Cyndi)
- Distribute Broadband video to Wolfeboro TV (Leona); Mad TV & Valley Vision (Noreen)
- Follow up with Lee Spencer regarding what he found out about options for towns for government channels through Time-Warner. What are the various levels available and what would it cost? The team felt this information would be helpful to towns as a way to communicate with their citizens.
- Contact Schools for biomass (Marletta, Leona, Ray, Noreen)
- Find out other possible biomass projects to visit near Winnisquam (Wendy)
- Possible broadband mid-month follow up discussion (Marletta, Noreen, Annie, Nancy)
- Biomass resource sheet & page on teams page (Chuck, Cyndi)
- Biomass subcommittee meet in person or phone conference (Chuck, Leona, Ray, Noreen, Brian, Wendy, Jerry)

### **Other:**

- **Local Energy Solutions 2011** to be held on April 2, 8am-4:30pm at Merrimack Valley High School in Penacook, NH Includes a track on bio-mass heating.

- **Heating the Northeast with Renewable Biomass Conference and Vendor Fair!** April 14-15, 2011; Manchester, NH . More info: <http://heatne.com/>
- **Ossipee's annual expo & economic fair** is Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "Get Smart". CCU will have a booth and would welcome team member assistance. If you represent an organization that would like to have a booth, contact Pat Jones at 603-539-4181.
- **Hank Letarte's super compost heap (Tamworth)** – Hank's compost project is so impressive that it has caught the attention of Johnny's Seeds! (Shared by Annie)