

Solar Stakeholder Group (SSG)*

Meeting Notes

April 28, 2014

10:00 a.m. to approximately 3:15 p.m.

At Department of Forestry's Central Regional Office
900 Natural Resources Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Carol Wampler (Department of Environmental Quality) and Ken Jurman (Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy) opened the meeting with a word of welcome. Attendees introduced themselves and signed attendance sheets (see below).



Attendance List.pdf

The morning's presentations began with a description of available GIS mapping for solar and other resources by **Peter Sforza**, Research Scientist & Director of the Center for Geospatial Information Technology, Virginia Tech. **Kevin Russell**, of Electrical Distribution Design (EDD-US), then presented EDD's work on studying impacts of distributed solar generation on utility operations and infrastructure (emphasizing PEPCO and Hawaii). Over a working lunch, the group heard a report from **Joseph Gruss**, a Virginia Tech graduate student, on his compilation of studies on solar valuation across the United States. Each presentation was followed by questions and discussion. Copies of the speakers' presentations are embedded below.



Sforza Solar Analysis
- reduced.pdf



Russell_EDD_PV_Ana
lysis.pdf



Gruss_Lessons
Learned.pdf

Carol and Ken then set the stage for the group to begin work on the study requested by the Senate Rules Committee of the costs and benefits of distributed solar generation and net metering. They reviewed that the study letter requests DMME/DEQ to convene stakeholders, so that the stakeholders can study distributed solar issues and develop a report.

Ken and Carol reported that the directors of DMME and DEQ had approved all those individuals who responded to the public notice concerning formation of the study group. This list includes almost all of the members of the Small Solar Working Group (see roster below, highlighting respondents to public notice), as well ten additional individuals not previously associated with the SSWG (see list of non-SSWG-related respondents below. All respondents to the public notice appeared highly qualified.



4 25 2014 roster
Small Solar Working G



Non-SSWG
volunteers for SSG st

Since the approved study group (which will frequently be referred to as the “Solar Stakeholder Group” or “SSG”) includes almost 50 individuals, the directors also approved a smaller steering committee. The chair of the steering committee will be **Damian Pitt**, PhD, AICP, Assistant Professor of Urban & Regional Planning, VCU. Other categories of membership were spelled out by the directors (see steering committee attachment below) so that the steering committee would be a balanced group of manageable size. It is anticipated that the steering committee will gather research, frame issues, formulate “straw man” proposals, etc., for consideration by the plenary group. Use of the steering committee is intended to make it logistically possible for all group members to participate meaningfully in the study effort.

Dr. Pitt described the major characteristics that will be helpful for steering committee members to possess, including the technical skills to gather and analyze research, the availability to attend meetings, the ability to work collaboratively, and the perspective necessary to represent fairly the views of others in their respective stakeholder group. Attendees then broke into smaller groups to nominate individuals to represent their respective groups/entities, as provided in the directors’ approved steering committee outline. When the plenary group re-convened, some groups were able to report their nominees and alternate nominees immediately, while others will report to Ken and Carol within a few days.

During discussion, group members also suggested inclusion in the steering committee of a citizen representative. Ken and Carol will take that recommendation to their directors for consideration.

Once the make-up of the steering committee is settled, Dr. Pitt will communicate with members to find a suitable time/place for the first meeting. He mentioned potential dates in early to mid May. DMME and DEQ plan to notice all plenary and steering-committee meetings in the Regulatory Town Hall.



5 1 2014 SSG
Steering Group.pdf

Dr. Pitt distributed copies of compilations of solar studies from two sources:



Sforza - Cost and
benefits of DG.pdf



Pages from
eLab_DERBenefitCosl

NOTE: The eLab pages above are excerpted from the Rocky Mountain Institute’s report “A Review of Solar PV Benefit and Cost Studies. The full report can be [downloaded here](#).

Staff noted some suggestions regarding communications. Since the SSG and the SSG steering committee are informal groups, the full requirements of the Administrative Process Act are not applicable; however, we want to operate as responsible stakeholders and agency facilitators, with a high degree of transparency. As a courtesy to all, and as a means of encouraging professionalism and transparency in our communications, the following protocol is suggested: Dr. Pitt will communicate directly with the steering committee to arrange meetings and logistics, with copies of emails to Carol and Ken; communications intended for the plenary group – from Dr. Pitt or from anyone else – would most appropriately be sent to Carol and/or Ken for distribution to the plenary group. SSG members indicated agreement with these suggestions.

The next meeting of the plenary group will be held at DOF's Charlottesville office on **May 28**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. It is anticipated that the day will be devoted to work on the study, facilitated by Dr. Pitt and members of the steering committee.

*Note: The Solar Stakeholder Group (SSG) is a combination of the existing Small Solar Working Group (SSWG) and additional individuals approved by the directors of DMME and DEQ to participate in the solar study.

Future Meetings (scheduled but subject to change):

May 28

June 26

July 22

August 21

Others TBD