



Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change
State of Florida

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DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY
Government Policy
Technical Working Group Call #7
June 30, 2008

Members and Pending Members Attending:

Rich Unger	Rob Vickers for Tom Burrows	Dr. James Fenton
R.E. LeMon	Brian Traylor for Carolyn Dekle	Pegeen Hanrahan
Pam McVety	Tom Swihart for Mimi Drew	Susan Glickman

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP):

Florida Department of Transportation: Yvonne Arens

Florida Division of Waste Management: Linda Frohock

Center for Climate Strategies (CCS): Jeff Wennberg and Linda Schade

Members of the Public: Tessa LeSage, Lisa Scolls, Robert Armstead and Clark Huiwei Chen

Agenda Item#1: Introductions and Review of Agenda.

Jeff Wennberg welcomed the technical working group members, DEP and Florida staff, and the public. Jeff then called the roll of the TWG members and invited Florida State staff and the members of the public to introduce themselves and their association.

Agenda Item#2: Review Purpose and Goals.

Jeff Wennberg reviewed the meeting agenda, purpose and goals of the call.

Agenda Item#3: Review and Approval of Call #6 Summary.

Jeff Wennberg asked for corrections to the draft summary of Meeting #6.

There were no changes; the summary for Meeting #6 was approved.

Agenda Item #4: Review, Revise, and Approve Straw Policies

Jeff Wennberg reported that the main task of Call #7 is to review, revise and approve the Straw Policies for the upcoming July 9-10 Action Team Meeting #4.

GP-1 GHG Emissions Targets, Reporting and Accountability Measures

Jim Fenton pointed out that he included the suggestion of a public benefit fund and inserted the term funding into the title.

Susan Glickman suggested using the term “system benefits charge” in place of “public benefit fund.” She said she had a list of minor edits that she would summarize by email.

There was a discussion about the importance of keeping the RPS and EE, which should be titled “energy efficiency portfolio standard” (EEPS). It was also suggested that the Emissions Inventory and Environmental Attributes Registry are somewhat confused in the draft. The TWG wanted the language to keep the notion of an Environmental attributes registry that could possibly include water quality trading as well as GHG cap and trade and other air pollution credits.

On member observed that if we are going to add funding let’s make sure we’re measuring and verifying the results.

There was a discussion about the timing of the GHG reduction goal reviews. It was decided that they should begin in 2010 and be repeated every 3 years afterward assuming the staff and other resources are provided. One member expressed the concern that if it became an unfunded mandate that could be used as an excuse not to doing it.

GP-2 Public Awareness and Education

R.E. LeMon presented his draft of the GP-2 Straw Policy. His draft sought eco-literacy at all levels.

Pam pointed out that the Governors Conservation Challenge Initiative should be included here (catalog item GP-5.7). Also, some statement expressing urgency needs to be put in.

Linda will send GP-5.7 to RE LeMon for his redraft.

Jim Fenton encouraged the redraft to also reflect that energy efficiency and renewable energy should be mentioned as goals in addition to GHGs. Finally, it was suggested that the term “orchards” under policy description be changed to “groves.”

GP-3 – Inter-Government and Inter-Sector Planning, Coordination and Assistance

Brian Traylor who was among the drafters explained how the drafting was approached.

Pam McVety noted that GP-3 doesn't have any goals. Jeff Wennberg explained that it isn't absolutely required but that the TWG could add those details on timing and other details. One of our generic goals is to get the most carbon reductions we can achieve, the fastest and to the greatest extent. Pam said if she was a local government she'd want more specific guidance on what was most effective, given limited resources. She recommended that the most effective programs should be reflected in the goals.

Susan Glickman suggested a statement under goals that there needs to be a sense of urgency - giving clear and quick guidance to local governments and others what they can do in the near term.

Mayor Hanrahan said one key issue is there not a reference to 'Energy and Environment' block grants for federal funding. The first year of funding is required to be spent on local GHG planning reductions efforts. The Florida League of Mayors is the relevant organization, but there are others. Note that under the federal legislation all localities are required to do comprehensive planning and transportation planning. Synchronizing traffic lights is an example of a policy where we were tackling traffic congestion also reaped substantial GHG reductions.

The biggest barrier between state and locals on these issues is the funding question.

ICLEI has a framework/methodology that is being used by most local governments, but there is still a wide variety of standards and methods in use at the local level. We need a summary of what local governments are doing. Should ICLEI be explicitly named in the GP policy?

It was recommended that there needs to be a summary of what local governments are doing. In addition to ICLI examples include the Cool Counties program and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Kevin McCarty at Conference of Mayors would know about the ICLEI software. We need to encourage consistency in measurements.

Jeff Wennberg noted that these issues were in the policy description but may have gotten lost. We could suggest a process to establish the standard (possibly ICLEI) and the state could subsidize or pay for the licenses. We can create a clear placeholder in the text (second bullet on p. 14).

Pam asked again that a review be undertaken of what local governments are already doing along with an evaluation of how effective of what these strategies are. The Mayor will try to include some of that in what she sends to Jeff.

GP-4 "Green" Business Development Policies

Susan Glickman said she liked the statement in the second paragraph expressing a sense of urgency.

Tom Swihart said the ESD group has included language taking into account the benefits of improving water use efficiency. Water Sense is an EPA program that identifies water efficient products. Water Star is a Florida program. There is an energy-water nexus that should not be lost. He said he would send language to Jeff and Linda and the TWG agreed to incorporate it into GP-4, perhaps into implementation mechanisms.

Jim Fenton suggested a Florida Home Energy rating – to give every Florida home a rating for energy efficiency and GHG emissions. This could be added to the first paragraph on page 16.

Andra asked that Workforce Florida be added on page 17, under workforce needs.

GP-5 – Introduce Core Competencies on Climate Change Into Professional Licensing Programs

Rich Unger had drafted the text of GP-5 and gave a brief overview.

Suggested edits include the following:

1. Include “energy” in policy title.
2. Include Workforce Florida in this policy.

Rich explained that they looked at inserting actual GHG questions into the licensing sections of examinations. This would apply to any profession which is required to have a license to practice in the state and could have influence over the design, construction or operation of structures.

There was also a suggestion to include GHG reduction training in continuing educational programs as an implementation mechanism. It was also suggested to add energy (to design section) rather than just climate as the linking language.

Mayor Hanrahan, who is an engineer, took her most recent continuing education class on carbon issues. She is concerned it may be more difficult to add questions than it might appear because it relates to national standards.

Jim Fenton said it is also important that when people go out and brand themselves as ‘green’ design professionals they are making legitimate claims, rather than just ‘greenwashing’ their image.

Agenda Item#5 Next Steps

Jeff Wennberg thanked TWG members for their excellent work.

The next meeting of the GP TWG is scheduled for Thursday, July 17 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am EDT.

There being no further comments or announcements, Jeff Wennberg adjourned the call at 11:15 am.