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East Bay Energy Consortium Meeting Minutes

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# East Bay Energy Consortium Meeting Minutes, January 11, 2010

East Bay Energy Consortium

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## **East Bay Energy Consortium**

### **Representing the following Communities**

Barrington	Newport
Bristol	Portsmouth
East Providence	Tiverton
Little Compton	Warren
Middletown	

Chair - Jeanne Napolitano, Vice Chair - Andrew B. Shapiro  
Treasurer- Diane Williamson, Secretary- Jeanne Boyle

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Regular Meetings of the East Bay Energy Consortium are held the first Monday of each month, at the Roger Williams University Library, third floor Library Board Room. Meetings start promptly at 8:30 AM  
Coffee, Bagels and Assorted Fresh Fruit, provided by our host, Roger Williams University

### **January 11, 2010 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a. m. Roger Williams University Library Third Floor – Library Board Room**

Present: Anne Wolff Lawson, Joseph Fraioli, Christine Weglowski Forster, Beth Milham, Allan Klepper, Wayne Barnes, Philip Hervey, Walter Burke, Jeanne Marie Napolitano, Andy Shapiro, Judy Newcomb Gross, Lee Arnold, Dennis Culberson, Gary Gump, Garry Plunkett, Diane Williamson, Andy Teitz, Joseph DePasquale, June Speakman.

#### ***Agenda Item A:***

Call to Order made by Lee Arnold at 8:45am. Lee gave a short update from his end of things:

1. Lee and Bob met with Julian Dash at the RIEDC Renewable Energy Fund. Mr. Dash is pleased with EBEC's progress.
2. Lee and Bob were pleased to announce that Mr. Keith Stokes is the new Interim Executive Director of the RIEDC.
3. Denise Mederos, Town Administrator for Bristol, signed a new contract with The Arnold Group, LLC which continues through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***Agenda Item B:***

Minutes from the 12/7/09 meeting were reviewed. A motion (Speakman/DePasquale) to accept was approved unanimously.

#### ***Agenda Item C:***

Election of Officers:

Lee Arnold asked if there were any questions regarding the duties of officers. Gary Gump said that he was honored to be nominated but that he declined due to other projects. June Speakman indicated that she too was extremely busy and would serve if need be but requested to remove her name from the nomination list. Diane Williamson accepted her nomination as treasurer. Phil Hervey withdrew his name from the nomination list for treasurer.

The slate put forward for the vote:

Chairperson: Jeanne Marie Napolitano, Newport  
 Vice Chair: Andy Shapiro, Warren  
 Secretary: Jeanne Boyle, East Providence  
 Treasurer: Diane Williamson, Bristol

Motions (DePasquale/Gump) to close nominations and approve slate were unanimously approved. Attorney Andy Teitz requested that an official roll call vote be taken. Lee Arnold called names alphabetically by town:

<u>Town</u>	<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Barrington	Philip Hervey	Aye
Bristol	Walter Burke	Aye
East Providence	Wayne Barnes	Aye
Little Compton	Joe Fraioli	Aye
Middletown	Christine Weglowski Forster	Aye
Newport	Mayor Jeanne Marie Napolitano	Aye
Portsmouth	Gary Gump	Aye
Tiverton	Garry Plunkett	Aye
Warren	Joseph DePasquale	Aye

Lee Arnold congratulated those who were nominated and selected for the EBEC Board and asked each to say a few words.

**Mayor Jeanne Marie Napolitano, EBEC Chair:** thanked everyone and discussed several items she felt should be addressed immediately:

1. We need to continue site negotiations with the Navy.
2. Expand communications and updates on EBEC actions/activities with municipal leaders across the state, especially all town/city councils.
3. Tour Portsmouth's turbine facilities and find out how they are doing financially.
4. Resolve all financial issues.
5. Appoint a government liaison who can work with state and federal agencies.
6. Develop a long term financial proposal, which includes bonding for energy projects.
7. Develop a binder for all members which will include:
  - a. Brief history of EBEC and how it originated
  - b. List of all members, emails, phone numbers and addresses.
  - c. List of committees, their members, and contact information
  - d. Name plates/tents
  - e. Contractor information including 1-page background, principals, and contact numbers/information.
8. Develop a binder which will include all minutes and agenda going back to July, 2009.

**Andy Shapiro, EBEC Vice Chair:** the Technical and Legal project focus will be on the following:

1. Develop a detailed schedule for 2010.
2. Define an RFP for the next phase of legal requirements. Report back for group review at February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
3. Work on our formula for distribution of energy generation. Define this before we choose sites.
4. Take a prudent look at attendance in 2 categories:
  - a. Poor attendance at general EBEC meetings by towns will be monitored.
  - b. Poor attendance at committee meetings will not be tolerated.

Allan Klepper asked if someone is going to contact the Florida consortium that was introduced as a model for EBEC to follow in the research presentations. Andy Shapiro felt that was a great suggestion. Lee Arnold responded by agreeing and saying that this should be accomplished by ASA for follow up. Phil Hervey felt that this was something for the Legal Committee to review.

**Diane Williamson, EBEC Treasurer:** will work closely with the Budget Committee. Diane feels we need to catch up on our match funding and that we need to report better for the in-kind match which includes monthly tracking of hours spent on EBEC business back from July, 2009

Lee Arnold shared that Jenny Pereira from the Rhode Island Foundation planned on coming to the meeting today but would be running late, possibly arriving after the meeting concluded. Lee said he would be available to meet with newly elected officers after the meeting.

**Agenda Item D:** Budget Committee Update: Phil Hervey deferred to Joe DePasquale to discuss recent Budget Committee activity. Joe suggested meeting later in the week and that he would contact everyone for arrangements. He suggested that we continue looking for additional funding opportunities. Lee added that School of Business Assistant Dean Barbara Grota has been “brought into the loop” regarding in-kind contributions from Roger Williams University.

Walter Burke asked if there will be a sub-committee created for the purpose of grant and fund-seeking. Joe DePasquale responded and said that the Budget Committee as a whole should be focused on fund seeking.

Mayor Napolitano volunteered to ask RIEDC Executive Director Keith Stokes to join us at a meeting. The group responded enthusiastically to the suggestion.

Wayne Barnes asked if there are chairs and vice chairs in place for the committees. Joe responded that there were but that committees are open to all interested parties from all nine towns.

**Agenda Item E:** Legal Committee Update: Joe DePasquale reported that there had not been a meeting since December 7<sup>th</sup> and that there was no news to report. Lee added that EBEC anticipates legal costs through June/September possibly. He made sure to bring this to RIEDC and Rhode Island Foundation’s attention. Joe stated that the efforts are to be focused on law use.

Once ASA's final report is in hand, then the Legal Committee will respond accordingly in Phase Two.

Attorney Andy Teitz asked about the question of entity. He noted that the name registration for "East Bay Energy Consortium" was back in August and that it expired after 120 days. He continued by asking if EBEC had considered what form of entity it wanted to become. Quasi-Public Agency or Nonprofit? He mentioned that the reservation of name was non-renewable.

Andy Shapiro said that question can't be answered today and it should be discussed in the Legal Committee.

Allan Klepper asked what the last day is to submit a bill to the legislature. Attorney Teitz said it was February. Allan suggested we get this on an agenda at the statehouse. Lee Arnold shared that there is potential for a bond issue. He feels it needs to be done in tandem with the ASA study. That they need to give a figure in dollars to be on the legislative radar. Allan stated that he felt that the proposed language/legislation should be broad enough to get more support from the West Bay.

Joe DePasquale would like to meet with the RIEDC with regard to opening doors for additional federal funding. He said that \$27 million is out there and that we need to find a point of contact who can open lines of communication.

Lee said that Julian Dash asked about cost. Joe Fraioli responded that cost is site-dependent.

Walter Burke stated that EBEC needs 501c status and it should be a priority. Lee feels that this should be discussed with the officers and the legal committee.

#### ***Agenda Item F:***

Technical Committee Update: Andy Shapiro noted that ASA was still gathering data in a number of areas from the towns. His goal was follow up with each town individually to round up this data and make sure ASA received it by the end of the week.

#### ***Agenda Item G: New Business***

1. Gary Gump informed everyone of the meeting on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> @ CCRI in Warwick regarding the ARRA Non-Utility Scale renewable energy program.
2. Discussion followed over Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding with an energy focus. This funding is non-utility scale. EBEC is a non-utility entity. Proposals are required by late January.
3. Diane Williamson informed the group about a solicitation for consulting made by Gordon "Sandy" Campbell of SeaReach CMI, a firm interested in working with EBEC. Andy Teitz informed EBEC that he is a social acquaintance. It was agreed that the joint committee meeting will discuss this issue. Joe DePasquale added that RWU can provide assistance with surveying.
4. Update on old business: Joe DePasquale asked Christine Weglowski Forster about the status of any wind projects in Middletown. She said there is no project. They are moving an ordinance forward, which the planning board has adopted regarding private land and

roof mounted turbines. She further explained there is no provision for separate rules for municipality and that all have to conform. A copy of the ordinance can be found on the Middletown website.

5. Garry Plunkett noted that wind turbine projects are popping up all over Tiverton and emphasized that EBEC needs to act fast to get in on the action.
6. Beth Milham asked if we should have a committee on public education.

***Agenda Item H: Adjournment:***

Motion (Plunkett/Gump) to adjourn at 10:07 a.m.

*Minutes submitted by Anne Wolff Lawson, Leadership Institute at Roger Williams University  
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