BCRC Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes - April 5, 2016

Present: Larry Johnson, Willy Hall, Wayn Goodman, Barbara True-Weber, Jerry Byrd, Jeannie Jenkins,

 Jim Sullivan (Staff)

Also present: Fidel Moreno (guest), Liz Ganache (Efficiency Vermont), Megan Chambers (Efficiency Vermont), Dave Cross (Efficiency Vermont)

I. Introductions - welcomed guests, including Liz Ganache EVT Director and EVT staff who are working on the Bennington energy efficiency pilot project.

II. Green Mountain Power E-Town Proposal was reviewed and discussed. There being significant overlap with the EVT effort in Bennington, EVT will contact GMP to discuss collaboration.

III. SVMC Energy Projects

 Willy Hall led the discussion of SVMC projects, noting that they are actively engaged with EVT on a number of efficiency improvement projects and meet with them every two weeks.

 Boiler Project: Current plan is to replace the aging #6 oil boilers with CNG + one convertible CNG/Biomass boiler. SVMC staff will be visiting Green Mountain College next week to look at their setup. Wayn asked about transition from high-pressure steam applications. Willy noted some technical limitations with existing equipment, but was hopeful that they could make such adjustments with the new boilers.

 Liz Ganache discussed the health benefits of energy improvement projects.

 Barbara asked about the new SVMC facility in Pownal. Will worked with EVT on the building design, efficient lighting, and the heating system.

IV. Liz Ganache – EVT Director

 Liz provided an overview of EVT programs and their interest in ensuring that they have adequate coverage in Bennington County. She emphasized the organization’s commitment to social justice and equity.

 EVT electricity conservation programs are funded by an efficiency charge on everyone’s electric utility bill. Some discussion and suggestions of how to use that information to encourage more people to take advantage of their programs.

 Thermal conservation programs are funded through dollars received from the regional greenhouse gas emissions program and from savings on the electric side.

 The group discussed how the shift to electrification in the transportation and heating sectors may affect overall energy use and efficiency.

 Jeannie asked how we can help downtown property owners move beyond audits to implementation. Megan and Dave gave an example of EVT is working with a local business to provide financial analysis, incentive programs, and assistance with locating qualified contractors. This led to a discussion of contractor training and availability.

V. Regional Energy Plan Update

 A complete draft is expected this month – will be distributed for committee review. The process for public outreach and working with towns was discussed – to be finalized at the next meeting.