



Environmental and Energy Stewardship Subcommittee

200 College Street, Room 310

April 19, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee Members Present

Chairman Newman, Commissioner Sloan, Commissioner Wells, Councilwoman Ullman, Chris Link, Josh LittleJohn, Bob MacDonald

Staff Members Present

Jeremiah LeRoy, Jennifer Harrison, Ashley Featherstone, Jackie Hamstead, Max Taintor, Angelica Tyler

Commissioner Sloan called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

Motion to approve the April agenda and the March meeting minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Brad Rouse: Encourages subcommittee to provide funding support to achieve 100% Renewable Energy Goal (Community-wide). Lack of capital for ESN to do multiple projects at one time- need for a revolving fund. Wants to see BHP adopt 100% clean energy (as opposed to “renewable energy) because it is more aligned with federal government and utility and allows for nuclear power.

New Member Introductions:

- Introductions of other Subcommittee Members and support staff
 - Josh LittleJohn: Background in energy efficiency and renewables
 - Bob MacDonald: Retired USDA- Background in agriculture research and government

Clean Water Fund Allocations

- \$100K available
- 3 proposals submitted
 - Asheville Greenworks (\$35K) Trash Trout
 - Town of Black Mountain (\$100K)
 - RiverLink (\$50K) Disconnect to Protect
 - Staff had ranked projects: 1. RiverLink, 2. Town of Black Mountain, 3. Greenworks
- Subcommittee discussed multiple scenarios to partially fund multiple projects:
 - Scenario 1:
 - Town of Black Mountain could move forward with \$75K
 - Greenworks \$7500 for the actual trash trout
 - RiverLink could support ~35 households for \$17,500
 - Scenario 2:
 - Fund Riverlink at \$50, Town of Black Mountain at \$75
 - \$25K coming from next Clean Water Fund Grant cycle contingent on approval
 - Scenario 3:
 - Fund Black Mountain at \$75K and RiverLink at \$25K



Environmental and Energy Stewardship Subcommittee

200 College Street, Room 310

April 19, 2024

- Commissioner Wells made motion to fund this scenario. Motion passed unanimously.
- Staff will encourage RiverLink to reapply for remainder of funding next year

GreenBank Loan Loss Reserve Update- Michelle Myers, NCCEF Program Manager

- Electrify Asheville Buncombe (E-ABC) had soft launch last week- still finalizing web presence
- E-ABC overview
 - Program to support residents getting high efficiency heat pumps into their homes
 - Heat pumps is where you get the most bang for your buck when switching to high efficiency technology
- NCCEF Financing package in partnership with Self-Help Credit Union
 - Requires vetted technologies and licensed contractors
 - Financing is critical to close gap between conventional and high efficiency
 - Goals: Connect contractors and consumers with financial and incentive providers including tax credits, POS rebates, and unique loan option from Self-Help
- Leveraging the Loan Loss Reserve
 - More inclusive- accepts applicants with credit scores 550+
 - Interest rate discount
 - Pushing Self-Help to offer a similar financing option across the state
- Loan Overview
 - 2.99% admin fee goes to NCCEF
 - Subcommittee asked NCCEF to see what it would take to cover that fee
 - Loan amounts of \$2.5K-\$50K
 - 5, 10, 15 yr loan terms (no penalty for paying off early)
 - Fixed interest rate (5.5-9%) reassessed every 6 months
- Conservation pros doesn't have a financing option- so this will allow them to offer financing for the first time for insulation services
- BrightSpaces, GBA, County CAPE team will help with outreach
- Update on NCCEF/ GHG Reduction Fund
 - NCCEF is currently funded through philanthropy but their business plan also includes fees for work and program income from GHG reduction fund capital
 - GHG reduction funds will be awarded to national intermediary teams
 - NCCEF expects to access up to \$10 million in the short term for products they are building including bridge loans for non-profits
 - Hope to have access to capital in fall of 2025
 - Solar for all allocation will be announced next week
 - State has not given NCCEF any money

Solar Updates and Solar Canopy Tour

- Fire Departments (10 projects) going out to bid- hoping for operation dates in early Dec
- Field trip to solar canopy on 200 College Deck

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Sloan at 11:12 pm.