

**M.O.R.E. Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**July 21, 2010**  
**Earthbox Conference Center, Friday Harbor**

**Attendees:** John Mottl ( Orcas), Eric Youngren (Orcas), Peter Risser (San Juan), Peter Kilpatrick (San Juan), Jeff Dyer ( Lopez), Chris Greacen ( Lopez), Chom Greacen (Lopez), Andrew Borner (Shaw), John Bogert (OPALCO Board member), Winnie Adams (OPALCO Board Member), George Mulligan (OPALCO Board Member), Chris Thomerson (OPALCO board President), Anne Bertino (OPALCO Energy Services), Elisa Scott- Howard ( OPALCO Energy Services )  
Not present: John Ashenhurst (Crane/outer islands)

The minutes from 7/8/10 were approved.

**Each member was asked to present their top 3 ideas for the MORE program:**

Eric Youngren-

- 1) Incentive Structure- number of projects going forward if there are incentives, connecting to the grid.
- 2) Prioritizing- connection/ production incentives.
- 3) Producer Cooperative Structure- used in many different ways, agriculture producer, collective investments share cost with common linked business structures.

Explore Green Power Producers Coops under the umbrella of OPALCO but individual join together to maximize their return. Also, consider solar hot water incentive.

Chris Greacen-

- 1) Concern of a wholly volunteer program, perhaps not enough dollars to do a whole lot.

Based on 200 million kWh sold last year:

- An increase of .001/ kWh could equal and additional \$200,000
- An Increase of .01/kWh equals an additional \$2 million annually that could be used for renewable energy and incentive benefits.

A 3 kW PV = 3600 kWh/ yr

OPALCO currently has 60 systems at 3600 kW which equals 206,800 kWh, or .01%

An additional 540 systems X \$1.15/Watts X 36 k = \$2.4 million

Over 5 years, equals a rate increase of .002

Chom Greacen-

- 1) Public benefit charge makes sense. (charging the public because they would benefit from the program)
- 2) Setting a goal for renewable energy to equal a zero load growth.

3) Part of budget allocated for conservation more than rebates from BPA, more marketing, address all barriers. Current 1.3% load growth .2% remaining of the 1.3% through conservation.

Jeff Dyer-

- 1) MORE incentives, clarity of rates, cost of systems' significant need to offset cost. Solar hot water, come up with a fixed number--a conservation method to reduce our load growth
- 2) Allocating dollars, revolving load fund to make it conducive.
- 3) Educational component is important- people need to know the steps to take.

John Bogert-

- 1) Conservation before renewables. Conservation is the greenest and is available to everyone. Renewables is a small majority. The goal should be zero load growth.
  - 2) Education provided to schools, sponsor workshops, teach people how to build their own solar hot water systems.
  - 3) The committee to have the capability of independently giving input to BPA (outside OPALCO). It is up to the county to get the money back. Room in the BPA hierarchy to make suggestions- OPALCO being the liaison to BPA to administer programs. Contribute to MORE organization through existing green power we have.
- Public benefit charge.

Peter Kilpatrick-

- 1) Energy conservation is top priority.  
Lower energy costs, make houses more energy efficient.
- 2) Write Kevin Ranker to move forward with State Energy Codes.  
Efficient housing, tax incentives, helps to offset the cost of homes. More tightly insulated (weatherized) is an option if they do not have exposure for solar power generation.
- 3) Model after San Juan Home Trust and other affordable housing.  
Good place to put money to have energy efficient homes.

John Mottl-

Both conservation and renewable energy have been here. A lot of Bonneville funds go to local renewable energy. Look at surveys and hope members are willing.

Conservation in our televisions, lap tops, water heaters is happening.

There are many splits that hang outside windows. Landslide of technology resulting in zero load growth in technology.

Income stream in the form of loans to allow home owners to buy conservation measures and renewable energy systems.

Do not take liberal attitude. Let the consumer decide. Create a class of investment that includes all forms of renewables and conservation. Systems pay for themselves in 8 years.

1) Loans

2) Incentives- a way to meter them with any incentive must prove longevity and efficiency. Federal tax incentive does nothing- need to meter incentives.

3) Achieve a negative load growth. Concerned what the board wants- worried committee might be wasting time. Need a clear directive to be sure we are not doing something the board does not want us to do.

Independent consumers make their choices for conservation investments they want to make.

Editorial to advise people.

Make low interest loans available for up-front costs, and let the consumer decide.

Andrew Borner-

If people are spending a lot of money, there is more savings putting in throughout the whole house instead of a large solar PV system.

Better insulation, better windows, and site of the house should be calculated.

Spend money based on where the largest impact is. Consider changes over several years.

1) Education- helping and providing funding for people to become certified to help customers make decisions.

2) Good website for collating information directing people to new technology.

3) Low interest loans for improvements.

Peter Risser-

1) Need a goal of where we are going- realistic idea from the board. Whatever we decide to pursue we need to be able to measure it.

2) Renewable energy installed while building.

3) Priority is to educate. Distributed generation is the greenest.

Winnie Adams-

1) Design our program to encourage participation and audits. Provide math formulas.

2) Education

3) Pay for activity, pay for performance.

Chris Thomerson- taxation is a government job, not OPALCO. Local green power members would contribute more. He is concerned about keeping the public trust.

Peter- Feels we are an advisory group to OPALCO.

Chris Greacen- mitigates concern to get voluntary program up quickly.

**OPALCO (Anne Bertino) gave a brief overview of the current Green Power program, renewable interconnect program and the BPA conservation program:**

**Green Power (GP) program:**

Green power program received board approval in 1997.

OPALCO contracted with BPA to purchase Environmentally Preferred Power (EPP). The EPP was sold to the GP members for 1.5 cents above cost. The subsidy provided by OPALCO members to support this program has increased over time. In 2009 \$113,000 was given out in incentives. The board is in support of the GP program and interconnects; however, they want OPALCO to facilitate a self-funded program. Members can purchase GP in two ways; purchase 100 kWh blocks at \$4.00 per block or go All Green at .04/kWh premium. Currently we have 472 members subscribing to purchase blocks, and 51 All Green members. 2009 revenue from GP sales was \$67,000.

**Local Renewable Interconnects:**

The first OPALCO member-owned interconnection occurred in 2000.

Today there are 66 local sites connected: 62 solar, 3 micro-hydro and 1 wind.

Total estimated annual generation is 252,234 kWh. Total incentives paid to date is \$198,928.00.

**BPA conservation programs:**

The Regional Technical Forum (RTF) recommends the measures to implement to reach targets. BPA can create measures but must go through RTF. Requirements for measures are detailed in the Energy Efficiency Implementation Manual.

Measures are reported via the Planning, Tracking, Reporting (PTR) system twice per year. Funding is through Conservation Rate Credit (CRC) which an annual rate credit amount is based on a two year Net Requirements Load Forecast.

Credit is provided on our monthly power bill from BPA. Must spend the CRC on conservation activities or pay it back. Energy Conservation Agreement (ECA) is contracted with BPA to insure funding for energy efficiency projects if CRC funds are not available.

**Open Forum:**

Chris G- ECA money is free money, spend it or we may lose it. What would it take for OPALCO to use that for weatherization?

John Mottl- CRC total went down between two periods- Anne explained that the later period was longer--one was three years, one was two years, making it a third less. ECA is the same. We can use the ECA money after we have exhausted the CRC money.

Anne and Eric- \$525,000 to use between now and September 2011 is restricted to what is in the implementation manual. Marketing and administrative overhead needs to be funded by other sources.

Winnie- how do members find out about what implementations are available? OPALCO has a treasure map of Energy Services Programs available, did a road show on all islands, and will be featuring it at the SJI County Fair.

Peter- Use an integrated approach, including stickers that show a homes energy consumption. He suggested that energy services enlist in a group of contractors that are available to do audits for rebates to clients. *(Anne explained that OPALCO is already progressing with that idea, doing "snap shot audits". . The member pays \$25)*

John Mottl -Aware of energy services facing a bottle neck in communication and marketing, and staffing. He sees the MORE committee being a marketing arm.

Chom- Discussed the I-937 State Law. OPALCO does not fall under I-937.

There was discussion about where the money comes from for conservation incentives and rebates. The committee revisited earlier discussion of a rate increase, which would translate into reduction in bills. It was felt that there is a need to shift focus.

The question of what the board is expecting from the committee was discussed. Adding more staff is not the best way to achieve our objective. Some feel a rate increase to promote conservation and renewable energy is a good option. The board is trying to get a handle on the long term energy costs we are facing. Has the board considered Integrated Resource planning? Really need a comprehensive look. The Board is working on a 20-year all requirements contract with BPA.

Lastly, the committee wants to indentify their role- are they an independent group which obtains funding from other places or are they an advisory group to OPALCO? Everyone is to brainstorm the pros and cons via emails between meetings. Chom is going to set up a blog for the MORE committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4th on Lopez island at the Fire Hall from 1:30 to 3:30. Peter K offered a boat to get from San Juan Island.