

**February 11, 2010
8:30 to 10:30 AM
13th Street Conference Room**

Attendees

Staff

Jonathan Koehn-Regional Sustainability Coordinator

David Driskell- Executive Director of Community planning and Sustainability

Jane Brautigam-City manager

Tech Team Members

Leslie Glustrom

Alison Burchell

Carol Tombari

Others

Elizabeth Hondorf

Ken Regelson

Lynn Segal

Steve Pomerance

Dane Cobble

I. Meeting agenda and meeting expectations..... Jonathan

The group discussed positive aspects of the Tech team efforts so far, including areas that could be enhanced. The list was as follows:

Plus

- Staff facilitation
- Great group!
- Good ideas
- Positive city engagement
- Call to Xcel

Things that could be improved

- Discussion around long term membership (how we can broaden membership)
- We need to de-choir our messaging
- Localize
- Focus on quick, tangible results
- Enforcement
- Concrete assignments

- Develop a step-wise strategy
 - More public Outreach
- Introduce ideas to non-choir

II. Review and finalize Mission statement.....Micah/Jonathan

The Mission statement was discussed at the last meeting. Team members were asked to share any feedback on the draft statement before the 2-26 meeting. The draft mission is as follows:

Our goal is to assist the City community in meeting and exceeding its climate goal (Kyoto goal of 7% below 1990 emission levels by 2012) by focusing on switching from fossil fuel energy to more clean renewable energy. We will focus on strategies for "greening our electrons" and other technologies and will work with other tech teams to reach and exceed our emissions reduction goals and to serve as a model to other cities and communities. Decarbonization numerical goals: 30% decarb by 2012 and 80%-100% by 2020.

Jonathan suggested changing City to community. Several members suggested shortening the Mission. It was decided that Ken and others will email Micah with suggested changes.

III. Review and discuss assignments.....all

The following is the list of assignments from the 2/11/2010 meeting. Progress on each was discussed, along with potential next steps:

- Micah sent out mission statement. **DONE**
- Does the PUC have to approve an extension? **NO** (according to a City Attorney's Office. This was consistent with what several Team members had heard as well)
- Talk to Chuck Sisk (current Mayor) and Michael Hassig (outgoing Mayor) from Carbondale – their experiences going through their franchise negotiations. **Jonathan had not done this yet. It was also suggested to speak with Berthoud. * Put in communication plan. Jonathan mentioned that the City has had several conversations with Berthoud previously, but will put it on the list to do.**
- Get fuel costs from Xcel (20 year projection) – Leslie has quite a bit of info on this, but it would be better to build a list of questions from City to Xcel. (Cost of coal and everything that goes with it, as well as renewable energy.)
- Look for short term option (4-5 years) – related to the franchise – **Jonathan will be able to report out on this soon, most likely at first April meeting.**
- Cost to municipalize. Need to obtain depreciation numbers plus smart grid costs that would be included)
- **Steve** reported the assumption that Xcel would require us to pay Boulder's share of the undepreciated coal plant costs; should Xcel require us to pay, would be ~\$80M worth of coal plant – 5% of all of the undepreciated costs of the coal plants – that's the stuff we really don't want to own.

- Municipalization scenario – with RE and storage (compressed air, etc. storage)
- Municipalization study – FERC stranded cost present value – Will need to determine whether FERC requires this payment. If not, the potential is a savings of approx. \$80M. \$120M for distribution system (poles, wires, meters, licenses) in the city. (We would rent transmission.)
- What stranded plant cost would we be obligated to pay? TBD What plant costs would we avoid that we don't want to pay for? \$80M.
- So net cost to our community is not just the \$120M we would have to pay, it's arguably also the coal plants we wouldn't have to pay for \$80M = \$40M real 'out of pocket expense' for the city.
- Keep in mind that \$80M may be more and \$120M might be less, so this is worst case scenario.
- Dept. of Energy said they don't support the Xcel Smart Grid.
- What kind of coal – percentages – is Valmont using? **Paul described where the coal is coming from and the percentages via email.**
- Ask for emissions/MW for all pollutants, and heavy metals. Need to see what the best cost predictions are? **Jonathan – City should ask for this.**
- Delivering RE to cities – how can they do it – we want to be the example in Boulder – can they do this with us. What will they consider working with us on as early adopter template programs?
- How do we identify Boulder as the “test site?” What does Xcel want to test?
- Need to find out if they are willing to play
- Need date of money the city and residents have invested in RE – **Jonathan provided this to the Group**
- Bids in 2009 (200 MW excess) when do they expire?
- 30% decarbonization through renewables. What does that get us? Have City staff evaluate.
- Emissions data for all plants, MWH produced at all plants
- Production versus delivery of renewables, storage?
- Discussion with Xcel – **Jonathan – Jonathan reported on several good meetings and discussions with Xcel that took place over the previous two weeks.**
- Be sure to look into (and define) alternative (Muni-light, wheeling, etc.) possibilities too.

IV. Clarification of Xcel related items.....Leslie

Leslie was asked to speak specifically about several important Xcel related issues including: the clear definition of GRSA (primarily fossil fuel) cost increases, the relevance of the 15,000MW of renewable energy bids Xcel received last April (they are taking ~ 900MW), And the decreasing costs of heavy wind and heavy solar portfolios compared to 2009 compliance plan. There were several clarifying questions regarding the handouts. It was discussed that we need to continue to determine the best way to blend this issue in with our on-going strategies, **given the extreme time sensitivity of this issue.**

V. Communications Strategy.....Dane/Jonathan

This was an exercise to begin development of a communications plan around the decarbonization efforts and issues. Dane led a conversation intended to identify stakeholders, the specifics to the development of a communications plan, readiness continuum, and how to best understand the current situation.

Decarb Technical Team – External Communications Plan

- Government
 - Boulder City and County Government
 - City Council
 - County Commissioners
- Regional Governments
 - Berthoud
 - Ft. Collins
- State Government & Regulatory Bodies
 - GEO
 - PUC
 - DORA/OCC
- Communication Plan
- Readiness continuum

Dane will send questions to group to each answer on our own. It was agreed that we will continue this exercise at the next meeting.

Overarching questions for us to keep in mind as we develop our communication strategy:

- What are our goals? Explain the benefits of reaching these goals - health and quality of life, savings (fossil fuel cost increases - sharing Leslie's Xcel graph showing RE and EE cheaper than status quo), reducing CO₂, being a leader/model city, etc.
- Where should our energy come from to help reach these goals?
- Who are our partners? Can/will Xcel help us achieve our goals? If not, what are the alternatives?
- What are the upsides/downsides for the various potential paths forward?
- How do we compensate for potential downsides (e.g. possibly losing franchise fee if we don't renew our franchise with Xcel) and how might we potentially be better off?

VI. Bike Rack

These are items that we want to make sure we circle back to at some point to determine how they will be incorporated in future efforts.

- How to connect with other tech teams: energy efficiency, supply side, etc

- Franchise: role of tech team
- Transportation and parallel awareness
- Eco-footprint
- Valmont Power Plant
- Team role in CAP Summit

VII. Summary of Assignments

- Appointed Tech team members should contact Jonathan to attend one of the optional tours of the Valmont Power Plant with City Council members the week of March 15.
- Members were asked to continue the Communications Plan exercise in order to move quickly at the next meeting.
- Please send input/any language changes back to Micah to tailor statement.
- Talk to Chuck Sisk and Michael Hassig from Carbondale-Jonathan
- Get fuel costs from Xcel (20 year projection)
- Cost to municipalize. Need to obtain depreciation numbers plus smart grid costs that would be included)
- Ask for emissions/MW for all pollutants, and heavy metals. Need to see what the best cost predictions are?
- Delivering renewable energy to cities – how can they do it – we want to be the example in Boulder – can they do this with us. What will they consider working with us on as early adopter template programs?
- How do we identify Boulder as the “test site?” What does Xcel want to test?
- Need to find out if they are willing to play.
- Bids in 2009 (200MW excess) when do they expire?
- 30% decarbonization through renewables. What does that get us? Have City staff evaluate.
- Emissions data for all plants, MWH produced at all plants
- Production versus delivery of renewables, storage?
- Have conversation with Chris Cook – **Jonathan**

VIII. Next Meeting

March 12, 2:30-4:30 PM