

## Mountain Maryland Energy Advisory Committee

March 19, 2014, 3:00 p.m., Garrett Information Enterprise Center, McHenry, Maryland

### Meeting Minutes

**Committee members attending:** Mike Koch, Tim Carney, Jim Torrington, Paul Durham, Dr. Ed Gates, Jo Gilman, Mike Dreisbach, Eric Guthrie, Bob Sutton, Rodney Glotfelty, David Dorsey

**Committee members not in attendance:** Dr. Stephen Hartlaub

**Others attending:** Jeff Simcoe, Cheryl DeBerry, Andrea Varrato, Brenda Smith

**Approval of February meeting minutes ([Attachment A](#)):**

A motion was made by Bob Sutton, seconded by Paul Durham, to approve the minutes. The motion was passed by a majority of the vote.

**Discussion on currently submitted ideas and results of ideas ranking survey:**

Mr. Simcoe presented the results of the ideas ranking survey in a PowerPoint presentation ([Attachment B](#)). Results of the survey were used to guide further discussions on which ideas would be selected to move into the next phase of committee review.

The committee determined that it would be beneficial in some cases to bundle related ideas into a single item. A subset of the original 12 ideas was desired so that the committee could focus on transforming the most feasible suggestions into recommendations for Garrett and Allegany counties.

Five ideas were selected for further review during a group discussion. Two of them were bundled with others, creating three primary focus areas. Focus areas included C111: Solarize Mountain Maryland residential solar initiative; C102: Commercial biomass boilers bundled with C110: Solar feasibility study for the CARC building; and C108: Passive house initiative bundled with C109: Local property tax credit for renewables and energy conservation devices.

Committee members determined which of the three areas they would like to focus on. They broke into groups based on their desired topic. The committee of 12 was split into three groups of four.

Committee members working on the Solarize initiative include Mike Koch, Mike Dreisbach, Jo Gilman, and Bob Sutton. Members working on the biomass and CARC assessment include Tim Carney, Jim Torrington, Eric Guthrie, and Dr. Stephen Hartlaub. Committee members working on the passive house and renewable energy tax credit initiatives include David Dorsey, Paul Durham, Rodney Glotfelty, and Dr. Ed Gates.

**Presentation of findings from action items outlined in the February MMEAC meeting:**

Mr. Simcoe was asked to prepare a follow up presentation on action items outlined in the February meeting. He presented a PowerPoint ([Attachment C](#)) to the committee that detailed his findings. Topics included the current state of Maryland's electricity grid, a comparison of renewable energy systems in terms of payback period, carbon footprint, etc., and an examination of Maryland's new biomass regulations.

**Legislative updated on selected bills:**

Mr. Simcoe offered an update on selected energy bills that are under the consideration of the legislature. The update was presented to the committee in the form of a PowerPoint ([Attachment D](#)). Mr. Simcoe provided an update for three bills: H.B. 0553, an Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Load Program; S.B. 0733 / H.B. 1149, which would increase the annual solar requirements in the state Renewable Energy

Portfolio Standard; and S.B. 0786 / H.B. 1192, which would establish a community renewable energy generating system pilot program.

**Public comment:**

No public comment was received.

**Adjourn:**

A motion was made by Mike Dreisbach, seconded by Dr. Ed Gates, to adjourn the meeting at 5:00pm.