

Mountain Maryland Energy Advisory Committee

April 15, 2015, 3:00 p.m., Garrett Information Enterprise Center, McHenry, Maryland

Meeting Notes

Committee members attending: Bob Sutton, Rodney Glotfelty, Jim Torrington, Dr. Ed Gates, Eric Guthrie

Committee members not in attendance: David Dorsey, Mike Dreisbach, Jo Gilman, Paul Durham

Others attending: Cheryl DeBerry, Evan Hansen, Andrea Varrato, Rob Smith

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

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

Discuss PechaKucha event details and event planning:

Committee members discussed potential guest speakers and topics that could be addressed at the PechaKucha energy event ([Attachment B](#)). Committee members prioritized event speakers based on which speakers best fit the theme of the event. A variety of topics were deemed to be high priority, including home energy audits, thermal imaging, passive homes/green design, and Solar City solar panel installations. The committee also decided on a name for the event, *Sustainable Energy: Efficiency, Conservation, and Renewables*.

Review MEA biomass financing option:

The committee reviewed potential grant opportunities that could help finance the Garrett College biomass boiler system. Andrea Varrato from Downstream Strategies provided a summary of the biomass financing options she researched ([Attachment C](#)). One of the most promising options researched was Maryland Energy Association's (MEA) Game Changer Competitive Grant ([Attachment D](#)). Ms. Varrato provided background information on this opportunity and summarized a call she had with MEA that suggested a fourth round of grant funding may be available in 2015.

General updates on active projects:

Committee members shared updates on active projects. Jim Torrington indicated that solar may be installed in Allegany County at the wastewater treatment plant and at parking garages in Oakland and Grantsville. Evan Hansen provided a brief update on Downstream Strategies' efforts to reach out to various parties about the crowdfunded solar project. There were no new updates on the Solar City project.

Discuss final reporting to Garrett and Allegany County commissioners:

Evan Hansen and Cheryl DeBerry lead a discussion on the future of the committee and the final reporting of its activities to the county commissioners. An overview of the committee's progress will be detailed during separate public meetings with the Garrett and Allegany County commissioners. Commissioners will be briefed on the details of projects that are in progress, projects that could be undertaken in the future but weren't addressed by this committee, as well as projects that were tabled by the committee. Committee members provided feedback on aspects of the written report that will be submitted to the Garrett County Commissioners by Downstream Strategies.

Public comment:

No public comment was offered during this meeting.

Adjourn:

A motion was made by Rodney Glotfelty, seconded by Jim Torrington, to adjourn the meeting at 5:00pm.