



Southeast Conference Energy Committee Meeting

Monday, April 1, 2024

Minutes:

Call to Order/Opening Remarks: Chair Jason Custer opened the meeting at 11:01am via Zoom with 22 participants, including Nils Andreassen, Misty Hull, Duff Mitchell, Brij Hall-Potnis, Michael Rovito, Jodi "T'seiltin" Mitchell, Clay Good, Nathan Green, Dan Smith, Katie Conway, Lori Sowa, Jonathan Rubbo, Rochelle Lindley, Michelle Deckard, Jamie Hansen, Clay Koplun, and SEC staff Robert Venables and Kaitlyn Jared.

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Brij Hall-Potnis introduced the Energyshed project, a Launch Alaska and AML program funded by the DOE, to develop private sector energy projects in remote Alaska. Twelve Alaskan communities have been selected, six in NW Arctic Borough and six from SE to participate in inventorying existing energy infrastructure and submitting proposals for clean energy projects. The program is seeking \$10million for the six southeast communities of Angoon, Hoonah, Kake, Yakutat, Metlakatla, and Haines. Infrastructure inventory and drone work will begin this summer. SEC is contracted to facilitate the southeast efforts.

Jared gave an update on the VW EV charging station program that will bring level 2 charging stations to communities that don't have a public charging station. Identifying communities and possibly ferry terminal locations is underway. AP&T also has funds for EV chargers. Juneau has the highest EV use per capita. Per a report from AEA there are 650 EVs according to the DMV. (Over 50% of AEL&P's EV accounts use time of day rates.)

Jared reported on Biomass. The pellet mill has been purchased and manufacturing is underway with an expectation of delivery in September. Efforts are underway for an operator training sponsor to support rural communities using cord wood systems.

Andreassen discussed the Arctic Energy Ambassador program. This AML and DOE program is comprised of all twelve regions working to strengthen the understanding of what's out there. Each region is represented by an ambassador who must meet multiple program requirements. Robert is the ambassador for southeast Alaska. The next meeting will be the first in-person meeting and will coincide with the AK Sustainable Energy Conference next month.

Rovito gave an update on legislative issues the APA is working on including that they've lobbied the House and the Senate being mindful of budget pressures and Custer testified to the House Energy Committee about vegetation management constraints in southeast. APA is supporting full funding of the renewable energy fund (REF) projects. The SEC energy committee unanimously recommends that the SEC Board also support full funding of all REF projects.

Discussion ensued regarding PCE and various Bills. Conway, Alstrom, Hull, Smith, and Koplin shared multiple funding opportunities (see links below). Green mentioned ACEP's virtual workshop next week. D. Michell announced that the NHA will be holding their AK meeting on August 27-28. Venables spoke about CPRG, the Climate Pledge Reduction Grant application was submitted with AK Heat Smart to install heat pumps in coastal communities in southern AK (Ketchikan to Kodiak).

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:06pm.

Opportunities:

Tribes and ANCs can utilize this program to support heat pump, EV, and beneficial electrification goals. All tribes and ANCs are guaranteed a certain level of funding... but they need to apply! <https://www.energy.gov/scep/tribal-home-electrification-and-appliance-rebates-program>

Federal Grants Symposium - <https://akfederalfunding.org/alaska-infrastructure-development-symposium/>

Denali Commission's unified grant opportunity is open until April 12, 2024. <https://www.denali.gov/grants/>

The AEA Renewable Energy Found program will open soon. (This summer.) Please monitor the AEA's website for details, and consider signing up on their listserv.

AK Federal Funding Site - Energy Programs | Rural Development (usda.gov) - <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs>

Utilizing EECBG formula funds, AEA has a second round of Request for Applications. Eligible local governments can apply for EE audits and projects. More info can be found here: <https://www.akenergyauthority.org/What-We-Do/Renewable-Energy-and-Energy-Efficiency-Programs/Energy-Efficiency-Conservation/Renewable-Energy-Village-Energy-Efficiency-Program>

Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference – Information - <https://alaskasustainableenergy.com/virtual-workshops/>

USDA RESP Program - <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-programs/rural-energy-savings-program>

Here's the allocation list for tribes: [IIJA \(40552\) EECBG Program Attachment 1c. Tribal Allocations_FINAL.pdf \(energy.gov\)](https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/IIJA%20%2840552%29%20EECBG%20Program_Attachment%201a.%20_Local%20Govt.%20Allocations_FINAL.pdf)
https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/IIJA%20%2840552%29%20EECBG%20Program_Attachment%201a.%20_Local%20Govt.%20Allocations_FINAL.pdf