

 **NRPC APPROVED MINUTES**
NRPC ENERGY FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
07/10/15

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Young, Town of Litchfield
Elvis Dhima, Town of Hudson
Kat McGhee, Hollis
Steve Wells, Mason

Tim Thompson, Town of Merrimack
Hal Lynde, Town of Pelham
Kermit Williams, Town of Wilton

STAFF PRESENT

Tim Roache, Executive Director

Sara Siskavich, GIS Manager

Karen Baker, Program Asst.

CALL TO ORDER

Williams called the meeting to order at 2:13pm.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no members of the public present that wished to speak.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2015

Williams asked if there were any comments or changes to the minutes of June 26, 2015. Thompson motioned to approve the minutes of June 26, 2015 with a second from Wells. The minutes passed 3-0-3.

LOGISTICS OF SCOPING MEETING AND FERC MEETING WITH EFAC

Siskavich informed the group of the two upcoming scoping meetings in the Nashua region in Nashua on July 29th and Milford on July 30th. She added that FERC would like to come in and meet with the NRPC EFAC in the afternoon on July 29. Siskavich said she was waiting to hear back from FERC due to the public invite aspect of it adding that they did not say no, but were waiting for approval.

McGhee said that Ken Hartlage from PLAN can come for the regularly scheduled EFAC meeting on July 24th. Roache talked about the public comment piece adding that the public could be in attendance when Hartlage comes on the 24th. McGhee felt that it would be good for citizen perspective since PLAN started as a grass roots group when the pipeline started. There was further discussion on Hartlage and his level of knowledge regarding the pipeline.

Roache suggested advertising for public opinion for EFAC on the pipeline using newspapers and/or electronic methods such as email and social media with a survey. Lynde felt the towns have already received public input in the NRPC region. Roache said that the EFAC themselves had not yet solicited for input and felt a public meeting with a 10 minute overview and then time to accept public comments. Thompson said the strategy should be a combination a public meeting and putting it out on social media. In response to Lynde's question on when and if there would be a deadline for public comment, Roache said as of now there is no deadline for comments but we would be looking at the next couple weeks as a timeframe. The official FERC comment period runs through the end of August.

EFAC ONLINE LIBRARY CONCEPT/DEMO

Siskavich showed the group Zotero, the online library concept she had working on. She provided a demonstration of its capabilities while navigating through the site and pointing out the ease of access for the public to locate the information that has been collected by EFAC. In response to a question on getting access to the library, Siskavich said all that is needed is a link from her. McGhee wanted to know what parts of EFAC's work products were there. Siskavich said everything in the Dropbox and on the NRPC pipeline page. She added that it is a nice resource for people who want to know what EFAC is doing. Roache added that Hudson wanted information and this was the best way for them to access it. He said he would be emailing the link to town Alderman, Selectmen and Town Councilmen. Siskavich said her hope

was to eventually suspend the use of “Dropbox” as permanent content storage and instead use it simply for a committee workspace. McGhee asked if the link would be included in the survey that would be done for the public input. Siskavich said that it would be.

EFAC DRAFT RESOLUTION

Roache referred to the June 26th EFAC meeting Agenda and revisited the issue that EFAC had decided to craft a concern statement about NED with supportive facts, and that EFAC would recommend to the NRPC Full Commission that they adopt the concern statement as a resolution in opposition. He circulated the document that Putney, McGhee and Bender had jointly drafted, and then Roache said he took all the information and put it into more formal language. He passed around the position and resolution pieces for the group to read and asked for comments.

There were some grammatical changes pointed out by the group. Lynde had some concerns with the 5th “whereas” clause, about which Roache said it was in the white paper that was presented to the Commission. Roache added that in a conversation about the EFAC presentation to the Commission that he had with Commissioner Hennessey, Hennessey felt the Commission should have taken action on the preliminary report.

Williams said that “industrial” uses should be included in the 2nd “whereas,” asking the question “do we have the need for industrial energy and is it too expensive for businesses to grow profitably”? McGhee said they do have information on that and elaborated some and said that overbuild might not keep it diverse. Wells added that KM will unbalance it. There was further discussion on all the gas that comes into New England and NH. McGhee commented that they do not have to accept the industry narrative on benefit. Williams said that they should also include something on NH looking into wind energy and that NH needs to figure out how to provide less expensive energy, renewable, competitive and without subsidies. McGhee added to also have a diverse energy portfolio so as not to have a monopoly in the future.

Lynde asked why there was so much projected capacity with this pipe; not much of it is for NH, and who is going to pay for it. Williams said it would not be the rate payers; KM’s stockholders would pay. He added that if KM can’t sell gas, then the stockholders eat the cost. There was further discussion between Lynde, McGhee and Williams on KM commitments, potential excess product, and associated costs. McGhee commented that part of the stakeholder portfolio is increased prices. Williams felt that prices would go down with excess and be more competitive. Lynde felt more information was needed on costs.

Roache said he wanted to share the draft resolution with the Executive Committee. Roache explained that the Executive Committee can take action on behalf of the full Commission if necessary. McGhee asked if this would be used with state agencies once voted on by the Commission. Roache said it could be used as a press release, adding that the Commission is advisory only. He said he could ask the Commission if they wanted to put forth some comments on the docket(s). Roache added that EFAC has not yet captured the business perspective. Williams said EFAC should include recommendations on how the region should meet its energy needs.

Roache asked hypothetically if the pipeline was not going to cross into NH at all, would NH be involved and added that the local position is perhaps prone to bias. There was further discussion on this hypothetical scenario. Lynde had questions on existing capacity coming into terminals and how much the increase is. He added that he felt the biggest need for gas is for power generation. There was discussion on when to get the BIA in to meet with the EFAC. Williams said he would shoot for August 7th to have them on the agenda.

PERTINENT LOCAL TASK FORCE AND WORKGROUP UPDATES

Dhima provided a status update for Hudson saying that the Hudson Selectmen voted 5-0 against the pipeline and were drafting a letter to FERC. He said he would get a copy of the minutes and forward them.

Roache said for now, the EFAC will meet every two weeks. There was a comment that the PUC was going to approve on July 22nd.

Siskavich provided an update on Amherst informing the group that they had a follow up meeting with KM, where they provided an alternative route for the pipeline which avoided schools in Amherst. Siskavich showed the KM alternate route map on screen. Thompson commented that now it goes by a school in Merrimack. Siskavich would be providing poster-size maps of these new potential route alternatives to Amherst, Merrimack and Milford.

Roache asked if there was interest in getting the towns together for the purpose of regionally examining alternates in the route and the potential affects to other towns. Thompson said the Merrimack position is they do not want the project or alternatives. Williams commented that FERC considers a route change of 20 miles or so a minor deviation.

Wells shared information on the Solutions Project or 100.org, a group started by Mark Ruffalo to achieve 100% renewable energy.

Motion to adjourn came from Thompson with a second from Wells. The meeting ended at 3:28pm. There next meeting would be on July 24, 2015.