

Climate Crisis Task Force Advisory Board – Initial Think Tank Meeting – June 26, 2020

Roll call: Pete McCartt, Andy Ratzkin, Ashley Welde, Ellen Weininger, Gwen Jones, Janet Harckham, Leo Wiegman, Lisa Copeland, Suzi Ross. (Absent: Jason Baker)

Role of CCTF: see EO and press release

CAPI Initiative

- supported by NYPA
- much of renewable thru hydro
- NYPA is GC for solar project (9 mgw)
- too expensive for CAPI (ca \$600k); HVRC came through + DEC grant (\$100k)
- DEC grant req's volunteer work to match; is defined in terms of hours (monthly meetings, committee work), which must be counted to get to the match. CAPI work plan will look quite high for volunteer but is the total of all
- will keep us engaged w/CAPI; role of CCTF still ill defined—will define on participation within WC depts
- some CCTF members on muni CAPI committees, all of which will be doing their own version of CAPI
- intend this program to become template for other munis
- JH: although had hoped for County-wide plan but this will act as how/to for others, e.g. measurement and target setting
- PMc: wants outcome to be more than a report; wants an interactive process document (website) as deliverable
- PMc: ties w/ long standing need for sustainability website; wants to build reqs, etc. in hopes that IT will be available toward the end
- JH: suggests that WC IT rep would be advisable. Scott Fernquist might be available; PMC to discuss w/Marguerite.

Time Sheets

- need an input—Google doc t/c

Check-in

- **Andy Ratzkin:** SWCD, environ lawyer focusing on energy sector; house counsel at Power Engineers; vice-chair of Hastings CAC; writes on climate policy focused on carbon tax/pricing; presented to BOL re resolution to support CO2 tax legislation at state level—not yet adopted while Columbia is doing research on it; joined second session of state climate advisory council meeting—discussed CO2 pricing; worked on bike/ped access e.g. TZ; re this committee—wants discussion of mission, strat focus. What can the County do? How fits into broader strat focus on climate? H/t pull in same direction as state CAC? Pay close attention to WC cap budget cycle— opp to move needle on initiatives.
 - PMc: agrees w/focus on cap budget; has worked w/bdgt director to control purchases for public transit, police, parks fleets; on county gov vs munis—agree w/focus on County at least for starts. Also need to connect w/NGOs e.g. SW, FCWC
- **Ashley Welde:** Data-centric professional experience; environmental issues primary—started WeFutureCycle in 2014 re school recycling education—95% success rate. Rye Brook dusty committees, Healthy Yards, Green Star biz program. For CCTF focused on WC initiatives; have

trouble understanding, keeping up w/what all the munis are doing—recreating the wheel instead of silos. Would be easier for businesses, e.g. county-wide regs on environ'l practices. On Blind Brook school board. Worked w/CMS systems, comms strategies, market research, social media.

- PMc: anti-idling enforcement!
- **Ellen Weininger:** Dir of Educ'l Outreach at Grassroots Environ'l Education, focused on environ'l health for 20 years; has public health background. GEE works nation-wide; EW's focus mostly on NYS. Leaf blower, NYS law banning pesticides on school grounds. How Green is My Town? program. Echo importance of cap bdgt.
- **Gwen:**
- **Janet:** HHF represents every single issue that could be taken up by CCTF. Chair of Clarence Heller Family Fdn, focused on sustainable ag, health & environment, music & education. Working w/ED on helping orgs pivot in time of pandemic—op funding vs strat/biz plans. Wants Commissioners to be fully aware of our work, appreciate importance, etc. Air quality testing seems to be of rising concern—data collection, etc. InRoads Climate Interactive.
- **Leo:** Educ'l book publishing, local elected office in Croton, inc mayor, now has solar energy/storage business—build/deliver systems in HV; working w/new NGO called Croton 100. CO2 tracker app to help households, businesses calc CO2 footprint; open source available to any other community. Might turn into CURE (Comms United to Reduce Emission).
- **Lisa:** FCWC is intro to environment stuff (2002); Mt Vernon council member; w/FCWC worked on Indian Point, composting (has doubled in Mt V); worked w/NYS senator on CO2 bill; food scraps (PMc mentioned new WC food scrap program); worked Bob Elliott (formerly ED at SW) on EVs.
- **Suzi:** Represents Green Ossining, worked w/Catherine Borgia. Market research, advtg, comms as day job. Resuable bag campaign, glyphosate ban, repair cafes, leaf blower ban, healthy yards, big Earth Day festival, food scrap program (>250 households, which has grown substantially during pandemic), SW programs implemented in Ossining, working on Climate Science/Policy MA at Bard. Thesis focus on valuing on Hudson River re passive use. Feels CCTF is ill-defined; doesn't know name (?). Believes WC can take leading role in climate actions; has remarkable brain power. Wants more on plastic bags. Wants to be sure this org isn't redundant to other orgs e.g. SW. Wants to emphasize issue of environmental justice. Focusing on sea level rise.
 - PMC: Technically called CSCTF but wants us to be CCTF Steering Committee. Focused on county-level government action.

Next Meeting

- Will include full membership e.g. BOL, ex officio WC depts
- JH: small group to focus on structure, CAPI and 1-2 projects
- Some confusion regarding length of terms, which are staggered between 1-3 years
- Circulate google doc