

# Massachusetts Wind Working Group

[www.ceere.org/rerl/mwwg.html](http://www.ceere.org/rerl/mwwg.html)

413-545-3914

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## June '05 Meeting Minutes

Location: Amherst, UMass Engineering campus

Date: 8 May 2005

### A. Introduction of subcommittees

Each subcommittee chair (with one substitute) introduced their subcommittee. The working group as a whole suggested some additional possible directions.

The following includes the original list of potential roles, followed in each case by the new suggestions:

#### 1. Community-scale projects (100 kW-5 MW) subcommittee

*Chair:* Paul Cleri R W Beck, [PCleri@rwbeck.com](mailto:PCleri@rwbeck.com), 508-935-1846

- Explore project finance options
- Technical support for municipal electric companies
- Coop & community finance models
- REC support (/ feed-in tariffs)

#### 2. State & Federal Agencies subcommittee

*Chair:* Mark Kalpin, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, [mark.kalpin@wilmerhale.com](mailto:mark.kalpin@wilmerhale.com), 617-526-6176

- Define/streamline the requirements for avian/bat studies,
- Coordinate/streamline the state & federal environmental review processes.
- USF&W guidelines. Involve state DFWELE & state biologist
- FAA & MAC, Municipal Airports, re: radar, etc.
- Work with USDA to enable wind power funding in Mass. under the Farm bill
- Army Corps of Engineers. SEP's (State Energy Programs)
- MA Highway Dept.; DEP; Planning, regional planning

(No new suggestions from the group as a whole for this group)

#### 3. Outreach subcommittee

*Co-Chairs:* Richard Lawrence, Cape and Islands Self Reliance, [richardl@reliance.org](mailto:richardl@reliance.org), 508-457-7679 (east) & Nancy Nylen, Center for Ecological Technology, 413-458-5688 [nancyn@cetonline.org](mailto:nancyn@cetonline.org) (west)

- Send out a press release about the formation of the MWWG.
- Write & submit op-eds. Work with the media.
- Develop a series of educational articles for distribution. Public literacy campaign on energy in general & wind energy in specific.
- Develop educational "MA Wind Energy" video for public broadcast (as done in VT)
- Invite anti-wind individuals/groups for discussion
- Tours to wind facilities (Hull and Searsburg)
- KidWind – teacher workshops

- Public-access TV (bracket existing videos with local programming)
- Blogs /Link pages
- Curriculum across the grades—including UMass RERL resources
- “Wind is Beautiful” art exhibit and theme/campaign - Involve arts community
- Op Ed – editorial protocol for submitting op-ed pieces...some consensus needed if submitted from Wind Working Group

#### 4. State policy subcommittee

*Chair:* Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute, [jack.wiggin@umb.edu](mailto:jack.wiggin@umb.edu) , 617-287-5570

- Support EOEAs’ current effort to develop state guidance for wind energy, including a model by-law & siting on state lands
  - Programmatic avian impact support, to expedite site-specific avian impact studies
  - Clarify issues with Chapter 61 (agricultural) lands; Article 97 (open space) lands.
  - Long-term stabilization of policy. Permitting obstacles; zoning, by-laws.
  - Definition of “water-dependent use” for offshore turbines
- Climate action plan – link with
  - Consistency with other state policies & agencies’ plans
  - GIS (mapping)

#### 5. Utility subcommittee

*Chair:* Chris Sherman, CapeWind, Energy Management, Inc. (EMI), [csherman@emienergy.com](mailto:csherman@emienergy.com), 617- 904-3100

- Interconnect standards, policies. Stand-by tariffs
  - Transmission planning taking wind integration into consideration
  - Encourage Massachusetts utilities to be involved in the utility wind interest group (UWIG: <http://www.uwig.org/>)
- Scheduling
  - GIS (generation info)
  - Legal definition of renewable energy (influences REC prices)
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## **B. Meeting of Subcommittees**

Working group participants divided up by subcommittee. Each subcommittee choose a number of issues to undertake and set out action items:

### **1. Community-scale projects subcommittee**

#### Goals:

- Support and enable cooperative/community-scale wind energy projects.
- Identify project finance options for cooperative/community-scale projects.
- Provide technical support for municipal electric utilities

#### Action plan:

1. Identify project finance lender(s) representatives that can be on subcommittee.
2. Identify legal structure(s)/mechanism(s) to develop and implement cooperative/community-scale projects.
3. Prepare a due-diligence schedule that would identify/establish the minimum criteria to support the logistics, technical, legal, and financial needs of a proposed cooperative/community-scale project.
4. Identify the power purchase (PPA) requirements for a proposed cooperative/community-scale project.
5. One World Energy to identify a mechanism to support all types of cooperative/community-scale wind energy projects, using its project as a pilot model.

Next meeting Date: July 2005 (date TBD)

Next meeting place: (TBD)

Next meeting activity: Review status/progress of action items.

### **2. State & Federal Agencies**

#### Action plan:

1. Defining and streamlining the requirements for avian and bat studies:  
Review approved small projects to see if there were any consistent requirements regarding bat and bird studies that might form a basis for our work.
2. Interference with radar or EMI:  
Contact the FAA and MAC to discuss at what distance a wind project becomes a concern with regard to airport RADAR.
3. USDA farm bill funding for wind:  
Meet with the State Department of Agriculture to determine whether this was something in which the state might interested (i.e. to assist farmers looking to self-generate electricity).

Next meeting Date: Tuesday, July 26, 10-noon

Next meeting place: MTC building in Westborough

Next meeting activity: review status of action items

### **3. Outreach subcommittee**

Goal:

To increase public acceptance of wind power by providing objective information and promoting a positive image of wind

Action plan:

1. Develop a list serve or other method for committee members to communicate with each other. We will begin by providing contact info to members.
2. Create a central web-based place/clearinghouse for posting information and events – coordinate with MWWG site on RERL’s website (<http://www.ceere.org/rerl/mwwg.html>).
3. Develop a presentation that members of the group could adapt to their needs. Cindy from HealthLink offered to look into the possibility of sharing the presentation they are developing with MTC funding. This presentation could also be posted on the website.
4. Identify state legislators (Congressmen and Senators) who hold key positions in areas related to energy, the environment and economic development as well as representatives from communities where there is the potential for wind development. This would be a first step in organizing a “Discussion Day”.
5. Develop a one- or two-page information sheet that includes “talking points” – key issues of concern related to wind power.
6. Send out to the group the discussion document developed by the Union of Concerned Scientists, which addresses issues that have come up in communities where wind is proposed.

Next meeting Date: July (date TBD)

Next meeting place: MTC in Westborough

Next meeting activity: review HealthLink’s presentation; review status of action items.

### **4. State policy subcommittee**

Action plan:

1. Share wind power standards and criteria being developed by Mass Audubon for its own properties
2. Share guidance for wind power developed by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation
3. Study of zoning parallels (affordable housing, adult entertainment and cell towers)
4. Prepare a model zoning bylaw regarding wind
5. Work with EOEA in developing guidance for wind development to be used in management plans for state properties
6. Investigate the nature significance of the barrier to offshore wind turbines by the definition of “water-dependent use” in the chapter 91 regulations 310 CMR 9.02

Next meeting Date: second week in July

Next meeting place: TBD

Next meeting activity: report out, review and discussion on action items

## 5. Utility subcommittee

Goal: Speak with a unified voice on issues pertaining to the development, integration and operation of wind generating facilities.

Action plan:

1. Update the working group on the status of pending regulatory and utility issues involving wind development, interconnection, scheduling and marketing.
2. Develop a consensus on industry regulatory issues impacting wind.
3. Draft comments on pending issues based upon the position of the working group.

Next meeting Date: (date TBD)

Next meeting place: MTC in Westborough

Next meeting activities:

- Update pending regulatory and utility issues
- Discuss multi-state RPS status.
- Assign issues for research and development of wind working group position papers.
- Identify members to act as a liaison with relevant industry and regulatory participants.

*Attendance list:*

Sheila Becker  
Keren Schlomy, Attorney at law  
Chris Sherman, CapeWind, Energy Management, Inc.  
Nancy Nysten, Center for Ecological Technology; Berkshire Renewable Energy Collab.  
Lauren Mattison, Center for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy  
John Miller, CH2M Hill  
Rhonda Serre, Congressman Olver's Office  
Christian Lagier, CoopPower  
Joseph Turnbull, CyberNauTech  
Richard Michaud, Department of Energy, Boston Regional Office  
Pat Fleischauer, ENSR  
Steve Wood, ESS Group  
Ben Bell, General Electric Wind Energy  
Susan Yochulson, HealthLink  
Cindy Keegan, HealthLink  
Bill Green, Island Alliance  
Steve Walton, ISO New England  
Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon  
Dwayne Breger, Mass Division of Energy Resources (DOER)  
Woody Stoddard, Ocean Wind Energy Systems  
Paul Reeves, One World Energy  
I. Prakash, Prakash Consulting  
Paul Cleri, R W Beck  
Lynn Di Tullio, Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL), UMass, Amherst  
Melissa Ray, Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL), UMass, Amherst  
Chris Elkinton, Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL), UMass, Amherst  
Tobin McKenna, Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL), UMass, Amherst  
Sally Wright, Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL), UMass, Amherst  
Gabriel Ceriotti, Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL), UMass, Amherst  
Jon Lewis, Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL), UMass, Amherst  
Utama Abdulwahid, Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL), UMass, Amherst  
Jim Manwell, Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL), UMass, Amherst  
Eric Krathwohl, Rich, May, Bildeau & Flaherty, P.C.  
Alex Steffan, Robinson & Cole LLP  
Jennifer Kiehling, Second Wind Inc.  
Jonathan Edwards, SmartPower  
Paul Peterson, Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.  
Brian Braginton-Smith, The Conservation Consortium Foundation, Inc.  
Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute, UMass Boston