

River Area Council of Governments
April 20, 2021

Members present: J. Der, B. Ferguson, W. McIlroy, R. Schell, P. Smith, M. Souva, S. Storms, C. Terrillion, K. Vogt, T. Widrick, and J. Zando

Others: E. Avallone, K. Brouillard, M. Dietrich, A. Kimball, J. Perry, M. Price

Chairman McIlroy called the remote meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Motion B. Ferguson, seconded by J. Zando to approve the minutes of March 16, 2021 as presented. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Presentation

M. Dietrich introduced Jenn Perry and Matt Price from ANCA and K. Brouillard, Lewis County Planning. J. Perry asked each municipality to identify steps they have taken toward meeting Clean Energy Community goals:

T/Champion – LED lighting at highway and street lights; resolution to select an administrator for Community Choice Aggregate and plans for Community Solar

V/Carthage – Interior LED lighting and plan for LED street light replacement

T/Wilna – Interior LED lighting and plan for LED street light replacement and a charging station

V/Lowville – Interior LED lighting and plan for LED street light replacement

T/Denmark – Interior LED lighting

V/Deferiet – Interior and exterior LED lighting and plans for charging station

T/Lowville – Interior LED lighting in facility shared with Village

J. Perry stated that the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program is supported by NYSERDA and there is no charge for any assistance from the staff. The program can save municipalities money and help to meet State energy goals. M. Price works out of Watertown and serves communities in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties. J. Perry discussed CEC actions, designations, and point based grants.

In response to a question from J. Perry, T/Champion Supervisor Ferguson reported that the Town and V/West Carthage have appointed Good Energy as their administrator for Community Choice Aggregates and will be conduct two webinars in May to provide information to the public.

K. Brouillard discussed how Climate Smart Communities strategies complement CEC goals.

J. Perry stated that the next step would be to set up a series of workshops starting with identifying actions already taken by communities and submitting documentation for designations if applicable. A number of representatives in attendance were interested in participating in the workshop. The first one-hour workshop will be remote and held during the workday. The workshop will replace the RACOG meeting scheduled for May.

Old Business

M. Dietrich reminded members to take action to authorize their chief elected officer to sign the amended IMA to include the V/Lowville in RACOG.

M. Dietrich reported on the potential formation of a community action group called the "Friends of the Black River". He also reported that there will be a meeting at the Depot Museum in Croghan and a discussion about the railroad bed.

Motion by J. Zando, seconded by P. Smith to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

Christina Vargulick
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RACOG Secretary