Minutes of the
Somerset County Energy Council
Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Chairman William Amann called the meeting to order at approximately 6:10 PM, and the members pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

The roll was taken and the following members were Present:
William Amann, Chairman
Jeanne Perantoni, Vice Chair
Wayne DeFeo, Secretary
Donald Kasten
Walter Lane
Susan Dorward
Jeffrey Foose

Absent:
Paul Drake
Jeffrey Grant
Judith Majewski
Honorable Brian Gallagher, Freeholder Liaison

Also Present:
Laurette Kratina, Somerset County Planning Division

Approval of the February 21, 2018 Meeting Minutes
The minutes were approved with a few changes involving a miss-spelled words and reference to RVCC on second paragraph of the first page. A motion to approve was submitted by Jeanne Perantoni, which was seconded by Walter Lane. All approved and the motion carried.

Chairman’s Comments:
The NJ Clean Energy Bill sponsored by Senators Smith and McKeon passed. The Nuclear Bill also passed.

New Business

Swearing in of Re-appointed Member: Mr. DeFeo read and signed the oath of office. It was witnessed by Ms. Kratina. She will submit it to the County Clerk’s office.

SCEC Project Tracking: Chairman Amann noted that he has been working with Mr. Lane and Ms. Kratina on an Energy Council Project Tracking Sheet. The goal is to keep better track of progress being made on projects initiated by the Council. It will allow us to revisit some of the things that have been recommended internally to the County and all other initiatives. It comprises a record of each project, who is involved and what the next steps are. The draft is currently underway by County officials. It will help the Council get more stuff done.

County Energy Efficiency Initiatives Work Plan: Mr. Amann and Ms. Kratina noted that the first few items on the new tracking sheet involve energy audits, implementation of energy conservation measures identified through the audits, and measuring the results in terms of energy and cost savings. A draft work plan/scope of work for carrying these tasks out at the
County level has been drafted and is under review by County officials. Mr. Lane noted that some of the steps involved in carrying out these initiatives are outside of the purview of the Planning Division staff, and we will need to get other staff involved from the Dept. of Public Works, Facilities and Services and Engineering. It represents a game plan for moving forward, and is modeled after the working group set up in 2003 that ushered through the County Complex Audit process, prioritized and oversaw implementation of the ECMs, and reported back to the Freeholders.

Draft 2017 Annual Report: Finalization of the report was discussed. Copies of the first draft were distributed to the group a few months ago. The current version integrates changes requested by Mr. Lane and Mr. Amann. Mr. Amann indicated the 2018 Goals and Objectives section will be omitted. If no comments are received within the next two weeks, we will consider it final. Mr. Lane indicated the new County Logo will be added. Ms. Kratina indicated she will circulate the document in MS Word so people can comment back using MS Word’s track change mode.

Updated County Tips Brochure: Chairman Amann noted that the brochure needs to be updated in general, and so that it can be available for distribution for Earth Day events. CFL bulb graphic and information will be substituted with LED bulb information and graphic. Greg Bachman in the County Graphic Dept. is helping to complete this work. Ms. Kratina noted that assuming the brochure can be refined quickly; it will be available in the County Administration Building Lobby prior to the end of the week.

Updated SCEC Logo and County Energy Graphic: Ms. Perantoni pointed out the enlarged printed copies of the draft logos and graphics on the board at the front of the room. One is based on the SCEC’s original Logo; the other is a more elaborate graphic that can be used on various publications. Small scale versions were shown, for potential use on the SCEC’s letterhead. The members agreed on a variation of the logo and graphic that was shown. Ms. Kratina will follow-up with Mr. Bachman to make the requested changes.

SCEC Earth Day Poster: A draft poster was also presented. Some refinements will be made and it will be displayed together with a dispenser filled with the tips brochure in the County Administration Building Lobby for a few days around Earth Day.

Montgomery Earth Day Event: Availability of a SCEC member to attend this event on April 22nd was discussed. Chairman Amann will e-mail Mr. Grant who lives in Montgomery to see if he can go. Ms. Dorward and Mr. Foose will be attending the Bridgewater Township Eco Fair on May 5th. Mr. DeFeo noted that Warren and Watchung are having a joint Green Fair on April 28th. Ms. Kratina said that she will have copies of the poster and brochures for any members who will be attending any of these events.

Somerset County Electric Vehicle Task Force: The Freeholders recently created a group of County staff and agency representatives to look into this. This group met with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority. The Freeholders are very serious about putting a plan together that identifies where EV charging stations should be installed at county facilities and provide guidance regarding the installation of EV chargers at the local level and by the private sector. It is included on the Council’s Project Tracking Sheet. Mr. Lane noted that Freeholder Caliguire is one of the driving forces behind this initiative. Ms. Dorward mentioned that there is a NJ Organization called “ChargeEVC” that you can become a member of, and they then provide you with guidance for moving forward. They have a website. This organization partners with Gable Associates, which runs the day-to-day operations. It may be around $300 per year to join.
Old Business

Utilization of Infographics: Ms. Perantoni handled this discussion topic, noting that it rolls into her committee report. She indicated that the Education and Awareness Committee met a week ago with Mr. Bachman from the County Graphics Dept. Mr. Bachman agreed to take a look at the infographics prepared by the Rutgers Intern – Frank Mattia to see if they can be enhanced to be more “high impact” and easy to digest, so that we can use them at the 4-H Fair and for other things. They can be added to Brochures, the website, etc. We tried to reach out to Mr. Mattia to get more of the raw data. We only have some of it. The original versions are posted on the Council Website.

The Future of Energy Event: Chairman Amann mentioned that he thought this event, sponsored by the Council and the Business partnership was great. It was held at Raritan Valley Country Club. The new head of PSE&G, Mr. Daly was the keynote speaker. He gave a great presentation, which was followed by great Q & A. The event was very well attended, probably around 80 people. Several Freeholders were in attendance. Chairman Amann was able to voice his support and offer assistance to them regarding the County EV Taskforce. He met Assemblyman Freeman at the event, who asked, “What is your wish list”. Chairman Amann noted he had a follow-up meeting with him recently at his office, and he seems very supportive and on-board with what the Council is trying to accomplish and will be a great asset. This was another good example of the Council’s working relationship with the Business Partnership. Ms. Dorward noted that Mr. Daly is supportive of renewable energy.

Potential Guest Speakers: Chairman Amann asked the members if there is someone they would like to have come to a Council meeting to speak about any of the topics we are interested in. Ms. Dorward and others expressed interest in learning more about emerging energy storage technology and economics. Ms. Perantoni indicated it may be appropriate to bring in experts from the EV arena. Ms. Dorward recommended Mark Werner from Gable Associates could talk about EV charging technology and deployment. She heard him speak previously and found him to be very informative. She provided Mr. Werner’s e-mail address: Mark@GableAssociates.com so he can be contacted by Chairman Amann. Mr. Foose indicated that he very recently started working with an east-coast company by the name of Red Tea that deals with flow batteries. It is involved in repurposing obsolete, vacant retail space like Sears and Toys-R-Us, to house flow battery systems. This technology is being pursued by some countries around the world such as Australia as a power security strategy. Mr. Foose agreed to seek an educational presentation about the technology for the Council from this organization. Flow batteries are safer than lithium ion banks in residential areas. They are very combustible. Flow batteries are based on salt water. Although Mr. Foose has a financial interest in the company, members believed arranging such a presentation would not be a conflict of interest since his interest has been disclosed and the potential sale of products or services is not involved. Ms. Dorward also suggested possibly inviting a few of the legislators that are sponsoring energy bills to come to a meeting. Mr. DeFeo noted there are over 30 energy-related bills that have been introduced and are being considered. Mr. DeFeo suggested that someone like A. J. could be invited to speak about ways the Council can influence the legislation and/or understand the legislative system. Ms. Dorward went to the conference at Princeton on the State’s Energy Future. Ralph Izzo from PSE&G was there, and Cathleen Frangione, who is Governor Murphy’s head policy person. She said the State is looking at $50 to $60 million per year associated with re-joining REGI that can be used for energy efficiency, solar, etc. There is new direction under Gov. Murphy that the Council may want to learn more about. Subsidized renewable costs are going up, representing a massive shift in the energy
market and consumer costs. Large scale energy intensive industries may see this as a deterrent from coming to NJ.

**Retirement Announcement:** Long-time Council member Don Kasten announced to the group that he is retiring and will be moving to Delaware, close to Newark. He had informed Chairman Amann of this previously. The members congratulated him and wished him the best of luck. Chairman Amann thanked him for all of his contributions and noted that he will be missed.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:**

**Alternative & Renewable Energy:** Nothing going on

**Energy Audits and Efficiency:** working on the EEI work plan as noted above.

**Education and Awareness:** Wayne DeFeo noted it is great to educate people, but it would be better if the Council can actually get people to do something. He shared a very well written but old (30 years) survey for homeowners interested in having a State energy audit. He will provide a copy of the URL to Ms. Perantoni. He suggested that it be modified and used by the Council. Ms. Perantoni offered to arrange a meeting to work on this.

**Legislation:** The nuclear bill was discussed. The carbon that has been displaced by nuclear appears to have become a valid argument for subsidizing nuclear as proposed bill. Mr. DeFeo expressed concern regarding the way the bill is written. Safeguards should be added using a conditional veto, but this is unlikely, and the bill will probably be signed as-is. He is concerned that the rate council is not included, the amount of funds provided may be much greater than what is needed, and that there is no provision as to how it must be used. The clean energy bill was carved out and, the wind and solar bills have also been separated and are now cleaner and better than they were. Chairman Amann pointed out the energy efficiency responsibilities of utilities that are included in the Clean Energy bill.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**
There was no public comment offered at this meeting.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**
Chairman Amann noted the GBC’s Gala is coming up on May 16\(^{th}\) at the Palace. BPU Commissioner will be speaking and George Bandi from the Mohawk Group, who is an excellent speaker. Mohawk was one of the first companies to make their products out of recyclable materials. A list of projects that won awards was shared. There are some really great projects being recognized this year.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for June 19, 2018.

Mr. DeFeo noted that June 10\(^{th}\) is Burlington County's Earth Fair. They are having a “sustainable living tent” that Mr. DeFeo will be running. It is held at Smithville Park, outside of Mt. Holly. This County event has been held for about 10 years.

**Adjournment**
A motion to adjourn was provided by Mr. Foose and seconded by Mr. DeFeo. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.