



## **“Beyond Cape Wind” Community Planning Process**

### ***Meeting #2***

June 22, 2005

Steamship Authority, Main Terminal Building, Hyannis

#### *Organized by*

Water Energy & Ecology Information Services (WEEinfo)  
Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR)  
Cape & Islands Self-Reliance

#### *Facilitated and sponsored in part by*

Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC)

### **Summary**

Chris Powicki of WEEinfo greeted participants and acknowledged the help provided by Joan Muller of WBNERR and Megan Amsler of Self-Reliance, the partial financial support provided by MTC, and the technical assistance provided by the MIT-USGS Science Impact Collaborative (MUSIC),

He then introduced the goals for the meeting: “To advance the design of a coordinated community planning process through which participants – together with stakeholders throughout the region – can collaborate to characterize the challenges associated with the Energy Present, to explore the opportunities associated with the Energy Future, and to develop strategies for Managing the Transition.”

Greg Watson of MTC noted that in the absence of leadership at the federal level, local and regional stakeholders have the opportunity to set a national example. He provided ground rules for the meeting, asked attendees to introduce themselves and their energy-related interests (see list of attendees in Attachment A), and proposed three statements around which Cape & Islands energy stakeholders holding diverse perspectives may find common ground:

1. Increased attention to renewable energy and energy efficiency is a good thing.
2. The Cape & Islands region is blessed with an abundance of renewable resources, and opportunities exist for significant efficiency gains.
3. Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket face common challenges such as high energy costs, seasonal economies, environmental and public health issues, and climate change.

Attendees affirmed these three propositions, and discussion turned to the development of a mission statement for coordinated community planning going forward.

### **Mission Statement**

The following draft mission statement was read aloud to kick off the discussion:

“This process will engage diverse stakeholders in considering energy supply and use from a comprehensive perspective, in characterizing common challenges, in defining common goals, and in developing tools to inform energy-related decision-making at the individual, local, and regional levels.”

This statement had been drafted based on goals and activities defined at the previous stakeholder meeting in April. Attendees generally agreed that the proposed statement was too focused on process. The following opinions were among those expressed:

- Need “oomph” and specificity to attract interest and attention

- Need outcome-oriented goals, e.g., energy independence, fuel supply diversity, affordability, economic growth, wind energy development, sustainability, local control, public-private collaboration rather than corporate control, beneficial from economic, environmental, and social perspectives, etc.
- Need process-oriented goals, e.g., study the region as a starting point, explore future with a broad group of stakeholders, create an energy action plan/strategy, overcome barriers to the future through political influence, achieve political influence, create pathways/directions to the future, etc.

Group decision-making options and alternative definitions of consensus were also discussed, with respect to development of the mission statement, planning of future activities, and identification and pursuit of future goals. The discussion ended with agreement that the mission statement must be as inclusive as possible, i.e., that “consensus” in this instance is essentially defined as unanimous agreement. Attendees also determined that specific goals should be defined during the process itself rather than during the creation of a mission statement.

### **Knowledge Briefs/Visioning**

The remainder of the meeting involved free-ranging discussion about next steps, specifically the two identified at the previous meeting:

- Development of knowledge briefs characterizing the “true costs” of the Energy Present
- Organization of a visioning session to define community-based goals for the Energy Future.

Some attendees emphasized the need to focus on goals and visions; others acknowledged that factual information is required to support visionary, goal-oriented decision-making. It was generally agreed that both steps are critical for success.

Attendees noted that substantial effort will be required to create the knowledge briefs, and that involving diverse stakeholder groups—the unlikely partners—in development, approval, and dissemination processes will be key to success. Suggestions included the following:

- Extensive communications planning to define goals, audiences, and process
- Development of process through a pilot effort to create an initial brief
- Roundtable discussions to flesh out topics and determine what types of data/information would be useful
- Targeted outreach to draw in technical experts in specific areas
- Targeted outreach to engage groups that don’t normally participate in energy-related activities—to educate them why they need to think about energy, and to bring their perspectives to bear on the issues

To inform future visioning activities, Kate Warner of the Vineyard Energy Project described experiences on Martha’s Vineyard, where community workshops were held a couple years ago to get people thinking about energy and interested in crafting a new energy economy appropriate to the unique attributes of the island. A “Renewable Energy Island” resolution was passed at town meeting this spring, energy-related data and information have been collected and analyzed, and an energy action plan is currently under review. Kate discussed the importance of community participation and input, the need for a common goal, and some possible courses of action to be pursued based on the energy plan. Barriers were discussed that complicate efforts to effect significant change in personal behavior, in decision-making by elected and appointed officials, and in overall energy supply and use practices.

A scenario-based approach to visioning was proposed for the Cape & Islands region by Chris Powicki. Under this approach, participants would examine what the future might look like under varying scenarios, and then collaborate to define what they would like the future to look like, in terms of energy supply and use in local communities and its effects on economic, environmental, and social conditions. For example, a climate scenario might look at the possible effects of global climate change on the Cape & Islands region. A regional technology scenario might look at technology and resource development options for the electricity, heating, and transport sectors, based on existing studies by DOE, MTC, the Cape Light Compact, and other sources. A global energy scenario might look at demographic projections, future growth in demand for energy, and the effects that climate policy would have on the worldwide energy system if atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide are to be stabilized at about twice preindustrial levels, based on energy modeling studies reported in the literature.

These ideas were discussed, as were other types of approaches designed for the general public rather than stakeholders with specific knowledge of key energy-related issues and options. Suggestions from attendees included the following:

- Hold visioning meetings in each community or in central locations serving several communities, followed up by a region-wide meeting
- Use deliberative polling techniques to assess baseline beliefs, provide education, and evaluate informed opinions
- Involve the arts community in creating attractive visions of energy futures
- Sponsor a contest to engage the public in visioning activities

The timing of knowledge brief development and visioning activities was also discussed. It was agreed that these activities could occur in parallel, with the knowledge briefs possibly being developed over an extended period and the visioning sessions held in the relatively near term.

### **Next Steps**

Based on discussions at the meeting, near-term steps are highlighted below:

1. An updated draft mission statement, based on feedback provided by attendees, will be circulated to participants in the stakeholder process.
2. A detailed process will be proposed for developing, reviewing, approving, and disseminating the knowledge briefs, using one of the 10 topics previously identified by participants.
3. Funding will be sought for subsequent activities designed to address many of the needs and issues identified to date by participants. Proposals will be posted on the process website; tasks will include the following:
  - Engage additional stakeholders and the public in developing, reviewing, and disseminating knowledge briefs, in participating in visioning exercises, and in updating the draft systems representation introduced at the April meeting.
  - Engage the public in developing visions of the energy future for the Cape & Islands region through a contest involving students and the arts community