

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

MINUTES: May 21, 2007

MEMBERS (E&E): Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Kaplowitz, LaMotte, Rogowsky, Maisano.

IN ATTENDANCE: CEO: B. Randolph; DEP'T.: R. Butler (WCDPW); M. Cruz, G. Sliker (NYPA); R. Funicello (WCDOT, GWTF); E. Gibbs (COWPUSA); STAFF: C. Crane. (List of other meeting attendees is on file.)

Meeting called to order at 3:17 pm.

Item(s) Discussed:

- Application of Green Technologies for Heat and Power
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Chair Abinanti commenced a discussion on the use of alternative or "green" technologies within the County. Chair Abinanti recognized Department of Public Works Commissioner Ralph Butler, who informed the Committee on the upgrades to the hot water and heating systems that are planned at the Valhalla Central Heating Plant. The discussion then turned to the County's options for pursuing alternative energy solutions in general, as well as for this capital project.

Guy Sliker, New York Power Authority, emphasized a need to encourage efforts to decrease energy consumption by increasing energy efficient design and technologies. The Committee discussed whether energy audits were sufficient to accomplish the goal of increasing energy efficiency. Mr. Sliker then presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee regarding current and emerging energy technologies and the feasibility of these technologies for the County's applications. The presentation and discussion considered numerous energy technologies such as microturbines for distributed generation of power, use of digester gases, solar power, underwater turbines used to harness tidal power for electrical generation, wind power, biomass gasification, and hydrogen.

The Committee found that some of these technologies are not realistic sources of energy for Westchester County, due to available resources, costs, and siting or aesthetic impacts. Committee members expressed the need for more information on several alternatives, recommending further research and studies before any decisions are made. Regarding the upgrades to the Valhalla Central Heating Plant, the Committee acknowledged the opinion offered by NYPA representatives and Commissioner Butler that alternative technologies are likely not feasible for this particular capital project. Further optimization or alternative technology opportunities may be possible at the Grasslands campus, e.g., connecting other facilities to the central heating plant, but this also requires evaluation.

Upon the motion of Leg. LaMotte, seconded by Chair Abinanti, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 4:49 pm (all in favor).