

Kent County Renewable Energy Task Force
15 April 2016
Meeting Summary

The Kent County 2015/16 Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF) met on Friday, 15 April 2016 at 9:00 am in the Second Floor Conference room in the R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr. Government Center in Chestertown, MD. The following members attended: Briggs Cunningham, Janet Christensen-Lewis, Bob Ingersol, Kim Kohl, Sam Shoge, Eddie Taylor, and Ellyn Vail. RETF staff in attendance included Stephanie Jones, Environmental Planner; Amy G. Moredock, Planning Director; and Katrina Tucker, Community Planner.

Ms. Moredock requested comments and approval of the 18 March and 1 April meeting summary. Both were accepted as presented.

Discussion of Community Scale Solar Energy Systems

A review of the existing definition of small scale energy systems led the members to decide unanimously that no changes to the Ordinance are required in order to accommodate Community Scale Solar Energy Systems in the County. It was decided that the existing definition addresses the parameters of community systems since it anticipates that energy output may be delivered to a power grid to offset the cost of energy on site, as well as aggregate metering as defined by the State of Maryland.

Discussion of Small and Utility Scale Wind Energy Systems

Members decided unanimously that the existing small scale wind energy provisions are adequate in addressing community needs and remain consistent with the LUO.

Members felt that they needed additional information in order to adequately discuss utility scale wind systems in order to advise as to what is appropriate for Kent County. Members opined that if wind energy models deem the County a viable source of wind energy, then the County should consider provisions appropriate to the LUO. Staff will provide an updated wind energy model and seek the opinion of appropriate agencies responsible in reviewing projects for impacts to the Scenic Byway.

Thermal Energy and Biomass

By unanimous vote it was decided that the existing Maryland Department of Environment provisions which regulate both energy systems are appropriate. The LUO does not regulate such systems.

Next steps

Members have been invited to participate in the next Total Maximum Daily Load Committee meeting in order to offer comments on the Environment section of the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan is currently being updated, and the project consultant is conducting a workshop session with the TMDL Committee at their 19 April meeting.

The RETF will complete its review of the appropriateness of utility scale wind energy systems at its next (and final) meeting.