**Go Solar Partners Meeting**

**Friday April 25, 2014**

**FSEC, Coco, FL**

**8:00 a.m.-4:p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Jeff Halsey, Broward County

Kay Sommers, Broward County

Icilda Humes, Broward County

Andrea Bousquet, Broward County

Michael Huneke, Broward County

Patricia Gomez, Miami-Dade County

Holly Banner, Alachua County

Renee Parker, Orange County

Tim Boldig, Orange County

Aneta Duhigg, Orange County

Alan Plante, Orange County

Cindy Nielsen, Orange County

James Fenton, FSEC

Colleen Kettles FSEC

Stephen Barkaszi, FSEC

John Del Mar, FSEC

Keith Showalter, FSEC

Via teleconference

Matt Anderson, Broward County

Cathy Randazzo, Broward County

Maribel Felicianos, Broward County

Leonard Vialpando, Broward County

**FSEC Welcome**

Dr. James Fenton, Director of FSEC welcomed the participants on behalf of the convening authority and shared a presentation on the work of FSEC. Additionally, he shared information about the objective of the SunShot Initiative in terms of reducing soft costs for installation of solar PV.

**Self- Introductions**

Kay Sommers, Go Solar Florida Project Manager invited the participants to introduce themselves by sharing their name, Why they joined this team, their role on team, and their experience with solar.

**Introduction of Vision**

Jeff Halsey, the Go Solar Florida Project Director, introduced three options for the vision of the project:

Option 1

* + 1,000 MW by 2020 (213 MW now)
	+ Full turnkey Florida Solar Permitting System (FSPS) that transforms solar permitting in Florida

Option 2

* + Incremental solar permitting improvements across several jurisdictions
	+ It’s what is in the charter

Option 3

* + Something in between

**Lessons Learned Part I**

Presentations were made on:

* 1. Go Solar Broward permitting perspective (Andrea Bousquet, Broward County )
	2. FSEC perspective (Stephen Barkaszi, FSEC)
	3. Building Official perspective – Lenny Vialpando

**Group Consensus on Project Vision**

Jeff Halsey and Kay Sommers led the discussion on group consensus on the vision for the project

The group agreed that the best option would be hybrid system (Option 3) which would have the following attributes:

* It will have a centralized application
* It will allow access to plans statewide
* System will have master files or pre-approved plans or a combination thereof
* Users will have direct access to these plans
* Third party engineer will validate the system for credibility purposes OR the law will be revised law to address such
* Customer will need to go through AHJ
* This system will work towards evolving into Option 1

*It was agreed to flag two issues that would need to be discussed in more detail by subject matter experts:*

1. *The issue of too many regulations within each jurisdiction e.g. scheduling of inspections*
2. *Restrictions vs no restrictions in the application process*

**Lesson Learned Part II**

Presentations were made on:

* 1. Financial Options perspective (Icilda Humes, Broward County)
	2. Net metering/interconnection perspective (Maribel Feliciano, Broward County)
	3. Planning & Zoning perspective (Michael Huneke and Cathy Randazzo, Broward County)

**FSEC Tour**

The participants received a tour of the FSEC facilities led by Dr. James Fenton.

**Project Timeline**

Kay Sommers presented a summary of the Statement of Project Objectives highlighting the project timeline, milestones, and deliverables.

**Strategy Moving Forward**

The participants identified several components of the Project’s Action Plan (see appendix).

It was agreed that the priority focus was identifying the components of the permitting solution:

Conceptual Permitting Alternative Components

* Dependent on pre-approved plans
* Not a centralized permitting system but has the look/feel to the customers of such
* Customers to have 2 options: (1) go to Go Solar Florida website and customer is redirected to AHJ’s website and info is fed back; (2)customers may choose to go directly to respective AHJ’s website and information is fed back
* Map-based/tied to AHJ’s existing system
* System has to provide a similar solution for AHJs that do not have e-permitting
* Universal application
* Standardized information on webpage for contractor use across jurisdictions
* Some element of replicability (for non-partners)
* It will be able to generate a map showing all PV systems in FL
* Universal portal (contractor use)
* Limiting factor is residential and small business rooftop solar PV

\*\**We don’t want to be VERY restrictive/least restrictive as possible*

*\*\*The “show-stoppers” need to be identified.*

Furthermore, participants agreed on the immediate steps to propel the business model component of the project:

1. Broward County and FSEC will develop a schedule for completion of the “machine” *(electrical schematics and structural designs)*
2. Broward County will share the draft “Conceptual Permitting Alternative Components” with key contacts (along with timeline) for onward distribution to identified business system analysis team in respective jurisdictions
3. Produce a high level “*this is how the system will work (business requirements)”* identifying the beginning point (will it be linked to Broward County’s site or will it have start and finish through respective jurisdictions’ sites?)
4. Identify members of the business systems analysis team (representing the jurisdictions) and hold a meeting to discuss further details at Go Solar Fest (June 5)

The participants made a few suggestions for the way forward in executing the overall project:

* The project and solar PV installation needs to be marketed continuously
* Review committees need to be developed within each jurisdiction (to work with solar Partners with utilities to promote solar contractors)

**Partner Assignments**

Kay Sommers reminded the participants that one component of the project included a workshop with the utility companies in the various jurisdictions to discuss net-metering and interconnection. As such, participants identified the utilities in partner jurisdictions.

* Broward County: FPL
* Miami-Dade: FPL, Homestead Electric
* Orange County: Duke, OUC, Winter Park
* Alachua: Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc., Gainesville Regional Utilities, FPL, Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., Duke Energy (formerly Progress), City of Newberry Electric Utility

The key contacts from each jurisdiction were asked to select time slots they preferred for staffing the Go Solar Florida booth at Go Solar Fest.

**Appendix**

**Other aspects of the Project’s Action Plan**

* Get plans built
* Keep partners engaged and keep Go Solar Florida relevant to all partners
* Develop permitting interface
* Secure signed contracts
* Identify stakeholders (contact info) in each partner jurisdictions
* Develop universal application
* Examine Go Solar Broward and identify shortcomings
* Identify fee for each jurisdictions (use an adaptable base fee)
* Adopt zoning (model ordinance) or insure intent realized
* Determine any legislative changes that may be needed
* Identify the required inspections
* Identify required licenses for contractors
* Identify database parameters for standardization
* Get the “right” people/teams involved
* Identify requirements for user interface (business process)
* Identify teams and team objectives