# Go Solar Florida Partners’ Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2014

8:30 a.m.

Broward County Government Center West, Room 1303A

*Chair: Kay Sommers, Project Manager*

**Roll Call**

* Alachua County - Holly Banner, Vince LaPorta
* Broward County – Kay Sommers, Jeff Halsey, Icilda Humes, Ken Dobies, Matt Anderson, Andrea Bousquet, Cathy Randazzo, Michael Huneke, Lenny Vialpando
* Miami Dade –Patricia Gomez
* Orange County – Renee Parker, Cindy Nielsen, Alan Plante, Tim Boldig
* FAU – Dianna Mitsova
* FSEC – Steve Barkaszi, Colleen Kettles
* City of Venice, Karen Butterworth
* Monroe County- no representatives in attendance

**Updates**

**Contracts**

* Cathy Randazzo informed the team that the contract for Alachua County was executed in April.
* The contracts for Monroe County, Orange County and FSEC are presently being worked on. Hopefully these contracts will be finalized by the end of July.
* Contracts have also been forwarded to Miami-Dade County and City of Venice for consideration.

**Plans Approval and Permit Application Teams**

* Michael Huneke shared that meetings had been held with both teams.
* The plans team has discussed different requirements for information to be inputted into the system which will be built by FSEC.
* The system will be created and maintained by FSEC. Data will be inputted on the Go Solar Florida website which will be the interface.
* One of the main challenges will be certification of the plans. The team, however, is working diligently to explore ways of addressing this.
* Another meeting via teleconference is scheduled for next week.
* The permit team is endeavoring to create a system that will meet the goal of a single solar permitting experience across Florida. The system will also incorporate a universal e-permit application.
* The team is presenting reviewing the permitting systems of different partners.

**Meeting with Solar Nexus**

* Michael Huneke shared that Broward County had a meeting with Solar Nexus, a California-based company that specializes in web-based solar business management software, to explore synergies.
* Solar Nexus was awarded a DOE SunShot Initiative grant as a part of the SunShot Incubator Program. Solar Nexus will use the award to build and demonstrate an integrated ecosystem of applications for the solar industry using a common data exchange format to tie together different software tools used by solar contractors and others.
* It was agreed that both parties would maintain contact and try to learn from each other’s experiences.
* Furthermore, he shared that while there is value in the plans that Solar Nexus is creating, it does not appear that they have done the detail of work that FSEC has done thus far including with respect to wind loads. The Go Solar Florida plans in this regard are more detailed at this point. The team will endeavour to ensure that what is being built by Go Solar Florida will be able to communicate with their data system.
* Solar Nexus will sell the software application that contractors can use to generate code compliant artefacts for use in permitting.
* It was also pointed out that California uses the 2011 national electric codes while Florida is presently using the 2008 codes.

**Planning and Zoning Team**

* Cathy Randazzo shared that Alachua County will be going to its Board for approval in August. Holly Banner added that the Model Ordinance will be worked into their existing code.
* Three model ordinances for Broward County cities are in progress.
* Dr. Mitsova has been doing research and will be meeting with Cathy to discuss some of the research findings to enhance the work on planning and zoning.
* Alachua County and FSEC have provided additional information that needs to be included in the revised best practices document.
* Cathy aims to have the draft ready by the end of July.
* The next meeting of the Planning and Zoning Team is scheduled for July 31.

**Financial Action Plan Team**

* The leader for the Financial Team was unable to attend the meeting and no update was available.

**2nd Go Solar and Renewable Energy Fest**

* Matt Anderson gave an overview of the event:
* 65 exhibitors
* 1700 attendees
* 42 speakers
* $17,000 cash sponsorship
* $7,00 worth of exhibitor space sold
* $33,000 worth of in-kind contribution
* Funds collected (sponsorship and exhibition space) covered 67% of total cost of the facility rental
* The event received good press coverage.
* Several participants travelled from as far as Naples and northern parts of the state to attend.
* Matt extended gratitude to the Go Solar Florida team members who volunteered to staff the Go Solar Florida booth.

**Updates from partners**

**Alachua County**

* Planning and zoning ordinance efforts will start on Monday.
* Software has been acquired for the project but no major hardware purchases have been made as yet.
* A programmer has been hired and will assume the position on Monday.

**Miami-Dade County**

* Broward County will be meeting with Miami Dade County on July 14.

**Orange County**

* Orange County is expecting comments from its County attorney today and will subsequently schedule another teleconference with Broward County to discuss the way forward.

**City of Venice**

* The team is working on getting the contract executed.

**Report to DOE**

* Jeff Halsey informed the team that the quarterly written report to DOE is due at the end of July.
* He is hoping to have a one-on-one meeting with DOE subsequent to the meeting with Miami Dade County. He will be informing DOE that St. Lucie will not be coming under contract. Furthermore, he plans to share Broward County’s plans to work with those partners that are under contract during Budget Period 1 and thereafter to work with other partners after they come under contract in Budget Period 2. Other suggestions on the way forward are welcomed.

**Timesheets**

* Icilda Humes reminded partners that timesheets for quarter 3 are due on July 3. She advised that partners ensure that their respective internal procedures are adhered to when completing and submitting timesheets. Partners were cautioned to ensure that their timesheets are aligned with payroll entries.

**Other matters**

* Colleen Kettles is the team leader for industry coordination and informed the team that solar contractors throughout Florida have been identified to be a part of the industry coordination team. She is still looking for representatives from the Southeast Florida area. Broward County committed to forwarding some recommendations to her. Alachua County also advised that its Building Official has been in contact with individuals who may be interested in being on the team.
* The goal of the solar industry team is to serve as advocates for the Go Solar Florida process, to participate in the project and to help market the initiative.