Minutes

Go Solar – Florida Permitting Business Model

Online meeting

Thursday February 27, 2014

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

**Goal of the meeting - Decide upon the way forward for the permitting/business model for the Florida Solar Permitting System that:**

1. **All participants can support**
2. **All participants can strongly advocate for**
3. **Can be completed within the time frame and budget of the grant**
4. **FSEC solution in place – 3-31-15**
5. **Each county’s solution must be largely developed by 3-31-15 and live by 12/15/15**
6. **Feedback on the proposed draft Business Model**

**General ideas and discussion:**

* In response to a question posed, Stephen Barkaszi from FSEC indicated that he is uncertain how many of the estimated 359+ systems that went through their systems would pass the “deem to comply” system.  Furthermore, he added that the approval that they grant is presently indefinite but they are considering doing a 2 year renewal.
* Jeff Halsey, the Go SOLAR Florida Project Director, commented that ideally a system that is elegant, do-able, gets done fairly quickly and everyone agrees to it is what is desired. However, conceptualizing it is only the first step because it then has to be developed and implemented.
* Boris Sursky and Mike Goolsby, from Miami-Dade County shared that while this is a good opportunity for Miami-Dade to implement its model, they are not sure if they will play a large role in the statewide system. They indicated that they are willing to share whatever they come up with; however, they are not sure how it would work to have one centralized system for Florida. Furthermore Miami-Dade County wants to do their job of getting their system running first.
* Andrea Bousquet from Broward County reminded the group that we already have pre-approved plans from Go Solar I. However, it the Project Director stated that we need to create a better model that people will use. Additionally, he highlighted that the bigger warehouse of plans the more someone has to maintain the plans to comply with changing codes.

1. **Any new thoughts on the proposed Business Model**

**Suggestions**

Lenny Vialpando from Broward County presented a proposal for the system:

* It is a pre-qualified system
* It has expedited review or need for no review if qualifications are met
* Consistent application form across the region/all jurisdictions
* Elimination of excess inspection by agreeing on the number of inspections we need on the tail end.

Jeff Halsey made the following suggestion:

* Broward County and Miami-Dade (in collaboration with FSEC) can both develop models that can be spread out to other partners. That is, Go SOLAR Florida would have two successful pilot systems instead of one option for partners to choose from.

1. **Proposal for next step**

* It was agreed that a core technical team comprised of Lenny Vialpando, Boris Sursky, Mike Goolsby and Jamie Gascon (along with FSEC) will convene a meeting within the next two weeks to further discuss the options presented.
* Boris Sursky committed to having a schedule of Miami-Dade’s progress by late March (3/22).
* Lenny Vialpando committed to following-up with Boris upon his return from vacation during the week of 3/10.