

**Climate Change Task Force Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 15, 2014 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM**

**Government Center. Room 430**  
**115 S. Andrews Avenue**  
**Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Adornato, John  
Braun, Rod  
Bush, Lois  
Cavros, George  
Fleischer, Randy A.  
Gleason, Patrick  
Grandwilliams, Harrison D.  
Grosso, Richard J.  
Heimlich, Barry  
Hines, Gary S.  
Hutka, Thomas  
Jacobs, Kristin  
Kaltman, Adrienne  
Kornahrens, Robert  
Lambert, Julie L.  
Miakisz, Joseph A.  
Samario, Hector  
Sifuentes, Dorothy F.  
Young, Doug

**County Staff**

Feliciano, Maribel  
Herne, Natasha  
Horwitz, Jill  
Kashar, Carrie  
Ziegler, Hannes

**Members Absent**

Larson, Dylan  
Murley, James F.  
Perrin, Scott J.

**I. Welcome**

The May 15, 2014 meeting of the Broward County Climate Change Task Force was called to order at approximately 1:40 pm\* by task force Chair Hector Samario who gave a farewell to Donald Burgess.

\*Exact time is not known; adjournment was not announced out loud for the record.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll was called. 19 members were present and 3 were absent. A quorum was present.

### **III. Approval of minutes of February, 2014\***

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the February 2014 meeting as published. Motion passed.

### **IV. Discussion Items**

***Attendance policy governing a majority of the advisory boards – Michael Owens, Broward County’ Attorneys Office*** Due to an amendment to section 1.233 of the Advisory Board Code of Ordinances, task force members must now notify the board coordinator at least 2 days prior to the meeting of their expected attendance or absence. This change will result in a member being counted as attending if they are present even if they have previously indicated their expected absence (Previously they would have been considered absent).

A question was presented regarding what constituted an indication of attending. Acceptances of Outlook invitation, individual email or direct phone call are all indications of acceptance.

### **V. Presentations**

***“Strategy to Expand Alternative Fuel Vehicles & Infrastructure (Policy 19.2.5 of the Broward County Comprehensive Plan Climate Change Element” Maribel Feliciano, Planning Administrator, Broward County Planning and Redevelopment Division***

On October 2, 2013 a workshop was held to identify ways to increase Plug-in Electric Vehicle (PEV) public infrastructure and vehicles in Broward County by identifying common barriers and potential solutions.

Three goals were decided upon:

1. Diversify fuel options for public transit and fleet vehicles
2. Expansion of charging infrastructure for plug-in electric vehicles
3. Incentivize parking for alternative fuel vehicles

Various tactics including using grants, tax incentives, permitting discounts or waivers, developing new policy and regulations were identified as being useful in encouraging use of PEVs. Broward County will reconvene this summer with all partners and interested stakeholders to discuss strategy and next steps.

The presentation was followed by a number of questions from the Task Force members:

*What is the major cost of retrofitting parking lots to offer PEV recharging? It depends on the level of technology being offered. Equipment that just offers a place to plug in is much cheaper than if you need software to charge credit cards for the recharge or quick charge amenities.*

*What level of voltage is needed for a recharging station? It depends on the type of vehicle being charged. A regular car size can plug into a house outlet but a bus needs a higher voltage.*

How is the cost of the offered electric determined? *It is determined by the entity offering the recharging station. Some privately owned parking garages charge a 700% markup.*

Can the city charge for the electricity on the charging station? *Not sure. Legislation is being drafted to address this.*

Will more charging stations impact the existing electric grid? *Not at the rate they are being built at this time.*

Is FPL going to offer rebates or incentives for electric vehicles? *They are part of the state wide advisor group so they are part of the conversation.*

What about studies that show you could use the stations to store electricity as a supplement to the electric grid? *Yes, that is also a possibility that has been mentioned.*

Comment from George Cavros: I believe there was some legislation passed a few years ago that exempted charging stations from being regulated as a public utility. I will look it up and pass it on to Maribel.

***Community Energy Strategic Plan -- Proposed Goals, Objectives and Policies to Serve as the Basis for the Energy Profile - Carrie Kashar, Broward County's Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division (EPCRD)***

An update was provided on the Community Energy Strategic Plan (CESP) progress since February. The CESP Leadership Team had been meeting on a monthly basis since March, and the timeline presented at the February meeting was a little too optimistic. When the Team started working it became clear some of the initiatives would require more time. Ms. Kashar reported the Team worked on creating the overall vision of the project, and went over goals set for the three areas of the CESP: energy efficiency, renewable energy and transportation. The Team also drafted proposed recommended actions. The next steps will be to examine the actions in each of the areas and prioritize by assessing ease of implementation, address barriers, acceptable environmental benefits, and high energy saving potential for each recommended action. A blue print outline of what the report would entail was briefly described.

Comment from George Cavros: Much of the solar development taking place in other states is through third parties – through leasing the panels or selling back the power. In Florida “selling” of power is prohibited, but leasing could be a viable opportunity, however, the tangible personal property tax on solar makes leasing opportunities unattractive to developers. Discussion ensued regarding property appraiser’s role and what authority local or state property appraisers hold on this matter. Staff is asked to structure the question to come before the BOCC to have legal staff look into the issue as to what the county can legally do to help abate or exempt the tangible property tax on solar leasing equipment.

### ***Florida Coastal Zone Management Grant - Hannes Ziegler, EPCRD***

The grant is coming to a close. The grant objective was to provide support for Florida coastal communities in developing sea level rise mitigation and coastal resilience strategies in support of the Climate Change Action Plan goals. Support binders were created which included individual sea level rise vulnerabilities assessment for each municipality as well as policy and technical support tools. Many municipalities were already aware of some sea level rise vulnerabilities and were investigating mitigation strategies. Some inland municipalities were concerned with drainage issues after a storm event in view of sea level rise. EPCRD is currently working on putting all assessments on their website.

## **VI. Status Updates**

### ***Broward County Energy, Climate and Sustainability Updates – Jill Horwitz, EPCRD***

Broward County is a certified 4-STAR community with a 436.6 Final Score. The 2<sup>nd</sup> municipal green initiatives survey completed-all 31 municipalities participated. Two Sustainability Stewards Workshops were developed:

- February 13, Water Conservation-Every Drop Counts-Co-host City of Lauderhill.
- May 21, Green Fleets-Celebrating Clean Air Month-Co-host City of Ft. Lauderdale (upcoming).

Staff continues to track progress of the Broward County Climate Change Action Plan. Of the 126 actions, 20 (16%) are complete, 66 (52%) are in progress or initiated, 20 (16%) are targeted for future focus and 20 (16%) unreported.

- Adaptation Action Area Grant (AAA) Pilot implementation is in progress, in partnership with South Florida Regional Planning Council and the City of Fort Lauderdale.
- Broward County Climate Change Element won the 2014 American Planning Association “National Planning Excellence Award for Environmental Planning.”
- Compact won 2014 Dream in Green Award for making South Florida more resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Palm Beach County adopted the Regional Climate Action Plan on April 15, now all four counties have adopted it.
- Mayors’ Climate Action Pledge – municipal adoptions continue. Newest is Delray Beach who adopted it Jan 21, 2014.

### **RCAP Implementation Workshops**

- Strategic Compact Communication Plan - March 6
- Integrating Climate Change and Water Supply Planning - April 17
- Upcoming workshops:
  - Stormwater – June 2014
  - Adaptation Action Areas: Legal and Insurance Issues – August 2014
  - Tri-Rail Coastal Line – September 2014
- New- RCAP Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to integrate public health planning with municipal and regional planning to prepare SE Florida for the broader impacts of Climate Change.

White House Task Force on Climate Change due to finalize recommendations by summer and release report in September 2014. Events and Press received:

- Senator Nelson's Field Hearing on Climate Change was mentioned on more than a dozen websites.
- Senator Whitehouse's (RI) Climate Road Trip passed through Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. It ended with a South Florida Climate Action Rally in Pinecrest Gardens.
- Delegation from Durban, South Africa visited Broward County, giving us international exposure.

Upcoming events:

- Go Solar Fest (2<sup>nd</sup>) June 6 and 7.
- Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit (6<sup>th</sup>) October 1 and 2.

## VII. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.\*

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