



COMMONWEALTH
NORTH

Illuminating Alaska's Issues

RURAL AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY STUDY GROUP

JUNE 9, 2011

CIRI

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 12:03pm by Ethan Schutt and Meera Kohler
2. **Group Discussion** - Final Product Goals & Outcomes
 - *The Short Answer* – What is it going to cost and who is going to pay for it?
 - *The Long Answer* – How to make Alaska communities sustainable by bring down the cost of energy in rural Alaska
 - Statewide energy grid versus implementing different technologies for individual rural communities
 - Connecting communities (building a grid)
 - Benefits include efficiency, fewer projects, and greater connectivity
 - Moves away from idea that each community needs to be sustainable individually, instead make regions sustainable
 - No one stop solution - Employ the best available technologies with appropriate economic conditions to reduce energy costs to each community
 - Capacity building - education and workforce development
 - Local training and job creation to make communities self sustaining ultimately bringing down the cost of energy
 - Who is Responsible
 - State Government
 - The State has a major role to play, but what is practical
 - The State is responsible for providing minimum standards of living for every Alaskan
 - Development of a State energy plan and recommendations to achieve that plan
 - Regional and Native Corporations
 - Pressure growing that the Corporations should lead, fund, and implement energy solutions for their regions
 - Local Community
 - Engagement
 - How to Communicate Recommendations
 - Need to present this complex issue in an easy to understand format
 - Create a set of good, clear data to accurately depict the current situation
 - Short term, medium term, and long term solutions

- Use these solutions as a structure for the report
 - Educate communities about available projects and developments in their region
 - Delivery system extremely confusing, clearly define the rules
 - Streamline the delivery process for assistance and government programs
- Topics for Future Presentations
 - Structure - develop a process to attain our desired solution
 - Consistencies between regions
 - What is working throughout Alaska?
 - Develop larger policy recommendations from these best practices to help policies makers get behind statewide solutions
 - Identify issues that cause perverse decision making
 - Funding – Finding ways to pay for energy development with finite dollars
 - The state has X dollars to spread around, how much can it spend per capita
- Why Now
 - More and more communities are falling off the map
 - The State has an obligation to provide for all of its citizens, and many Alaskans are suffering
 - Look at the many renewable and alternative energy solutions as opportunities, but with a sense of urgency to reduce the cost of energy in rural communities
- Paradigms
 - “Sustainability,” Not only an economic term (Environment, Energy, Economy, Equity¹)
 - Energy is necessary, but not a sufficient factor for economic development
 - The pathway toward excellence - look at future energy needs and plan accordingly
 - Flipping the pyramid, putting rural community members on the top, instead of trying to make communities fit into slots

3. Adjourned: 1:05pm

¹ Euston and Gibson definition of sustainability.