

**Electric Utilities Task Group**  
**April 15, 2011**  
**Town Hall, Old Town Road**  
**2:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Barbara MacMullan, Everett Shorey, Michael Ballard.

Also present in audience, Dr. Peter Baute, Nancy Dodge, Paul Rich, Bryan Wilson, Cliff McGinnes and from the Block Island Times, Dan West.

**Not Present:** William Penn

Meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Ms. MacMullan.

There were no minutes to approve due to a posting error. Minutes from February 18, 2011 will be approved at the May meeting.

**Public Input** – none

**Deepwater Update**

Paul Rich addressed the group explaining where Deepwater was in the legal process.

Also discussed were:

- best and worst case scenarios about the court decision.
- BI transmission system (BITS) (about the cable)
- Loan guarantees
- tax credits
- cost of cable

Bryan Wilson updated the group on the Spar buoy which went up last week and down last week. He reported that it was at Quonset Point for forensic analysis.

**Discussion of Distribution Upgrade and Smart Grid Technology**

Cliff McGinnes explained that these were two different grant applications. There were questions about what benefit smart grid technology would have for the Island. Barbara MacMullan suggested having URI's Smart Grid people at the next meeting. It was reported that the docket for distribution upgrade was not opened and it was waiting for the wind farm decision.

**Report on Wind Energy Workshops** – tabled until Mr. Penn returns

**Discussion of RFQ for third party Wind Turbine Development**

There is still no funding for a feasibility study and the third party option was discussed.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Everett Shorey and seconded by Michael Ballard to recommend to the Town Council that they sponsor a community forum for discussion on electric power alternatives to be managed by a moderator of their choosing and supported by the Electric Utilities Task Group.

Ayes 3 (MacMullen, Shorey, Ballard)      Nays 0      Absent 1 (Penn)

For future agenda: discussion about private generators

At 3:50 a motion was made by Everett Shorey and seconded by Michael Ballard to adjourn and voted unanimously.

Minutes approved

Bonny Ryan