



Connecticut Climate Change

Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change

MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2008

Meeting Participants

GSC Attendees/Designees: DEP Commissioner McCarthy, DPUC Commissioner George, OPM Undersecretary Mengacci, CCEF Chairman Bowles, Ned Hurle (DOT).

C4 staff participants: Don Casella (DAS), David Goldberg (CCEF), Bob Wall (CCEF), John Ruckes (OPM), Steve DelPapa (DOT), Cindy Jacobs (DPUC), Dennis Barry (DSS), Lynn Stoddard (DEP), Paul Farrell (DEP), Tracy Babbidge (DEP), Molly Curtis (DEP)

Agenda and Notes

1. Public Comments – There were no public comments.
2. Approve Minutes from October 9, 2007 GSC Meeting – The minutes were approved.
3. Completion of 2007 Progress Report, Signing of Cover Letter, Signing of Letter on 2050 Plan – GSC asked that the title be changed to reflect the discussion in the beginning of the report on challenges. The new title will be “Challenges and Accomplishments in Implementing Connecticut’s Climate Change Action Plan: Progress Made in 2007.” Chairman Bowles noted the need for strong federal leadership on climate legislation. CCEF has been working with the federal delegation to continue tax incentives for renewable energy (production tax credit). The GSC members signed the cover letter to the report and the letter addressing the 2050 plan.
4. Update on Climate Change Public Stakeholder Meetings and Summary of GHG Action Ideas from Stakeholders – Lynn Stoddard reviewed the 5 stakeholder meetings that have been held since June 2007. There has been very good participation at the meetings and the stakeholders have provided much input on new actions to reduce GHG emissions. A summary of ideas submitted to date was handed out to the GSC. GSC said they want to move ahead on these actions now, without waiting until the conclusion of all of the stakeholder meetings. GSC asked C4 to prepare a matrix for GSC to use to decide what GHG actions to begin moving forward on. C4 will develop the matrix and include columns such as: already being implemented, short-term, long-term, legislation required, fiscal impact, technical help needed. C4 will circulate a matrix format to GSC, then complete the matrix and e-mail to GSC prior to a special meeting of the GSC to discuss the matrix and decide on which actions to adopt. This special meeting should be scheduled for mid-May, after the end of the legislative session. The actions approved by the GSC will form the next generation of CT’s Climate Change Action Plan

and provide a foundation for a GSC legislative package on climate change for next year's session.

5. Vote on Proposed Awardees for CT Climate Change Leadership Awards Program – Bob Wall presented an overview of the 2008 CCCLAP nominations and review process. There were a total of 26 nominations for 19 nominees (some were nominated more than once). The nominees represented a good cross section of sectors. The C4 review committee reviewed all nominations, ranked them, performed environmental compliance checks and proposed the following candidates for 2008 CCCLAP awards: Curtis Packaging, City Seed, City of Stamford, Ridgefield Action Committee for the Environment, Green Council at Whitney Center, Little People/Big Changes, and ING. The GSC voted and unanimously approved the recommended candidates. GSC appreciated the broad cross section represented by the awardees and suggested that C4 work to assure a broad cross section of nominees in the future, perhaps by looking to make awards within certain sectors and categories.
6. Overview of Legislative Proposals on Climate Change – Paul Farrell reviewed the legislative proposals related to climate change that are currently being considered by the General Assembly. The bills cover many areas, such as financing, green loans and tax credits, transportation, electricity generation, telecommuting, etc. The major climate bill is HB 5600 that proposes mandatory GHG targets (based on the current voluntary GHG targets), energy building inspectors, incorporating GHG impacts into reviews under the CT Environmental Policy Act, transportation alternative studies, limits on carbon emissions associated with electric generation, and creating a GSC Task Force on Adaptation. The fiscal note is very large (\$1 million in the first year and exceeding \$4 million by year 5) Implementation of the bill may be funded through use of CO2 allowance auction proceeds under RGGI. Both DEP and DOT have commented on the bill. DEP is concerned about a facility-by-facility GHG standard that would conflict with RGGI. DOT is concerned about potentially duplicative transportation planning requirements.
7. Update on Tremaine Grant to Integrate Climate Change into OneThing Campaign – David Goldberg provided a status update on the GSC/C4 project to incorporate climate change into Governor Rell's OneThing campaign. The Tremaine fund has provided \$75,000 for this project: 1) \$50,000 to create a OneThing multiplier for the web site that shows energy, climate, and dollar savings from OneThing actions, and 2) \$25,000 to integrate OneThing branding with climate change initiatives.
8. Other –
The first RGGI auction will be held in CT in September 2008. Half of the RGGI states will have auctions in September and the other half will start them in December.
Commissioner George requested that the next GSC agenda include an update on federal activities/legislative proposals on climate change.

GSC schedule and meeting minutes are posted at www.ctclimatechange.com

2008 GSC meeting schedule (all meetings are from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in Russell
Room at DEP):
June 11, 2008
September 10, 2008