



IREC Steering Committee
MINUTES of July 11, 2023 Meeting

Present: Jeff Grout, Linda Gray, Ryan Haac, Nancy Jones, Erica Ko, Jenevra Wetmore, David Lutz

1. Welcome/ agenda

No changes, except Nancy wanted to note that Bradford's ribbon cutting ceremony was rescheduled August 5 to August 19

2. Minutes of the June 13 meeting approved.

Action: Jeff will post to DropBox.

3. Storm damage update – round robin.

- Strafford – David report Strafford fared pretty well except for the section of Route 132 b/w Stafford and Thetford
- Bradford – River was noted to be about as high as Irene, water came up on to Route 25.
- Thetford – Union Village dam was a raging white water rapid situation, water at the dam. Other floodplain flooding. Overall, Thetford fared pretty well compared to surrounding towns to the North/West
- Norwich – similar to Thetford. Unaware of major problems. Power was out for a few hours overnight.
- Sharon – a couple local road closures, white river was impressive and got up onto Route 14, which was impassible yesterday.
- Woodstock is not doing well. Mobile home park was flooded. Farmer's Market store got badly damaged. Community garden eroded much further.
- Linda noted that there is a group organizing (UV Strong) also reminded us about the silt and mud is potentially contaminated.
- Randolph – Randolph to Bethel was closed for a while. The village is fine at this point. Many dirt roads in (particularly East Randolph) are not passable.

Jeff noted that a national disaster declaration has been declared and FEMA will get involved. He noted that FEMA is focusing on getting roads open and temporary projects will likely be the ones that get reimbursed.

4. Mow Electric Demo Day Review

Folks were generally impressed with the equipment and the vendors were satisfied with turnout; their equipment was being used most of the time. Woodstock HS, that sponsored the event, has been very happy with their equipment. All vendors said that they have demonstration equipment available and are willing to bring equipment to a specific town. Contact Jeff for lining this up.

Linda noted that the Vermont School Custodians and Maintenance Association meeting is often in Hartford in June and might be targeted for next year (June 20, 2024).

Action: Jeff - Research incentives for mow electric equipment. Put together a list of the equipment that was at the event.

Action: All – follow up with town DPW to see if there are specific pieces of equipment that they might be interested in using



5. Lawson's Solar Canopy Site visit and project overview
Twelve Level II chargers. Parking lot was generally protected during the rain. Panels are bi-facial (so they can generate power when covered with snow). The RECs of the net-metered grid-tied system were sold (so the net metered energy used at the brewery cannot be explicitly counted as renewable)
6. MERP mini-grant round robin. Have you been awarded a mini-grant?
 - Norwich – planning to pay for IREC
 - Strafford – Town is planning on submitting mini grant application
 - Sharon – funding for community-wide meetings (Sharon Connects and follow-up). Also considering upgrading means of official Town physical communications.
 - Bradford – considering paying an energy consultant for HVAC of the Old Bradford Academy Building but they might be getting that service through MERP Energy Assessment.
 - Woodstock – going straight to IREC for next year
 - Thetford – might go toward the IREC position
7. MERP assessment applications now open. Discuss Level I, Level II and information required.
Level II assessment is recommended – it provides more options going forward, even if this specific grant was not awarded. Electric use, fuel use, building mechanical system info, lighting schedule. First come – first served, so it should be a priority for us.
8. VT EVSE grant released on Friday July 7
Three categories – workplaces (including schools), multi-unit dwellings, and public attractions. Key is that there is a pre-application. Estimation of the typical costs for installation was \$22k from Norwich for dual-port Level 2 chargers in prior years. Projects will need to decide on a charging network (e.g., EVgo, ChargePoint) or use OCPP non-compliant equipment (that has a smaller Level 2 incentive)
<https://www.vermontevchargers.com/>
First step is to fill out pre-application form if there is interest.
9. Energy Inventory Update. GHG emissions from fossil fuels.
Jeff is working on updating this info for towns from fuel used.
10. Town Climate pledges. In town plans or voter approved?
Jeff's suggestions for Town climate pledges to vote on spending money on specific items, as opposed to broad strokes items about reducing emissions.
11. VT Geo-thermal updates and/or questions.
Geo-thermal has potential and likely has a future in Vermont. Geothermal networks at the municipal level are currently being explored and there may be some funding available for those projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan Haac