



**RENEWABLE ENERGY
A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATION ADVISORY BOARD (LDRAB)**

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2009 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

**PREPARED BY JON MACGILLIS, ZONING DIRECTOR & BARBARA PINKSTON-NAU, PRINCIPAL SITE
PLANNER**

On Friday March 20, 2009, the Renewable Energy Subcommittee had its first informal meeting at the Vista Center, Room VC-2E-12-, at 2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida.

A. Attendance

LDRAB Members: Ray Puzzitiello

FPL: Chuck Millar, Cindy Tindell, Ryan Fair,

Industry: Joe Verdone, Bill Whiteford, Kieran Kilday

County Staff: Jon MacGillis, Maryann Kwok, Barbara P. Nau, Lisa Amara

B. MINUTES

Barbara P. Nau summarized the direction and focus of the Subcommittee.

Lisa Amara reviewed the Comp Plan provisions.

2009-01

Went to Planning Commission recommending April 13th transmittal on:

- Thermal-Conductor of heat
- Sealed System
- No water used

Jon MacGillis asked Lisa Amara to explain the Comp Plan amendments.

Lisa Amara explained that for Planning Division purposes "Renewable Energy" includes solar, wind, geo-thermal, and water resources. She further added bio-mass facilities are already allowed.

Cindy Tindell explained that there is not enough wind in Florida to support wind turbines except directly along the coast.

Raymond Puzzitiello mentioned that wind should be included in the Subcommittee.

Chuck Millar stated he would bring in experts for the next meeting on various types of renewable energy.

Cindy Tindell explained FPL upcoming projects. She explained that photo-voltaic systems convert light into energy. She further stated that renewable energy is an ongoing topic of discussion at the Federal and State levels. Florida's Public Service Commission (PSC) has mandates to produce the most cost effective fuels. PSC submitted language to the legislature for consideration in this session (ends in April). This session could incrementally increase the amount of available mega watts or clarify renewable portfolio standards which are used in site evaluation to determine how megawatts will be allotted.. Portfolio standards include: ownership, transmission capabilities, and whether or not necessary zoning is in place.

Jon MacGillis asked committee if the renewable portfolio was reviewed to ensure compliance with the Comp Plan.

Bill Whiteford asked the Committee to look at other spectrums such as smaller sites, single family homes, commercial roof tops, etc.

Raymond Puzzitiello added that other issues like screening and architecture needed to also be reviewed to ensure these applications for solar are not inhibited.

Barbara P.-Nau advised that language could be added to the ULDC ensuring tat roof panels are treated similarly as small satellite dish antennas.

Jon MacGillis explained Code process and looked at uses characterized by size, thresholds, and supplementary regulations, etc.

Lisa Amara said Planning researched on Google and there was not much on smaller uses. She added that issues need to be looked at in the Code like impervious and drainage uses.

Chuck Millar stated that they will still have to meet drainage regulations to typical gross area and panels.

Kerry Kilday questioned how far can the site be from a power plant?

Cindy Tindell indicated that the closer the solar field is to the electrical grid the better...it is also less expensive to be closer.

Bill Whiteford question is it cost effective?

Cindy Tindell explained the details about the Net Meter Program. She also clarified that homeowners or business owners can put panels on their roof (PV panel). She further added that they can swap out their meter and receive tax incentives and rebates.

Bill Whiteford stated for Leeds certification you need a cash return within a couple of years.

Cindy Tindell responded that at this point it will take about 13 – 20 years to realize a return on the investment.

Raymond Puzzitiello advised the Committee that for SFD it is not cost effective.

C. Adjourned at 11:30 a.m

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