

MINUTES
ARKANSAS ALTERNATIVE ENERGY COMMISSION
[Established by ACT 1301 of 2009]
State Capitol, Room 171, Little Rock, Arkansas
Thursday, March 20, 2014

The Arkansas Alternative Energy Commission (AAEC) met Thursday, March 20, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission members in attendance: Leo Hauser, Chair; Warren Allen, Stan Berry, George Heintzen, Audrey House, Mikel Lolley, Rita Potts and Joseph Wood.

Also attending: Representatives John Hutchison and Mark McElroy.

Mr. Hauser called the meeting to order.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 21, 2013, MINUTES [EXHIBIT B]

Mr. Allen made a motion to approve the November 21, 2013, meeting minutes. Mr. Berry seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ARKANSAS CHAPTER OF INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT – MISSION PROJECTS
[PowerPoint Presentation #1]

Reverend Steve Copley, Board Chairman, Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light (IPL), was recognized and thanked the members for their work.

Ms. Scharmél Roussel, Executive Director, IPL, was recognized and explained IPL is a nationwide organization with affiliates in forty states. They are individuals and congregations who believe the sacred writing of all faith traditions ask them to care for creation, protect the planet, and to preserve fragile ecosystems that sustain life. They see all environmental issues through a lens of faith. The goals of the organization are awareness and educational outreach, building partnerships, and energy efficiency improvements. IPL partners with the Arkansas Energy Office, Home Energy RX, AR Energy Innovation, and local churches on some projects.

IPL recently completed an energy efficiency project at the Vera Lloyd Children’s Home in Monticello. The anticipated savings as a result of this energy project is 40% in the first year.

Previous energy efficiency projects:

- Duncan United Methodist Church, Little Rock
- Wofford Missionary Baptist Church, Helena
- Simone’s Home for Foster Teenage Girls, Little Rock
- Mount Comfort Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville
- Billy Mitchell Boys & Girls Club, Little Rock
- Walters Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Carlisle

Future energy efficiency improvement projects:

- Houses of Worship in Low-Income Areas
- Community Buildings in Low-Income Areas
- Homes of Entergy Customers
- 12th Street Corridor
- Oak Forest Neighborhood
- Wherever needs can be matched with resources

Ms. Roussel stated IPL gives presentations to children’s groups and retirement centers on the subject of recycling and energy efficiency. IPL recently conducted the “tighten-up treat bags” event. Each treat bag

contained a power strip, weather stripping, faucet aerator, CFL bulb, socket sealers, a tip sheet on how to install these items, and an application to apply for a free energy audit from Entergy.

IPL was among the initial trustees for Kiva Zip loans. These loans are used to help individuals start energy audit companies to assist low-income areas.

Ms. Roussel stated she has an energy efficient home equipped with solar panels, and her average electric bill is \$8.25. She stated, according to the Arkansas Energy Association, Arkansas has untapped solar energy potential. There are existing suitable rooftops with more than six times the resources needed to provide all the energy we need. The following facilities are utilizing alternative energy methods:

- Wind turbines at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Fayetteville-Springdale area
- Solar panels on Grace Community United Methodist Church in Fort Smith
- Solar and geothermal in use at Ferncliff Presbyterian Camp outside Little Rock
- Ferncliff's Solar School for Mission Volunteers

Ms. Roussel stated every state will have to implement a plan for reducing carbon emissions. IPL hopes to be at the table for this discussion.

HYDROELECTRIC ACTIVITY/POTENTIAL WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AND ARIKANSAS **[PowerPoint Presentation #2]**

Mr. Jeff Leahey, Esq., Deputy Executive Director, National Hydropower Association (NHA), was recognized and gave a PowerPoint Presentation entitled, "An Overview of Hydropower." The NHA is a forum to unite industry with a common voice and is exclusively dedicated to advancing the interest of the hydropower industry at the federal level. NHA has over 180 members and anyone who has a business interest in the hydropower industry can become a member.

Hydro power is the nation's most available, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy source, requiring only the power of moving water – rivers, streams, and ocean waves and tides. Hydropower is domestic and renewable. Much of the money spent on hydropower stays in America, and expanding hydro capacity could create up to 1.4 million cumulative U.S. jobs.

Mr. Leahey stated:

- Hydropower is the largest source of renewable electricity in the U.S., and made up 7% of overall electricity generation and the majority of renewable electricity in 2012. In Arkansas, hydro made up 3.4% of total generation and about 57% of renewable generation in 2012.
- Some key characteristics of the hydro fleet are that only 3% of the 80,000 U.S. dams generate electricity and hydropower is generated in every region and benefits every state, employing up to 300,000 workers around the U.S.
- Of total U.S. hydro generation – about half comes from the federal hydropower system and the other half from private industry.
- With the right policies in place, the U.S. could add 60,000 mega watts (MW) of new hydro capacity by 2025, much of which can be created by maximizing existing infrastructure or with low-impact projects.
- The FERC pipeline tops 64,831 MW across 399 projects.

- Arkansas projects under consideration: Otto, Alamo, Big Pig, David D. Terry Lock & Dam, and River Mountain Advanced Pumped Storage.
- On August 9, 2013, President Obama signed the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act and the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act into law promoting regulatory improvements and hydropower project development.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hauser stated the commission's annual report should be started at least by the fourth quarter.

Ms. Potts asked about the website for the commission. Mr. Hauser stated he will contact the commission concerning any input they may have in the website.

NEXT MEETING

The AAEC will meet Thursday, June 19, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.