

The Broome County Energy Advisory Board met on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in the Broome County Library, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: Jason Garnar, Kathy Bevelecqua, Mike Pandich, Don Cumming, Lou Roma, Les Platt, Dennis Mastro, Chris Burger, Amelia LaDolce, Guy Caroselli, David Westfall, John Smigelski, John Patterson, Mike Lynch, John Visser, Bob Pass.

The Board meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:00 p.m.

For people new to the meeting, a quick overview of what the board worked on last year was discussed. Goals for 2009 were discussed. Members came to a consensus that more outreach to local municipalities needs to be done. Mike Lynch will develop a specific list for the board to continue working with the county to seek more energy efficiencies. The board came to the consensus that with the vast sums of potential monies available for alternative/efficient energy programs for local governments as a result of the passage of the federal economic stimulus package, the board would be in a good position to offer recommendations to the county in regards to potential programs. Last year's model of splitting up into the same three sub-committees and delivering a monthly report at each meeting won't be followed. This year will more likely see a brainstorming approach at each meeting with potentially some small sub-committees forming as needed.

There was a discussion about Green Jobs. Dennis Mastro reported that the stimulus package will use a "pipeline approach" and use existing agencies to dole out money. There was a question as to how the county would actually tap into this money? Is there some sort of official application? Who will lead the county into tapping into these funds? Kathy will check on this. Another question is how to train the workforce to become "green" and workforce training. Collaboration between local workforce agencies is essential.

Discussion of a local energy efficiency home loan fund: Some municipalities such as Babylon, NY are establishing unique loans for homeowners to make energy efficient improvements. Amelia LaDolce and Jason Garnar spoke in detail about some of the programs, such as Babylon and Berkely, CA. Stimulus funds could provide the "seed money" needed to start this type of a program. City of Binghamton is looking into doing this, as well.

Amelia LaDolce brought up the subject of Smart Growth and possible policies that local municipalities could implement to encourage this type of growth, i.e. car pooling. The county established a car-pooling website a few months ago. Perhaps tax incentives could be used to encourage smart growth?

It was suggested that key stakeholders from local economic development and workforce development agencies be invited to future meetings as collaboration is key from these groups. The next EAB meeting will be March 10. Jason will write a draft letter to municipalities which will be the cover letter to the annual report and recommendations

the board just made which will be shared with the local municipalities. Maybe the EAB can sponsor a workshop for them?

Chris discussed the BCC sustainability conference. It will now be held April 17 and 18. There will be a plenary on energy and green jobs.

Jason briefly discussed two possible resolutions in regards to green building for county construction/rehabilitation of buildings owned by Broome County. One resolution requires buildings to use LEED requirements, another potential resolution is more of a hybrid one that doesn't require the official LEED certification. Jason is moving away from going with official LEED and more toward a focus on energy efficiency.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.