**Meeting Notes from WCEA meeting in Santa FE**

**WCEA group reports and introductions**- See participant list.

**Welcome from Jason Marks, New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner**-

**Regional Transmission Expansion Planning – Jim Baak (Vote Solar), Gary Graham (Western Resource Advocates) and Pam Eaton (The Wilderness Society) led the discussion**

Jim Baak provided an overview of the planning process. The first ten year plan has been filed and they are now working on developing the next 10 year plan and a 20 year plan. This was the first run at this process and there are changes that need to be made. Significantly, some of the transmission projects in the plan were not fully vetted. Need to address that in the next plan.

* **WCEA formed a RTEP strategy committee being coordinated by Jim Baak. The next plan is being developed now and WCEA member groups need to give their in-put now by contacting Jim Baak (or Pam, Gary or Ken).**

Gary Graham gave a summary of how the scenario planning process works.  The two main drivers for the scenarios were the economy and technological innovations, although policy considerations are at least as important.  SPSG process is consensus based with a lot of varied stake holders so ideas tend to more moderate than breakthroughs. The scenarios, however, frame four logical futures from which study cases will be developed and that is where the action will really take place and where WCEA can be most effective at pressing for more renewable energy and less coal.

* **We need to make sure that WCEA members engaging the scenario process meet before meetings to discuss strategy**. **Ken will follow-up with Gary.**

Pam Eaton gave a presentation on the Environmental Data Task Force.  This should be viewed as a process of developing methodology for including environmental data in transmission planning because it hasn’t been done before. .  Also cultural data is limited and difficult to incorporate.  We discussed trying to have a separate category for cultural data and the need to consider environmental justice issues.

* **Pam Eaton asked for help in addressing cultural resources and tribal concerns in the process. Please contact her if you have ideas**

**Our Friends at FERC- Fred Huette (NW Energy Coalition) and** Carl Zichella (Natural Resources Defense Council) facilitated the discussion.

Fred Huette gave a summary of FERC Order 1,000 issues. There is uncertainty about how the order will affect our work. The order was designed to address some specific problems in the Eastern interconnection. It is not tailored to issues in the west. There will be legal challenges to the order and the period for compliance filings from sub-regional plan is lengthy. Still, the order will have impacts on our work and we need to be thinking about how to be consistent and how to use the requirements of the order to further our goals. Specifically, we should seek to incorporate the WCEA principles in the record of the sub-regional compliance filings required in the order. We discussed creating a “template” using the principles for filing in sub regional planning entities. We also discussed the Sustainable FERC project.

* **Ken will get the contact information on the Sustainable FERC Project and send it out on the list serve.**
* **Ken, Julia Souder, and Larry Chasset will investigate creating a template.**

We also discussed the difficulty of engaging sub-regional planning and lack of resources to do so. We need to argue for NGO using the successful example of the ARRA funding to support the WECC stakeholder process. We also discussed state commission orders to utilities support NGO funding where possible. It was pointed out that these arguments have been made repeatedly over time in many arenas most recently in WGG testimony to FERC to no avail.

Carl Zichella discussed DOE Designation of Transmission Corridor authority to FERC. The politics of this proposal seemed to be poorly thought through. After the Santa Fe meeting our assessment was validated when Secretary Chu announced the concept would not be moving forward. ‘Nuff said

**Clean Energy Vision Project next steps**- This discussion was facilitated by Dave Olsen, Amanda Ormond and Alicia Healy (Western Grid Group)

This discussion began with Dave Olsen a summary of the opportunities we have to change “business as usual” and an articulation how the West could be different if our clean energy vision is implemented. Amanda Ormond gave a summary of the *Western Grid 2050* report roll out in Las Vegas in the end of August. Most of this discussion focused on materials being developed to facilitate our campaign to implement a clean energy vision. ( Below is the chart of document flow. Just click on it and expand it to see the detail)



The elements and format of the Transition Plan are in development. Fact sheets are being developed through Resource Media.

* **WCEA members should review the “FAQs” and suggest additions to Amanda Ormond**
* **Send comments on “10 Top Policies” to Dave Olsen so they can be edited and redistributed**

**Advocacy for regional market**- Carl Zichella (NRDC), and Jim Baak (Vote Solar) led the discussion (following our facilitator, Ken Toole, recovering from a bit of a brain cramp and screwing up the agenda)

Dave Olsen gave a presentation on development of “Geographic Diversity Tools” being developed by Nothrup Grummon and LS Power. These new tools are offering great promise is fine tuning weather forecasting and geographical data to increase overall capacity factors of renewables and decrease/manage variability.

Carl Zichella and Jim Baak summarized regional market issues. Background also provided by Dave Olsen. Power in the western market basically flows from east to west and California is viewed as “the market”. We need to change both people’s perception of the California as “where the power goes” to California as a participant in a west wide functioning market with power flowing in and out for the benefit of the region. Also have to work to change California renewable restrictions. Carl and Jim presented a detailed summary and strategy outline for the group.

* **Ken to send Carl Zichella and Jim Baak’s outline to WCEA list**

John Candelaria provided an overview of the EIM docket currently open in Nevada. The initial comments have been received with a number of WCEA groups participating.

Bob Anderson discussed the regional picture on EIM pointing out that this has traditionally been a contentious area and that WECC appears not to want to be the market operator. On the plus side, it appears that a number of balancing areas and utilities see the benefit of a functioning EIM. The trick will be to make any emerging EIM as large as possible to assure efficiency.

**WCEA development**- This was a group discussion framed by the recommendations of the organizing committee. Decisions made are highlighted in black in the text below.

**Membership-** **The group accepted the recommendations of the committee that a group or individual becomes a member by signing off that they have read and agree with the WCEA principles.** There some discussion regarding concern about groups being held to statements in the principles in other arenas such as rate cases, specifically regarding consumer “cost” and renewable over all the group agreed the principles as written are defensible and that should not be a barrier to joining and the check off on agreement with the principles.

**Governance-** **The group agreed that decisions would be made by consensus.** The group also discussed the limitations and as well as the value of consensus decision making process.

**Steering Committee**- **The group agreed to form a seven member interim steering committee**. The term of the initial committee will be until July 31, 2012, which is congruent with the term of existing financial support. The process for selecting committee members will be to solicit interested individuals from the list serve as soon as possible. The members of the existing organizational committee plus Amanda Ormond from WGG will recommend a slate to the membership on the November conference call. There was also discussion about maintaining a close connection with WGG by having two WGG directors on the steering committee as recommended by the organizational committee. The group agreed that one member from WGG would be sufficient.

**Sub-committees-The group also agreed to form an ad hoc committee to discuss strategy for the RTEP** process. Jim Baak circulated a sign-up sheet for interested individuals.

**Financial Support- The group agreed that WCEA needs to develop its own sources of financial support.**  We had a lengthy discussion about a dues structure with some arguing that dues are a way to show that WCEA members have “skin in the game” and prove the value of WCEA’s work to its members. Others argued that dues would create too much of an administrative burden and that consistent participation demonstrates commitment of the work of WCEA. There was also discussion of soliciting contributions from WCEA members outside a formal dues structure. The group also discussed foundation support. The group also agreed that time is of the essence and a proposal needs to be developed as soon as possible. Individuals pointed out that a funding proposal is not a stand-alone document and it has to reflect a program for action, work plan, budget, goals and time lines which reflect the work to be accomplished. The process will be for the steering committee to work through a proposal and circulate to the membership.

* **Ken will solicit WCEA members for a steering committee and present a slate of individuals (Selected by the nominating committee) to the WCEA membership on the November call**

**Next meeting please “pencil in” January 12, 2012 in Phoenix.**