

Solar Task Force (Wednesday, April 14, 2021)
Generated by Sandie Greene on Friday, April 16, 2021

Members present:

Dr Michael Cain, Chair; Jeffrey Shaw, G. Mike Thompson, and Bonnie Kelnberger

Member absent:

Bryan Thomas Sr.

Consultant

Les Knapp via Zoom

Staff

Harry Knight, Deputy Director, Land Use and Growth Management

Amy Carter, Video/Media Producer

Sandie Greene, Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:01 PM

Action A: Call to Order

Action: B. Approval of minutes from meeting of the March 10, 2021, Solar Task Force meeting.

Move to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2021, Solar Task Force meeting.

Motion by Dr Michael Cain, second by Jeffrey Shaw.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr Michael Cain, Bonnie Kelnberger, Jeffrey Shaw, G. Mike Thompson

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Presentation: Chesapeake Conservancy “Optimal Solar Siting for St. Mary's County”

Guest speaker had not arrived, so the Solar Task Force began the work on the Draft Recommendations.

B. Continue drafting the Recommendations for Utility Scale Solar.

Community Solar

Motion: In regard to Community Solar #11; a motion has been made To approve as recommended The County should consider fiscal or policy incentives for Community Solar projects pursuant to the definition to Community Solar §7-306.2 of the Public Utilities Article of the Maryland Code. Strike numbers 1 and 2 from the current description. One potential incentive could be the creation of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program.

Motion by Dr Michael Cain, second by Bonnie Kelnberger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr Michael Cain, Bonnie Kelnberger, Jeffrey Shaw, G. Mike Thompson

A. Presentation: Susan Minnemeyer of the Chesapeake Conservancy presented their final report, “Optimal Solar Siting for St. Mary's County”.

B. Continue drafting the Recommendations for Utility Scale Solar.

Accept the new language provided to be added as shown in #2.

Tabled #3. Prior to the next meeting Harry Knight, Deputy Director and Les Knight, Consultant will make attempts to have a discussion with each member regarding maps.

Accept #4 as written.

Review #10: Discussion on second paragraph changes as written, a vote was not taken.

“The Navy is currently part of the Counties Technical Evaluation Committee and will be a part of the Evaluation of any proposed Utility Scale Solar Projects. However, developers should consult with the Navy early as possible in the development process. Due to security issues associated with foreign made solar equipment and pilot glare issues that could pose risk to Military Operations.”

Table #12 “Incentives remove brownfield, gray field and in fill development sites and replace with Optimal and Preferred.”

The new #12 may read: Incentives – The County should consider fiscal or policy incentives for utility- scale solar projects that are located on “optimal” and “preferred” sites. One potential incentive could be the creation of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program.

3. ADJOURN

Adjourn the meeting of the April 14, 2021 Solar Task Force

Move to adjourn the April 14, 2021 Solar Task Force meeting

Motion by Dr Michael Cain, second by Bonnie Kelnberger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr Michael Cain, Bonnie Kelnberger, Jeffrey Shaw, G. Mike Thompson