

**Urban and Rural Meeting**  
**11/15/2007**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**GFCC Conference Room**

**Attendance:** Ed Peebles, Chair; Jim Norman; Rick Solie; Jim Pohlman; Jennifer Yuhas; Andy Anger; and Michelle Gibson

- 1. Call to Order.** Ed Peebles called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.
- 2. Introduction of Members and Guests.**
- 3. Rural Road Trip**
  - a. October 18 meeting in Delta
    - i. Jim Pohlman, Butch Stein, and Michelle Gibson went to Delta for their monthly Chamber lunch. Informal, so gave them update of committee and associated activities.
      1. A lot happening at Ft. Greely.
      2. Hitting a flat spot in real estate market there, with sales slowing down.
      3. Spending last of impact money—won't have pot of money to work with on projects they've had for last 5 – 7 years.
    - ii. First road trip committee made as outreach, every where else by plane
- 4. Old Business**
  - a. 2008 Committee Goals and Priorities Update
    - i. Talk about rural energy
    - ii. Discussion: Rick Solie, Ed Peebles
      1. First set of priorities moving forward to State Chamber, and the focus would be from the Fairbanks Chamber. We are looking at a Fairbanks Chamber Energy position to bring to the State Chamber. Will look at a broader energy focus that considers rural which Steve Haagenson has drafted up through the Interior Issues Council.
      2. Hear in villages that people have less and less money to spend on travel, and that has to do with how much paying for energy use. No one wants to go backwards, but need to figure out way to survive.
- 5. New Business**
  - b. None

- 6. Rural Energy Presentation--Jim Norman, ABS Alaskan, Inc.**
- a. Turned on solar array at Pike's about 45 minutes ago.
  - b. With the SNAP (Sustainable Natural Alternative Power) program, sell back to GVEA. Arrays on roof for a couple of weeks, and got final approval from GVEA on interconnect last week. Shut power down, and got tied in.
  - c. The program is working great. Put in two turbines at Shaktoolik. As long as everyone recognizes that it is a learning curve on what needs to be done to protect the utility and customers.
  - d. What's happening in Tanana, Ruby, and Huslia.
    - i. Handout on Tanana Solar
      - 1. Don't want to go back to pure subsistence lifestyle but need to have sustainability. See as a blending of basics and new technology. Wood, sunshine, water, wind, with technology see where things are heading. Solar for all of Alaska, it is the unsung hero, and not touted as much as should be. If Germany can make it work economically to 7 times of installed capacity, tells me we have a viable resource in terms of solar, and at some point economics such going to be forced in that direction.
      - 2. Issues for rural Alaska—have to level the cost for sustainability, and a good way to do that is to inject energy sources that are not going to escalate in per unit cost—infrastructure, energy source, and operations and maintenance. All are going to have costs—hardly any operations and maintenance with renewables, so cost is amortizing out initial expense. If communities going to survive going to have to bring expenses to a halt.
      - 3. Virtually every base material escalated in costs, especially copper, lead, aluminum, steel—impacted on a worldwide basis. Developing countries like China and Malaysia are consuming so much in industrializing outstrips anything U.S. could gain in conservation.
      - 4. Installation in villages
        - a. Most are for individuals. TCC has a program going where when they build it in conjunction with building project—tie into homes, and excess electricity feeds back into grid.
        - b. Cost? Installed and operational at \$10/watt, \$20,000 by the time installed and operational.
        - c. Batteries way up in price if doing a battery-based system.

5. Most beneficial thing anyone in Alaska can do is just communicate and build rapport.
6. Challenge is that people in villages happy to see us when there, more of a dialogue going on than there used to be

**7. Other Discussion**

- a. Outreach to Delta—really appreciated, maybe do more often—once or twice a year.
- b. Work on priorities
- c. Set up scenario where every couple of weeks, one or two people from committee make a point of going to rural communities to build rapport. Maybe after holidays.
- d. Check on Committee members..

End of Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle B. Gibson