

# April 28, 2014 Solar Stakeholder Group Meeting Notes

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April 28, 2014  
10:00 a.m. to approximately 3:15 p.m.  
At Department of Forestry's Central Regional Office  
900 Natural Resources Drive  
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Carol Wampler (Department of Environmental Quality) and Ken Jurman (Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy) opened the meeting with a word of welcome. Attendees introduced themselves and [signed attendance sheets](#).

The morning's presentations began with a [description of available GIS mapping for solar and other resources](#) by **Peter Sforza**, Research Scientist & Director of the Center for Geospatial Information Technology, Virginia Tech. **Kevin Russell**, of Electrical Distribution Design (EDD-US), then presented EDD's work on [studying impacts of distributed solar generation on utility operations and infrastructure](#) (emphasizing PEPCO and Hawaii). Over a working lunch, the group heard a report from **Joseph Gruss**, a Virginia Tech graduate student, on his [compilation of studies on solar valuation across the United States](#). Each presentation was followed by questions and discussion.

Carol and Ken then set the stage for the group to begin work on the study requested by the Senate Rules Committee of the costs and benefits of distributed solar generation and net metering. They reviewed that the study letter requests DMME/DEQ to convene stakeholders, so that the stakeholders can study distributed solar issues and develop a report.

Ken and Carol reported that the directors of DMME and DEQ had approved all those individuals who responded to the public notice concerning formation of the study group. This list includes almost all of the [members of the Small Solar Working Group](#) (highlighting respondents to public notice), as well [ten additional individuals not previously associated with the SSWG](#). All respondents to the public notice appeared highly qualified.

Since the approved study group (which will frequently be referred to as the "Solar Stakeholder Group" or "SSG") includes almost 50 individuals, the directors also approved a smaller steering committee. The chair of the steering committee will be **Damian Pitt**, PhD, AICP, Assistant Professor of Urban & Regional Planning, VCU. Other categories of membership were spelled out by the directors (see steering committee attachment below) so that the steering committee would be a balanced group of manageable size. It is anticipated that the steering committee will gather research, frame issues, formulate "straw man" proposals, etc., for consideration by the plenary group. Use of the steering committee is intended to make it logistically possible for all group members to participate meaningfully in the study effort.

Dr. Pitt described the major characteristics that will be helpful for steering committee members to possess, including the technical skills to gather and analyze research, the availability to attend meetings, the ability to work collaboratively, and the perspective necessary to represent fairly the views of others in their respective stakeholder group. Attendees then broke into smaller groups to nominate individuals to represent their respective groups/entities, as provided in the directors' approved steering committee outline. When the plenary group re-convened, some groups were able

to report their nominees and alternate nominees immediately, while others will report to Ken and Carol within a few days.

During discussion, group members also suggested inclusion in the steering committee of a citizen representative. Ken and Carol will take that recommendation to their directors for consideration.

Once the make-up of the steering committee is settled, Dr. Pitt will communicate with members to find a suitable time/place for the first meeting. He mentioned potential dates in early to mid May. DMME and DEQ plan to notice all plenary and steering-committee meetings in the Regulatory Town Hall.

Dr. Pitt distributed copies of compilations of solar studies from two sources:

- [Studies Examining the Costs & Benefits of Distributed Generation and Net Metering](#)
- Excerpt from Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) report: [A Review of Solar PV Benefit and Cost Studies](#). The full RMI report is [available here](#).