***REB Action Group***

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday 8th April 2019, 2:00pm Benalla Council Offices**

1. **Present:**

Kevin Smith, Larissa Montgomery, John Lloyd, Peter Maddock, Bev Lee, Sandy Campbell

1. **Apologies:** Cath Botta, Adrian Howden, Annette Jones
2. **Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*Motion: That the minutes of the meeting of 19 March 2019 be accepted*

Moved: Kevin Smith 2nd: Peter Maddock All in favour

1. **Business Arising**
   1. Mondo Survey – Mondo have started doing surveys. Kevin answered a survey on behalf of the Swanpool Hall / Cinema. Mondo will continue with surveys and get back to REB with results.
   2. BZE Electrifying Industry Forum – Only about 15 attended. Vanessa from BZE wanted to go ahead despite the low attendance. Representatives from Wangaratta, Mansfield and Euroa but not any from Benalla.
2. **Correspondence**
   1. Inwards
      * 1. Email from Sarah Stent, Banksia Communications, recommending short video about identifying stakeholders and building a stakeholder map. Discussed doing more on this when Cath was available to attend a meeting and assist with facilitating.
        2. Matt Charles Jones sought a letter of support for Mondo’s Distributed Energy Resources Marketplace ARENA grant application. Group thought that this was a good idea. Also would like to ask Matt to explain why AusNet are placing limitations on solar PV installs.

*Motion: That REB provides a letter of support aligning with the proposal outlined in the template provided by Mondo.*

Moved: Kevin Smith 2nd: Sandy Campbell All in favour

* 1. Outwards

Letter to Ensign congratulating students on School Strike 4 Climate. All thought that this was a great letter. No responses were submitted in week following. Also great what the students have done in Wall to Wall with DELWP.

1. **Action Groups – report on action plan to implement key strategies**

6.1 Waste to Energy – report submitted by Adrian.

I am waiting for a reply to several questions regarding the plant as to what the specifications are for various pieces of plant as well as how the larger reactor is going. FastOx may not be the answer I first through as it may require several sites to process the north east waste, but we are still exploring options. Unfortunately Sierra is slow in responding to emails which is a lesson in patience. Hope to have more information for the next meeting.

6.2 Community Energy Project – report from John

Hasn’t progressed any further, needs a lot of time and therefore more help to get it established. Really need to work out what we need to do in terms of agreements etc. Chris Weir hasn’t helped. Several different tools etc to use / look at. Jenny Cogger, GMCU were interested in being involved, John will follow up. Sandy offered $1,000 to kick start the community energy project and revolving fund.

*Motion: That REB gratefully accept Sandy’s donation of seed funding for community energy revolving fund once it is established.*

Moved: Kevin Smith 2nd: Peter Maddock All in favour

6.3 Energy Efficiency

Peter developed a survey using Survey Monkey which was sent out to all of the 2018 workshop participants. Three responses so far. Most were interested in the heating and hot water session that was missed. Have got some feedback from James Bramwell SV. Might involve some presenters or information from DELWP and other funding sources. Have some funds left over from last workshop series. John, Kevin and Peter will keep working on organising the 2019 sessions, order of topics, venue etc.

1. **Possible Grant Applications**
   1. Community Climate Change Adaptation Grants - John worked with GV Community Energy on the 3CA grant application for assessment and retrofit of low-income housing. The application was submitted and REB provided a letter of support. Result will be known in May.
   2. DELWP Community Renewable Energy Mini Grants – Larissa has drafted the application for engagement material. BSFG have agreed to auspice. Bev suggested adding a website and print material banner to the design. Larissa to include and submit application.
2. **Actions to Implement Transition Strategy**
   1. Review of communication plan (pages 5, 7, 8, 9)

Discussed and made amendments to the communication plan, Larissa to update. What is the key message – 100% renewable energy by 2028. Will do more work on the stakeholder list when Cath is available for a meeting.

* 1. Community Engagement – video ‘Building Stakeholder Maps’ – defer to next meeting
  2. Identifying skills each person can contribute to REB

Bev – community and social development, eg. Engaging with Waminda

Kevin – large scale renewables, technical background, solar gardens

Sandy – talking to people, informal basis

Peter – help with energy efficiency workshops, fully committed with BSFG

Annette - emailed - business management & administration, sustainability assessor for residential and commercial, experience in sales and promotion.

* 1. Next Steps:

**JOHN** to ask Matt to explain why AusNet are placing limitations on solar PV installs.

**JOHN** to talk to Jenni Cogger GMCU about setting up a community energy revolving fund.

**LARISSA** to look at the next steps for community energy project.

1. **General Business**
   1. North East Community Energy Network Meeting - Many groups are putting up 3CA grant proposals. Notes of the meeting are available from John if anyone is interested. Indigo Power starting to launch, live from 1 May.
   2. Sustainability Victoria – TAKE 2 Roundtable Discussion – Supporting the community transition to a zero-carbon economy in Victoria. John was invited and will attend on 9 April in Melbourne.
2. **Next Meeting**

To be confirmed.