

**SOLAR READY II KICK-OFF MEETING  
SUMMARY  
April 4, 2014**

**Attendees**

Mike Bosi, Collier County  
Ken Buschle, Gora-McGahey Architecture  
Terry Cerullo, DEP  
Chris Felkamp, Terra Smart  
Phil Flood, SFWMD  
Brian Goldberg, Advance Solar  
John Gucciardo, City of Bonita Springs  
David Hilston, Punta Gorda  
Dell Jones, Schneider Electric  
Renee Kwiat, LCPA  
Trish Lassiter, LCEC  
Tessa LeSage, Lee County  
Don McCormick, SWFRPC Gubernatorial Appointee  
Frank O'Neill, Full Service Green  
Joseph Simmons, FGCU  
Jason Szumlanski, Fafco Solar Energy  
Patty Whitehead, ABM

**Conference Call**

Chad Laurent, Meister Consulting Group

**Staff**

Margaret Wuerstle, SWFRPC  
Jennifer Pellechio, SWFRPC  
Rebekah Harp, SWFRPC  
Nichole Gwinnett, SWFRPC

**Item #1 – Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

Ms. Wuerstle gave a general overview of the project and then introductions were made.

**Item #2 – What is Solar Ready Florida and the Solar Ready II Project?**

Ms. Pellechio presented a video on solar initiatives from North Central Texas and provided an overview presentation on the project and how it relates to Southwest Florida

### **Item #3 – How Solar Has Impacted Florida Gulf Coast University**

Dr. Simmons from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) gave a presentation on the University's Renewable Energy Institute. He also explained the following items.

- Solar Array – December 2009
- Kapnick Center Solar Installation
- Degree in Renewable Energy Engineering
- Outreach efforts in Solar Energy
- IHub (University Building and Renewable Energy Park)

### **Item #4 – Solar Best Management Practices**

Mr. Chad Laurent of Meister Consulting Group gave a presentation via Skype.

### **Item #5 – Determining Solar Best Management Practices for SW Florida**

Mr. Jones briefly explained the aspects of solar thermal versus PV. He asked if they should be focusing collectively on both techniques instead of just one.

Mr. Chad Laurent agreed with Mr. Jones' comments and said that there are opportunities for both.

Mr. Don McCormick stated that wind load is a factor. Mr. Chad Laurent explained that there were wind load and hurricane requirements.

At this time the stakeholders made their selection for BMPs.

Ms. Pellechio explained to write down ideas for each of the categories listed in the handout.

Discussion ensued on the design and installation of a solar system.

Ms. Whitehead asked what the zoning requirements were. Mr. Jones explained the Florida Statute.

Mr. Frank O'Neill stated that HOAs are speed bumps for the process and that the government needs to educate the HOAs.

Mr. Frank O'Neill stated that departments don't usually enforce deed restrictions or HOA restrictions. Solar carports would need to deal with the setbacks.

Mr. Jones stated that the landscapes face the south.

Mr. Chad Laurent said that the first step would be to investigate that process and having the local governments help with the process. He said that the process wouldn't prohibit neighbors from planting, but would need to be trimmed.

Mr. Jones explained the costs involved, such as the cost of an engineer seal could be up to \$1,000.

Discussion ensued on how solar has been silent and roofs that have been structured 15-20 years ago don't usually need a design review.

Mr. Terry Cerullo stated that there was also the insurance considerations.

Mr. Jones said that once the system was attached to the structure it is then part of the structure.

Mr. Jones stated that electric contractors should not be allowed to install solar systems.

Discussion ensued on how there wasn't a need for electric contractors to install a breaker and connect two wires.

Mr. Don McCormick stated that some communities don't have the proper certified contractors.

Stakeholders suggested having an educational program.

Mr. Don McCormick suggested bringing the issue to the Chambers of Commerce.

Ms. Whitehead stated that it needed to be brought before the developers. Especially since pool contractors are now required to install solar plumbing.

Discussion ensued regarding the PACE program and said that the municipalities needed to consider the program.

Mr. Jones said that it should be a three-party model and have incentives.

#### **Item #6 – Parting Comments**

Ms. Pellechio gave closing comments.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.