

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting 8th April 2022, Zoom

WREN Board Members present: Chris Coonick, Tony Faragher, Simon Miller, Kevin Smith, Ian Welch.
Apologies: Leonie McGregor (minutes from Zoom recording).

Meeting started 1500, closed 1715.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 11th March 2022.

Matters arising: Kevin is waiting to hear from Jaz at Impress 51 with a revised quote based on 8 email addresses. The website contact form was discussed and also the email address to be used for enquiries/initial contact could change from “energy@” to e.g. “enquiries@”.

1. NZ Com update:

- Chris attended a Project Venice meeting at WPD’s Bristol office. Project partner Fraser Nash is working with smart meter data, which is proving challenging to access. They have made some progress using anonymous data by making assumptions about vulnerability based on patterns of use of appliances. Ideally data from known vulnerable consumers would be used, but so far GDPR has prevented access to these. Frontier Economics’ work has also been stalled for the same reason. They have now found a work around by linking with the University of East London as a research partner which will allow them to move forward. They are looking at whether changes in consumption seen during the lockdowns are likely to persist, in order to produce future energy use scenarios for WPD and test whether the current energy model is fit for purpose. This includes the impact of Covid on travel patterns, mapping EV ownership and identifying trends in geographical areas or demographics post pandemic. WPD is drafting a variation of WREN’s contract to reflect the changes in the project following the departure of Your Co-op Energy. The Board is happy for Chris to use the original template from Foot Anstey to produce a new schedule of deliverables and payments for this.
- The University of Exeter held a Future Scenarios workshop – report to follow. WREN is waiting for an invoice for this work package. There is a query regarding VAT on Exeter’s invoices - Kevin has asked for an explanation.
- The project is now at a waterfall stage where several interconnected elements are being completed to enable the carbon accounting model to be produced. This has been promised in draft format by mid-May. Alongside this CEP will be using Planet A’s model to run a number of business case scenarios. Due to recruitment issues and the pressure caused by the energy crisis, there may be some delay in this work. The Wadebridge net zero 2050 local plan should be available in draft format in time for the Royal Cornwall Show and published by the end of June.
- Simon reported that the next focus group on 26th April is visiting the flood resilience and climate change exhibition at Heartlands. This will include a presentation from Cornwall Council. A minibus has been booked from the Betjeman Centre. Membership of the centre at £35 per year is a prerequisite for the booking. Simon has sent invitations to the Board, and is aiming for an attendance of about 15 people. Simon will complete a risk assessment for the trip.
- Simon has noted an increase in enquiries to WREN around energy bills and solar panels.

- 2. Royal Cornwall Show:** 2 adjoining pitches have been booked on Wadebridge Street making the total space 6m x 6m. £800 has been paid to Wadebridge Chamber of Commerce,

representing the deposits on the 2 pitches. Simon to share with the Board a list of props yet to be sourced. Carpet trader will supply flooring, The Foodbank is supplying some furniture. Simon is seeking the loan of a PA system and larger screen for presentations. Cornwall Climate Care's films will be shown, as well as talks by ZLC and Abode. A CIC that promotes commuting by bike is lending a bicycle. Chris suggested 2 more planning sessions are needed before the event.

3. **Energy Equality project.** Simon sent out the update for solar PV hosts to keep them in the picture and has had positive responses from most of them. Foot Anstey have supplied an indication of their legal costs for reviewing the leases. Kevin has sent the financial model to Dan at Plymouth Energy. The Board agreed that the project should be progressed as soon as possible once the feedback is received.
4. **Communications:** The newsletter was sent out at the beginning of April. The Gary Lineker article has also been put on the blog. Issues raised by both the recent IPCC report and the Government's Energy Strategy were discussed and it was agreed that these should be discussed in a special edition of the newsletter. At least 1 more newsletter will be sent out before the Royal Cornwall Show.
5. **Recruitment of Board members:** The Board members agreed to complete the skills and diversity audits using the templates from the Reach site. Tony will collate the results. The diversity audit results will be anonymised.
6. **Other business:**
 - It was agreed to move the monthly Board meetings to Monday evenings at 7.30 pm, first proposed meeting Monday 9th May.
 - The Chacewater group requested a speaker for one of their events – Jake Burnyeat from the NZ com advisory group has offered to do this.
 - The proposed Cornwall Energy Network will not be progressing. The motivation for setting it up originally was mainly the prospect of an off shore wind development, which is now not going ahead.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 9th May 7.30 pm on Zoom

(then tba)