

From: Michelle [wyman.michelle@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 9:26 AM
To: Cliff Rechtschaffen; Sam Ricketts; HOFFMANN Margi * GOV; Dan DeSimone; Katie Wheeler Mathews; Wade Crowfoot; Gray, Laura
Subject: For review and action
Attachments: Notes92115.docx; Minutes92115.docx

Hi-

Monday's meeting was great, thanks so much for your effort and time in making it so. Please find a very brief doc that summarizes attendance and subcommittees (doc titled Notes92115). I suggest we hold a call for the entire group that includes subcommittee reports no later than the week of Oct. 12. Also attached are detailed notes (essentially minutes) from the meeting for reference. I can add more detail to the brief summary, however look to you all for guidance. I think it would be ideal to send this out no later than week's end. (Cliff will you be willing to send out to the participants once it's ready to go?)

I can facilitate scheduling calls for the subcommittees or whatever would be helpful.

Our next bimonthly call is next Friday, should we maintain that schedule? If so, should we expand the folks on that call?

Best,
Michelle

Planning Meeting: Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future

9:00 am- 1:30 pm
Monday, Sept. 21, 2015
Hall of States
Washington DC

Attendance

In Person

Sam Ricketts (WA)	Garth Spencer (DE)
Maribel Ramos (VA)	Traci Deshazor (VA)
Tiffany Watkins Ahern (MA)	Laura Gray (VT)
Ben Grumbles (MD)	Margi Hoffmann (OR)
Ryan McGinness (NV)	Eric Brown (MI)
Charles Small (NY)	Drew Jacoby (NY)
Cliff Rechtschaffen (CA)	Katie Wheeler Mathews (CA)
Dan DeSimone (CT)	Michelle Wyman

By Phone

Mike Fitzgerald (NH)	Kerry Holmes (NH)
Martha Rudolph (CO)	Zach Pierce (CO)
Valerie Brader (MI)	Alex Cahill (MA)
Wade Crowfoot (CA)	Sam Robinson (PA)

Summary

The discussion included review of the Accord work to date including current status and content of the Accord; consideration of action items going forward specifically post announcement; and outreach/recruitment efforts to other states. Subcommittees were established to support focused effort on key priorities. A follow up call will be scheduled the week of October 12 that will include progress updates from the subcommittees with the aim to finalize agreement on timing of the Accord announcement.

Accord Content Finalization

Valerie Brader (MI)
Wade Crowfoot (CA)
Sam Ricketts (WA)

Implementation (Action Items Post-Announcement)

Ryan McGinness (NV)
Maribel Ramos (VA)
Sam Ricketts (WA)
Margi Hoffmann (OR)
Cliff Rechtschaffen (CA) or Wade Crowfoot (CA)

Michelle Wyman

Announcement Planning including Recruitment, Communications and Timing

Eric Brown (MI)

Sam Ricketts (WA)

Ryan McGinness (NV)

Cliff Rechtschaffen (CA) or Wade Crowfoot (CA)

Michelle Wyman

Notes from In Person
9.21.15

Opening Remarks

Cliff R.

- Introduction including reference to PCC and value of regional collaboration.
- Focus is on state leadership and how to collaborate. Based on socializing the document and effort, the Accord is now narrowed and focused on clean energy issues.
- Goal for today is move to the next step. What would it take to close the deal with folks?
 - Walking through the Accord language of the Accord including content and title (concepts missing, problematic references, etc.)
 - What kind of projects should we start working on as we launch the Accord? What are top priorities?
 - Logistics for timing of launch?

Wade C.

- What would this agreement be, and what is it not?
- This is not a vehicle to delve into climate change, rather to find commonalities on clean energy.
- Not interested in driving a lot of process and drain time
- Value of Accord
 - Recognizes value of governors' leadership on clean energy
 - Create powerful collective voice of bipartisan governors focused on pragmatic approach and work to advance clean energy
 - Peer exchange to learn from each other and benefit from the exchange of best practices

Mike Fitzgerald, NH

How will the Accord interact with existing climate and energy initiatives to support or compromise?

Cliff R.

Climate is not references in the Accord doc. Focus of the Accord is on clean energy, transportation, efficiency, and planning smartly for states' energy futures. The intent is to keep the Accord more narrowly focused on energy future planning.

Wade

At this time, discussions on climate tend to polarize. While there are a lot of forums available to states to discuss climate, there are not bipartisan forums to pursue clean energy. This is a bipartisan, energy focused effort to advance

Ryan

As we look forward on what the priorities are, is Accord content tied to the next steps. Because there seems to be a strong focus on what states will do, but next steps suggest advocacy to the Federal govt.

Sam

The “to do” list is simply to help engage discussion on implementation steps. The next steps are less advocacy and which resources/partners should we engage as we move forward on next steps. Less advocacy and finding opportunities for a unified voice to request allocation of resources is part of the thinking for next steps.

Margi

The Accord is aiming to identify what the priorities for states are in energy space, where is overlap and how can we leverage our work via the Accord to optimize impact and resource accessibility.

Ben Grumbles

You all do a good job of emphasizing bipartisan cooperation. Will the Accord effort compete with any of the subcommittees of the NGA? Or WGA? Setting aside the various GHG coalitions, what about other efforts by NGA or WGA (regional associations) that might compete or be in conflict with.

Cliff R

There are so many members with so many interests that trying to get something pushed through a body as large as the NGA or WGA would not be tenable. There are so many members with such diverse interests that it’s hard to move forward with a focused agenda.

Katie

The organizations are not opposed to focused efforts like the Accord.

Ryan

There are pieces and parts of the Accord that would likely appeal to the WGA and NGA to collaborate.

Katie

The Accord might also be a catalyst for the NGA/WGA to engage in energy issues.

Content/Title

Margi

Preamble language- much of the origin of the Accord came from the interest in states having energy plans. Early discussions of the Accord included, and continue to, discuss of long term energy plans. The title indicates a new energy future to accommodate the

range of needs and equities that different states have. The Accord really is representative of the rapidly shifting movements, efforts and value for energy including infrastructure, transmission and sources. Different states have different transportation systems, using the Accord to work on those and exchange best practices. Long-term energy plans are useful for serving as a framework to exchanging, leveraging standards, best practices and resources to advance energy priorities in future. For Accord states this could serve as a strong mechanism to facilitate best-practice exchange and effect concrete change.

Long-term energy plan could serve as the basis for a work plan for states.

Assume states are here because we want grid reliability and long term abilities by Accord states to engage together via long term energy plans.

Wade

Are there any themes or issues moving forward that are missing or causing heart burn? Is there anything lacking or included in the current draft of the Accord that offers issues as barriers to states' participating.

Valerie B., MI

We have line-by-line editing... we will submit down the road. Brainstorm priorities are key to us as that is where the really value from the Accord will emerge.

Ben G.

Maryland is a progressive state on climate and clean energy. Gov. Hogan wants clean energy and business to engage. The Accord would be a nonstarter for us if it demonizes fracking, coal or business. Will the Accord who might participate be able to continue to engage in fossil fuels going forward? It will be a big problem if the Accord in any way compromises a state/governor's ability to engage on business and energy broadly going forward. The Accord needs to be clear that it is not a derisive approach to nuclear energy, 111d, etc.

Ryan M.

I agree wholeheartedly with Ben. My governor has the same concerns which in some ways can be solved with time and timing. The rollout of the Accord needs to allow sufficient time after the publishing of the CPP.

Wade

Very good point that NV and MD have raised. Our governors will have energy and climate policies outside of the Accord and other states participating in the Accord. This Accord is not an attempt to try to bring all govts/states into the same position on fossil fuels, rather this Accord seeks to highlight the value of bipartisan.

Tiffany

Kudos in trying to do this, good job. One thing my governor will want to know is what is the action moving forward. What are the next steps? He will only want to join if there is really concrete action going forward, how will he/MA participate moving forward.

Maribel

From Virginia's perspective, nothing compromising jumps out or contradicts what we are doing in our states. Our big priority is what will we get out of this, what are the benefits going forward?

Cliff R

We are completely on board with the commitment to concrete outcomes going forward.

Kerry H

My question is about a comprehensive energy plan- since we just wrote and implemented a 10-year energy plan last year, we would not want to have to update that.

Margi

Agreed- we want to use the plans (existing and new) as a basis for engaging and implementing. I would suggest we put together a subcommittee that does the line-by-line editing.

Subcommittee

Valerie, MI

Wade, CA

Sam, WA

* will request specific input from all states so that all can weigh in and submit changes/issues

Margi

To the room: why are you here? What do you want to get out of this?

Mike F

Second paragraph caught my eye as pushing on climate change. There should be some language on working through regional grid infrastructure and differences across regions- review language in the bullet "our states will modernize energy infrastructure" and make it clear that this reflects priority of many states rather than one or two.

Maribel

Important to strengthen language on economic development/economic prosperity/value to states of doing this re: the Accord.

Cliff R

Focus on what's in it for our states to do this. What is the value to states for doing this?

Sam R

1. priority areas for shared focus
2. implementation structure
3. recruitment of additional states

The value proposition for governors is the emphasized recognition of state leadership. Bipartisan voice. Peer exchange is the area where we see the most value and opportunity to advance work. State energy plans, finding points of intersect where collaboration can advance, enhance and accelerate states working together. Are there other partners including foundations, technical experts that the Accord states can lead on to lead the investment.

Ryan

Strengthening existing data rather than creating new data.

Cliff R

Data should be strengthened that states have, the more credible, the more nonpartisan the better. In PNW, via PCC we've used the consulting firm Globe.

Sam

Bringing data to a level of consistency. Michelle is speaking to how states talk to and work with DOE.

Maribel

But what do we do re: states that are pursuing the same bucket of resources. How do we keep them from competing with one another?

Sam

This group could position itself for first in the queue for new resources via DOE and other agencies.

MW

Described opportunity for Accord states to redefine relationship

Wade

Reshaping energy work and policy efforts driven by states to in turn to engage Federal agencies' response to states on what they need. This is an important, tangible and concrete piece of work to pursue on the Accord.

Cliff R

Let's talk for a minute about increasing state strategies that Federal agencies take into account and make more cohesive.

Eric B.

We are looking for ways to make houses more efficient, lower bills and make efficiency upgrades to affordable housing.

Laura G

VT would greatly support the affordable housing effort.

Margi

Reference Clean Energy Work Oregon that does this, especially via it's effort called MPower that is dedicated to financial options for low income homeowners that support/advance energy efficiency.

Sam

Any other points of feedback to what might be specific next steps? How could we use the Accord and this group to focus energy work?

Martha

Things that CO is interested in:

- we do not want to show any position to CPP
- electrical grid and transmission is a key priority for CO because grid crosses state lines for state as well

Sam

This is a key issues as it is differently dealt with by states; there are transmission lines that cross state boundaries. Transmission line issues offer a key area of opportunity for focus.

Margi

Good example- OR teamed up with Idaho to identify opportunities to engage both governors' offices, farmers and federal delegations to engage together on challenge that was facing a risk area. PNW regional transmission team is a good example of what's possible based on how productive it is.

Charles S

NY is looking to improve a major transmission line that would increase capacity by 100 MW of hydropower from Canada.

Drew

Trying to find a better way to integrate clean, renewable energy into the NY grid. NY supports those goals called out in the draft of this Accord. How can we prod our utilities to engage on this with us? We'd be interested in sharing experiences with other states and how they have been leading the discussions with utilities. When it comes to grid modernization, there is a great need to upgrade existing grid.

Cliff R

I want to suggest that grid modernization should be one area for concrete partnership and next steps re: the Accord. What are the future roles for utilities and should be for states. For NY, CA and some other Accord states to engage together in this work would be highly productive.

Sam

To underscore that, WA is watching what NY has been doing on utility financing. Also, NY has done amazing work on energy finance e.g. water revolving fund. There are a number of federal financing options that, if states aggregated efforts, to creatively apply financing options, and working on utility of the future?

Ben

One of the areas that MD is extremely interested in, in addition to transportation, is agriculture. There are a lot of rural areas on MD and with that a tremendous amount of opportunity to combine livestock with energy innovations that are consistent with the state energy strategy. Sharing experiences amongst potential competitors and potential additional states specifically on agriculture. 44% of electricity in MD is from coal, 35% is nuclear. The Gov. is not about to walk away from coal and nuclear, so the bridge to a cleaner energy future cannot exclude coal/nuc. Energy efficiency is key priority (energy financing). And via RGGI how best to invest the revenue that MD gets as a member. One area we all are recognizing as an issue of priority is resilience. I love the topic of energy-water nexus, as it is clear that energy/water nexus issues are a substantial area of priority for MD.

Tiffany

For Gov. Baker, hydropower is a key priority. We want to figure out ways to lower energy costs, and innovate. The NE state have been able to coordinate deeply and because our states share so much of the grid, the impacts to New England states on the cost side drives a shared priority for looking at options to lower energy costs, or at minimum stabilizing costs by diversifying energy options for folks. MD is interested in new and innovate approaches to energy diversification. Infrastructure resilience is key.

Ryan

Driving force for NV is economic development. For NV renewable energy (solar, geothermal) is a key asset for NV and want to deepen economic opportunities. The Tesla battery factory reflects a significant priority for the state on economic benefits/gains for energy. Additionally, the West Coast states have done a greenway/green highway effort and NV has looked at doing the same thing to link Reno to Las Vegas. When we have contiguous states, could we do this with AZ or do it from LA to Vegas? This might be a great approach for deepening engagement with additional states.

Traci

Economic development and jobs creation is number priority. Energy efficiency and renewables are a priority i.e., solar, alt fuels. Agriculture and resiliency are also priorities for VA. Resiliency is a key priority for VA.

Eric B.

Economic dev is important to MI. Our state has an energy-intensive industry. MI does not have coal in state. State is looking for ways to maintain reliability and support MI citizens priorities for a clean state. Energy waste reduction and renewable energy represent key priorities. We have pipeline issues especially relevant based on our waterways (significant bodies of water as well as rivers) that reflect aging infrastructure. Pipeline security is a focus including transmission lines.

Sam

In PNW we would definitely like to focus on transmission and infrastructure including for traditional fuels.

Sam Robinson

Eight months and a day into new administration. PA is in the middle of a debate about its energy future. There is a lot of controversy about the state's direction esp. since the discovery of natural gas. How do you develop the new resource, but more recently we've been trying to recent the focus that maintains support for fracking but aims to balance that with development of renewables and energy efficiency. We have some anxiety about the Accord because it might be taken as another step by PA to undermine certain industries. We want to be very careful not to priorities one specific sector over the expense of other issues. We've been building our energy office in PA, and are interested in sharing best practices with this group including those regionally close to use, as well as those further away. How do you create a utility of the future that includes renewables? WE are excited to see this move forward on a bipartisan basis.

Laura

No secret that we are forward thinking on renewables. Our largest utility comes to your house, RPS pass a bill that advocates 75% renewables by 2032 (??). All utilities supported this. VT has been so aggressive that we are now struggling to keep up i.e., solar siting. We could learn a lot from other states on permitting i.e., NIMBY-ism. How do we involve everyone and make sure we're going forward in a constructive way. We are doing good work on biodigesters.

Sam

Establish a subcommittee on implementation:

Ryan

Sam R.

Cliff R

Maribel

Margi

Additional areas for us to cover including for those states that have an energy plan, it could be very powerful to get those states together to learn from different regions/states what have you gotten from your energy plans. Engagement with DOE to do a dog and pony on what's currently available from DOE. Economic data to find an outside partner that can obtain and do economic analysis for Accord states. Technology transfer from different national labs.

Cliff R

This subcommittee will distill a list of 5-6 top things that we would try to work on the first year of the Accord and then distribute to the Accord states. And then present as a tentative work plan for the coming year.

Wade

Identifying manageable list of priorities is important, as the tendency in a large group is to include every idea, so important to get ideas on paper and then narrowing that down. Articulating this in a way that governors understand the immediate value and desired outcome is. Narrow down, and focus on crisp list of priorities with list of priorities and steps.

Sam

Once the Accord is formalized and launched, what does the group look like going forward? If the PCC is a good example, there has been a regular phone call, regular in person meetings that have facilitated and maintained ongoing work of the PCC to also advance the ball as a collective.

I suggest that once launched, we have a monthly phone call to check in that includes one point person from each state that is participating in the Accord. And quarterly meetings in person by those POCs.

Margi

Using the PCC as reference, I assigned different aspects of the work to experts/offices that made most sense. This keeps the process efficient and those subject matter experts can then report up to a lead.

Wade

I disagree that we try to establish this now until we have a commitment of what we are trying to achieve. I get a bit worried about a monthly call because that is more process driven rather than outcome driven. I think we should figure out what the strategic priorities and then we should have each governors' office assign one person as the POC to the Accord.

Sam

Agreed. Let's establish once we've identified priorities. Another key discussion point is to ensure that we have resources this to move forward the work. It is the authority of the governors' offices that will direct all of the work related to the Accord. If we are to move forward with some capacity, we need additional resources. How do folks feel about doing something like that?

Ben

The idea of having some dedicated staff to help us is critically important. It all depends on who the bipartisan organization is. There are some great orgs out there, we should choose wisely. We need someone who can be an honest broker.

Eric B.

Each state has its depth of expertise. Makes sense to keep this close to the states, and make experts and resources.

Ben

Completely agree- having been involved with wonderful collaborations before, the less the better. Keeping the work very low profile. Maintain this as a project, rather than building an org.

Wade

Resources needed:

- provide for some travel
- idea of low profile staff presence to coordinate discussions/calls and to support implementation of the agenda
- technical support that could be selected as needed then external funding would be useful

Cliff R

Any other comments? Let's start the discussion on the timing, details, venues, before we lose people to other meetings.

Sam

Timing, launching, and process- what is a feasible timeline? What factors should be considered? Driving factor should be to go out sooner than later. The presidential cycle in Jan will start to affect so much of what is happening. And also try to launch as early as Oct/Nov. We can then use 2016 to implement work plan and benefit from work of the Accord. What do others think?

Ryan

Two things that my boss said re: the Accord, and from a content perspective we're comfortable. 1. What is the relationship to the CPP? Oct is final rule so releasing in Oct is not possible. 2. Recruitment of other Republican states. Nov/Dec is a possible.

Eric

CPP has been an issue with that from the beginning. MI will be developing a SIP. Since our Leg is further to the right than we are, we want to avoid any easy line to be drawn to between the CPP and the Accord. We would like Dec or Jan as the right time.

Wade

Obvious that we want to identify timing that works for everyone. Hopefully this Accord has permanency. Waiting for two months seems okay. Let's make sure that if we do delay that we push for finalizing a year one work plan.

Ben

Timing for announcement is not highly sensitive. The document makes it clear that it is not related to the CPP and is not EPAcentric discussion, rather a state-led effort. We are open to later, Jan might be too late. Not Oct, but not Feb.

Zach

Not Oct, not Feb- just released climate plan, and anticipating ozone plan in Oct. We'd like to leverage potential collaboration in the Accord based on what we're doing. Which other Republican states might be possible.

Tiffany

I think it's important to have a clear Accord and work plan. Not Oct, not Feb.

Ryan

A December timeframe works. I've committed to reaching out to NM. I've reached out to Kathy in IL. Would welcome thoughts from other Rs in the room.

Eric

IL is a good target, even though they are consumed with fiscal issues A to Z.

Margi

What about Iowa? Gov. Branstad is going to be in WA tomorrow. They've been a great partner to OR on a number of shared work priorities.

Ryan

Gov to gov phone calls would be useful, and can be leveraged.

Tiffany

Maine?

Wade

Setting order of next steps- subcommittee getting language to final. Subcommittee to focus and finalize list of implementation/next steps. What is deadline so we can get the

work identified done? Let's focus on Dec timeframe- subcommittee that can work on communications, venue, process and message for announcement.

Subcommittee
Sam Ricketts

Zach

Dec launch seems best. Clearing house on economic data, always looking for way to identify national narrative that could be linked to CO's work.

Sam

Key things to finalize:

-Text

-Plan for implementation (work plan 1-3 items)

-Recruitment

Taking this to launch will require a degree of discipline to make sure it's organized and executed seamlessly.

Wade

Once gov's are committed, comms teams will be engaged. This is the timeframe from this date, to this date. In person launch virtually impossible. So doing a remote launch makes more sense.

Cliff R

I suggest we have a subcommittee that plots out working back from Dec, what needs to be done when. Simultaneously we can share recruitment. Once we have approval from governors, the comms teams will take from us, so at least key messages, and priorities can be articulated to the comms teams.

Maribel

Virginia is in a unique place because we have a one term governor. Timeline is essential. We have a launch that is important, and implementation is key so that VA can see outcomes before things are changed based on new gov.

Cliff R

WE should outline a rough draft of a timeline backing up from a Dec date. Ryan, Eric, Cliff and Sam.

Wade

This should be a quiet confidential effort. We want to control expectations and only want to convey that this is only going to happen when it's happening.

Cliff R

Any issues yet to be raised, any final points?

To Dos

- subcommittees
 - Line editing Valerie, Sam R, Wade: next step is to get together and circulate to group within 1-2 wks.
 - Post-release work plan: Ryan, Maribel, Cliff, Sam, Margi: within next 1-2 weeks convene and narrow down top 4-6 action items to work on immediately upon launch
 - Announcement/Recruitment: Eric, Ryan, Michelle, Sam, Cliff or Wade to focus together on setting the stage for after Oct, before Feb... most likely Dec. (two considerations for Dec- before Christmas, and don't want this associated with Paris climate meetings)

Dan DeSimone

The in person meeting has been an essential component to moving forward. Gov. Malloy has been enthusiastic about this for a long time. Whether it's RGGI or CONEG, regional action makes sense for New England as the region in particular has very big (and shared) energy challenges.