

## Transportation and Infrastructure – Working Group Meeting #3

April 28, 2016; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

### Meeting Summary<sup>1</sup>

#### I. Meeting Objectives

- To **present to working group members** results from the SWOT analysis prepared by TEconomy Partners.
- To obtain feedback and refine **the vision statement and guiding principles** for the energy plan.

#### II. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis Presentation

TEconomy Partners presented preliminary results of the SWOT analysis performed for Iowa's energy industry. Discussions during the meeting focused on the results of the SWOT as they related to the Economic Development and Energy Careers Working Group.

Working group members provided feedback on the preliminary results which will be incorporated in the final report for the SWOT analysis. All materials will be posted on the website at [www.iowaenergyplan.org](http://www.iowaenergyplan.org).

#### III. Vision Statement Discussion

During the meetings facilitators presented a draft vision statement for the Iowa Energy Plan to working group members and requested feedback on this statement.

The vision statement is meant to serve as the collective understanding of the ideal future of Iowa in terms of its energy use and resources. It establishes a tone for the plan and the planning process. The entire plan would then start with and relate back to the vision. The vision should be general and does not need to include specifics.

##### A. Draft Vision Statement Presented:

*The Iowa Energy Plan will set out Iowa's priorities to ensure energy affordability, reliability, and predictability for all through encouraging economic growth and improve Iowa's environment for years to come. The plan will leverage the state's renewable energy successes and promote innovation.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Note: This summary compiles thoughts and ideas shared by members of the four working groups for the energy plan: Economic Development and Energy Careers, Iowa's Energy Resources, Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Transportation and Infrastructure.

## **B. Feedback Received from Working Group Members:**

The ideas and items included below represent a high level summary of the feedback received from working group members as interpreted by multiple staff assisting in the note-taking process. They are not to be construed as verbatim comments from any working group member.

A revised version of the vision statement will be presented during the fourth meeting of the working group on May 26, 2016.

- The vision should be bold and comprehensive.
- Clarify whether this a vision statement for Iowa's energy future or for the Iowa Energy Plan.
- Think about the question "How does Iowa become a center for new energy?"
  - Iowa can be a test bed or center for innovation in the energy space
  - Iowa should be a leader in the energy space.
- The vision statement currently seems focused on renewable resources.
- It is not clear whether the vision statement includes all forms of energy and not just electricity.
- The vision statement is missing a timeframe.
- The wording of second sentence can be made more succinct.
- What level of detail is needed in a vision?
- Suggest using "Iowa will" as have opposed to "the plan will."
- Instead of "setting priorities" the vision statement should be framed as "making a commitment."
  - Change "set out" to "establish" priorities
- Consider adding "consistency and standardization".
- The two sentences seem to contradict each other.
  - Affordability may not be possible if newer, more expensive technologies are advanced.
  - Perhaps we are looking for "flexibility/diversity" instead.
  - There is tension in affordability and reliability – how can this be balanced?
- Consider including the words "promoting" as well as "energy security" as a means of providing safety.
  - Safety or security could also be included in the guiding principles.
- Account for the non-energy benefits of renewable resources.
  - Should this be accounted for as part of the vision or as part of the guiding principles?
- Diversity of assets (wind, workforce, ethanol) should be mentioned as a means to mitigate risk.
- The last sentence seems instructive (guiding) instead of visionary, it is looking at the past instead of the future. It also needs more clarity.
  - The past successes are due to leadership. Emphasize continued leadership in this sense and consider using the word "leadership" instead of "past successes."

- Phrase the sentence in a way that it builds momentum – using the strengths of today to build a future.
- Consider looking not just at past renewable energy successes but also at ethanol successes, and leverage this to other forms of energy and fuels.
- “Building upon” language resonates well – we are gaining momentum as a leader
- Is “renewable energy” too specific?
  - Need to make it clear that this includes all sources of energy
  - Should other resources be considered as well in the vision? (energy efficiency and ethanol were mentioned.)
- What does “improve Iowa’s environment for years to come” mean?
  - Environmental stewardship and responsibility should be considered in the vision statement.
  - Suggestion to include language on reducing greenhouse gases or carbon emissions, and providing cleaner air.
- How can Iowa maintain leadership and grow at the same time in terms of economic development?
  - What is the difference between economic development and economic growth?
  - Build upon Iowa’s world-class manufacturing as a source of economic growth.
- The vision statement is missing some language around domestic energy versus imported energy:
  - What level of in-state generation can we get to?
  - Is importing energy inherently a bad thing for the state?
- Efficient use of resources is a goal of the Iowa Department of Transportation.
- Promoting education should be part of the vision.
- Informed decisions need to be an outcome of process.
- Iowa is at a crossroads (location and leadership).

#### **IV. Discussion on Guiding Principles**

During the meetings facilitators presented draft guiding principles for the Iowa energy plan to working group members and requested feedback on these principles.

The guiding principles provide a foundation for the plan. They are the basis of all decisions and actions and can also be called critical success factors. The guiding principles will be used to make decisions around the objectives and strategies that will be recommended to the plan leadership team<sup>2</sup> for inclusion.

---

<sup>2</sup> The leadership team for the Iowa Energy Plan consists of Lt. Governor Reynolds, Iowa Partnership on Economic Progress (IPEP) members, Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) representatives.

## **A. Draft Guiding Principles:**

- Expand economic opportunities for Iowa.
- Maintain reliable and affordable energy for all of Iowa's residents and businesses.
- Ensure equity in access to energy programs, technologies, and resources.
- Protect and enhance Iowa's environment and natural resources.
- Establish framework for predictable decision making.

## **B. Feedback Received from Working Group Meetings:**

The ideas and items included below represent a high level summary of the feedback received from working group members as interpreted by multiple staff assisting in the note-taking process. They are not to be construed as verbatim comments from any working group member.

A revised version of the guiding principles will be presented during the fourth meeting of the working group on May 26, 2016.

- Maintaining and enhancing Iowa's energy delivery systems (including transportation) is not mentioned in the guiding principles. Infrastructure needs to be reflected as well as assets.
- Decision making should be based on data and not opinions.
- Transparency should be mentioned and addressed in the guiding principles.
- Include guidance that addresses national and state security (decreasing dependence on foreign oil and use of vehicles during states of emergency).
- Add language around "promoting best practice utilization".
- Recommend framing the principle as "for Iowans" as opposed to "for Iowa."
- Add resilience, education, and leadership
- Affordability should be more prominent
- Energy Efficiency is not clearly established or called out in the guiding principles.
- Metrics should be part of the guiding principles and objectives.
- *"Expand economic opportunities for Iowa."*
  - Are R&D growth and innovation covered under this guiding principle?
  - Clarify that economic opportunities should be expanded in all areas of the state – rural and urban.
  - Education should be covered under this principle.
  - Consider replacing "Iowa" with "Iowa's economy" or "our energy portfolio."
- *"Maintain reliable and affordable energy for all of Iowa's residents and businesses."*
  - "Maintain" may not convey change. Suggest using the word, "expand" instead.
  - Alternatively, change the word "maintain" to "provide."

- *“Ensure equity in access to energy programs, technologies, and resources.”*
  - The word “equity” can be read in many different ways. Think about equality of opportunities, not necessarily outcomes.
  - The word “equity” could be removed or reworded.
  - Need to make sure this captures “overcoming barriers.”
  - There is a difference between urban and rural areas.
  - Is it equity balance or impartiality?
  
- *“Protect and enhance Iowa’s environment and natural resources.”*
  - Eliminate “Iowa’s environment” as the environment transcends Iowa’s border.
  - This principle should cover stewardship, sustainability, and personal responsibility for future generations of Iowans.
  - Carbon reduction should be mentioned.
  - This principle could reflect energy efficiency and conservation. Alternatively, these items can be covered as strategies.
  - As it is worded, this seems to be more focused on conservation than efficiency.
  - Shouldn’t we promote efficiency first?
  - Wastefulness should be addressed by this principle – adding personal responsibility and stewardship would help.
  - “Reduce” or “efficiently use energy” might be better.
  
- *“Establish framework for predictable decision making.”*
  - This principle is difficult to understand and needs to be clarified or reworded.
  - “Establish” seems to imply that there is not one today.
  - Support informed and wise data driven guidelines for predictable decision making (use of guidelines vs. framework.)
  - Timely and data-driven decision making is critical.
  - Consider using the word “planning” instead of “decision making.”
  - We need a framework for what “predictable” that means – policies that are already in place, to allow for long-term consistency; programs and incentives established, etc.
  - Is this a Guiding Principle or more of an action item? Conversely, is it more appropriate to move to the vision?
  - Transparency should be an important part of the decision making.

## **V. Comments and Questions Received from the Public**

- N/A.