



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Consent

f. 3.

12/22/2020

Subject:

Workgroup for Innovative Solar Energy Resources (WISER) - Request for Additional Meeting Time

Fiscal Impact:

FY 20/21: \$2,295.45 Additional Staff and Advertising Costs

FY 21/22: None

Dept/Office:

Planning & Development

Requested Action:

On behalf of the Workgroup for Innovative Solar Energy Resources (WISER), it is respectfully requested that the Board approve additional meeting time (up to 12 hours), allowing WISER to complete analysis, Board recommendation report and action plan.

Summary Explanation and Background:

On November 19, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved Resolution 19-238, replacing Resolution 18-056, relating to the formation and function of the Workgroup for Innovative Solar Energy Resources (WISER). The advisory group has three objectives:

- 1) Develop a cost-benefit analysis and plan for County government to transition to clean-energy sources.
- 2) Make recommendations on improving public access to economically beneficial clean-energy technology.
- 3) Identify policies and practices that serve as barriers to the adoption of advanced energy technology within the County, and make recommendations on policy revisions.

The Board specifically approved six, two-hour meetings and minimal staff oversight at an anticipated total cost of \$1,176 (\$576 staff time/\$600 advertising costs). The first meeting was originally scheduled for March 30, 2020. Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, the meeting was rescheduled and all meetings moved to a virtual format. WISER has completed four of six meetings and appointees have perfect attendance. The group is working diligently towards draft recommendations and action plan, but recently voted to request an additional (up to) 12 hours of meeting time and staff assistance. Further, the group has requested flexibility in the two-hour individual meeting time frame originally approved by the Board as meeting momentum has occasionally been hampered by the need to adjourn the meeting at the two-hour mark. The group has discussed longer

meetings to allow for more collaborative work.

Unexpected circumstances have contributed to staff input to date, costs and the additional time request. Virtual meetings have necessitated involvement of Information Technology staff and longer, more expensive, advertisements that include public login information. WISER's chairman resigned due to circumstances unrelated to the group after the third meeting. The new Chair and Vice Chair are endeavoring to fill the leadership interruption while maintaining group momentum. Lastly, due to the virtual meeting format, a WISER webpage was created within the Planning & Development portion of the county's website. The WISER webpage is dual purpose as it 1) acts as a repository for group resources that would typically be provided during in-person meetings, and 2) partially satisfies WISER's Objective 2 as the information is publicly available and relates to economically beneficial clean-energy technology.

Despite unanticipated challenges, the group has reviewed more than 20 technical documents, has divided the Board-identified goals into manageable tasks, and anticipates producing a draft strategic report in January, that they can continue to refine as a group. The draft strategic report, once finalized, would become a keystone of the recommendation documents provided for Board consideration.

If approved, the total anticipated budget would be \$3,471.45 compared to the originally approved \$1,176; an increase of \$2,295.45. Going forward, county contribution should be limited to meeting time and zoom webinar link preparation, agenda & meeting production, coordination of resources, webpage maintenance, and advertising costs. It is respectfully requested that the Board approve up to 12 hours of additional meeting time for WISER to complete their work with continued, minimal staff support.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:



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December 23, 2020

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Tad Calkins, Planning and Development Director

RE: Item F.3., Approval, for Additional Meeting Time for Workgroup for Innovative Solar Energy Resources (WISER)

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on December 22, 2020, approved additional meeting time (up to 12 hours) allowing WISER to complete analysis, Board recommendation report, and action plan.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK**

Denna Scott
for: Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/ns

cc: Finance
Budget