

Voting members: Jason Bailey, Carmen Brown, Chris Cox, Brian Housh, Kevin McGruder, Marilan Moir, Michael Slaughter, Corrie Van Ausdal

Ex-Officio: *Johnnie Burns, Jeannamarie Cox*

Staff: *Lisa Abel*

Community: *Reilly Dixon (YS News)*

Excused Absence: *Amy Magnus, Jane Fernandes, Terri Holden*

1. Call Meeting to Order, Meeting Agenda Review/Approval (Van Ausdal)

- a. Van Ausdal called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm. The executive session scheduled for the end of this meeting was canceled.
- b. Changes in appointed board members: Welcome Chris Cox (YS Community Foundation), Brian Housh (Village Council), and Marilan Moir (Miami Township)

2. Nominating Committee (McGruder)

- a. Nominations and board vote on officer positions for 2024: President, Secretary, Treasurer (and Vice President if needed). Nominations for two positions at this meeting:
 - i. Secretary – Van Ausdal moved, Slaughter seconded the nomination of Kevin McGruder as board secretary. Motion passed 6-0.
 - ii. Treasurer – McGruder moved, Bailey seconded the nomination of Corrie Van Ausdal as board treasurer. Motion passed 6-0.
- b. Van Ausdal agreed to continue as board president pro tem until the March 2024 meeting.

3. Treasurer's report (Abel)

- a. January 2024 financials – these were not available in time for distribution and review by the board, so they will be added to the March 2024 packet.
- b. Public records policy and records retention – document provided in the packet for board review.

C. Brown and J. Cox arrived at 4:45 pm

4. Consent Agenda

Motion: Bailey moved, Slaughter seconded) adopting the following:

- a. To accept the minutes of the January 9, 2024 YSDC meeting
- b. To approve the YSDC public records policy and records retention document

Motion passed 6-0-1, with C. Cox abstaining

5. Staff Report (Abel)

- a. Marketing – A small group (Abel, Slaughter, Burns, Brown, Housh, Guenther) met to talk with Ben Guenther at the Village about how to translate the slides that Slaughter has created into a video with sound/ voiceover. Brown noted that Guenther has a MFA in film from OSU, and is excited about this project. Slaughter noted that we might end up with a

Our mission is to support, incentivize, and attract economic development in Yellow Springs & Miami Township.

couple of different outputs (video, powerpoint, etc.). Brown saw a relocation brochure on the Chamber website, and more information on the 365 Project website; can these be tied into the YSDC promotional piece? (Bailey noted that Chamber working on updates to it's webpages). For the video, Brown is creating the script and finding people to provide the voice-overs. Housh asked if this work could be the basis for another Dayton Business Journal article focused on Yellow Springs? Housh also noted that MVRPC sets up regional meetings with members, and encouraged us to do a dry run of our video with them.

- b. Community solar project – Van Ausdal attended a conference in Golden, CO conference related to our DOE prize; Abel attended via Zoom. NREL sponsored the event, and Van Ausdal took a tour of their labs. The event was an opportunity to meet others doing projects like ours. There were some similar types of projects represented, and some quite different, for example, a group in Maine is creating biodigesters of green waste for jet fuel. A few groups are working on electric buses for schools. When the buses are not in use, they are a rolling battery backup. Additional resources are available through DOE and partnerships for other initiatives, such as workforce development.
- c. Abel asked the board to give her permission to contract with technical assistance providers to the community solar project. While it did not vote to approve this request, the board provided ideas and questions regarding the request for proposal process:
 - i. Review proposal organizations for their client list, credentials, level of experience, and how the principals or project managers are viewed in their field.
 - ii. Talk with local experts who were/are involved in the Antioch College solar project (owned by Tesla) for feedback and pointers on what to look for in technical assistance. Includes Alex Rolando and Josh Miller (AC facilities/maintenance).
 - iii. Review with Johnnie Burns what is working and what could be improved with the Village solar field (owned by AEP).
 - iv. Get more clarity about what we need and then seek technical assistance: Solar power? Reduced electric costs for the Village and residents? What's good for the whole community?
 - v. One idea: If the goal is to reduce the cost of utilities in the community, how can we first leverage the renewable energy projects already in place? For example: can this project focus on the AC array, bring it up to more efficient standards, improve and implement ongoing maintenance, upgrade and expand its power output, etc.? How to use and share what's already there?
 - vi. Can we implement one big project (community solar) as several smaller ones that are installed at various sites?
 - vii. What about USDA-REAP grants or other grant funding opportunities? We need more in place to take advantage of other grant opportunities related to community solar: having a place to situate panels, having funding set up, etc.
- d. Abel led the group in a community solar stakeholder plan. See stakeholder list and grid, Exhibit 1 of these minutes. Will need 10-minute video for next round of DOE prize funding; recording things like today's discussions and meetings with stakeholders could be a basis for the video and prize application – demonstrating the level of local engagement.

Marilan Moir joined the meeting at 5:30, C. Cox left at 5:40

6. New Business (Van Ausdal)

- a. Opportunity for board members and ex-officios to share relevant and pressing news
 - i. Housh – Council is talking about a strategic planning exercise, will engage YSDC in this effort; council is prioritizing economic development and housing.
 - ii. Bailey – Chamber has new board members, with a re-energized Downtown Business Association and better communications. More promotions of Yellow Springs going out and in the works, adding promotion of small events, holidays, etc. No update on Chamber’s director search.
 - iii. Burns – Police chief Paige Burge is leading the charge for April 8 eclipse emergency and services planning, including preparations for departure traffic when it’s completed. Lining up resources such as portable toilets, cell phone system back-ups, parking, selling items, etc. Planning for no parking on Xenia Ave and Dayton St during the event in order to assure emergency access on those roads. Interim fire chief Denny Powell is part of committee to address Township involvement and concerns. Committee is creating map for best viewing areas to help with traffic, parking, etc.
 - iv. Moir – Township zoning commission is receiving public involvement as it works on temporary use / events rules (note, these could have economic development impact in the township).

7. Community Feedback - none**8. Meeting Adjournment**

McGruder moved, Housh seconded to adjourn at 5:58 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

YSDC Community Feedback and Response Document

#	Mtg Date	From	Question/ Comment	YSDC Response

YSDC Guidance for Community Feedback

1. Any community guest to the meeting must be identified when they arrive (sign in if in person, on-screen name if via Zoom).
2. Community guests are responsible for muting their audio (if Zoom) upon arrival. They are then responsible for unmuting themselves if they want to participate in the community comments session. (Find Zoom training links here: <https://www.yscf.org/zoom-support/>).
3. Community comments session will be identified on the YSCF agenda, which will be made available at YSDC.org prior to scheduled meetings.
4. Community guests must signify their interest in participating in the community comments session when it comes up. Via Zoom, they may raise their hand (action icon) or show a raised hand with video on, or write a note to chat. In person, they may raise their hand.
5. Chair will recognize one speaker at a time. Each speaker gets one 2-minute interval to make a comment or ask a question. Board VP is the timekeeper.
6. Response from YSDC:
 - a. If an immediate and factual response can be provided, and in consideration of time constraints, the board chair or their designee will respond.
 - b. Otherwise, the comment or question, along with a response from YSDC, will be provided as an addendum to the agenda of the next regularly scheduled YSDC meeting.

Exhibit 1: Community Solar Stakeholder Mapping

Step 1: Group Introductions and Define your Project Scenario (5 mins)

Please introduce yourselves to one other by sharing your name, organization, and Prize project. As a group, please select one project type (from list A) and one community location (from list B) for which you will identify the stakeholders.

A) Select **one** of the following **project types** for your group to think through project governance and stakeholders:

- An agrivoltaic project
- A biomass/biowaste processing facility
- A rooftop solar manufacturing facility
- Other: please add

B) Select one of the following community locations for your project to occur:

- Rural
- Tribal
- Island
- Remote
- Other: please add

Example: An agrivoltaic project in a rural community in southern Indiana.

Your Group's Project Scenario:

Develop a project to explore the inputs needed and risk to mitigate toward implementation of locally accessed community solar. Major aspects include stakeholder input and listening sessions; involvement of underserved populations throughout; technical assistance for site investigation and community solar as a local utility; and documentation of the process for other rural communities.

Step 2: Complete the Exercise Worksheet (30 mins)

Please discuss and complete each of the three questions (~10 minutes each) on the following pages.

Question 1:

Please identify individuals and organizations in your community that have particular interests in the development of the community energy project and add their names to the table below. Consider the following questions as you brainstorm the stakeholders:



Questions to Consider During Stakeholder Identification and Mapping:

- Who is impacted by the project?
- Who has the ability and resources (financial, human, information, influence) to help implement the project?
- Who has the authority and ability to shape the project plan and its outcomes?
- Who can we engage to help with project funding?
- Who has the appropriate domain expertise?
- Who can generate ideas or who has already shared ideas that can be incorporated into the project development process?
- Who can we engage to ensure proper representation from the community?
- Who among potential stakeholders are perceived to be allies? Who is important to engage that may be harder to convince?
- Who are the non-local stakeholders that would be useful to engage?

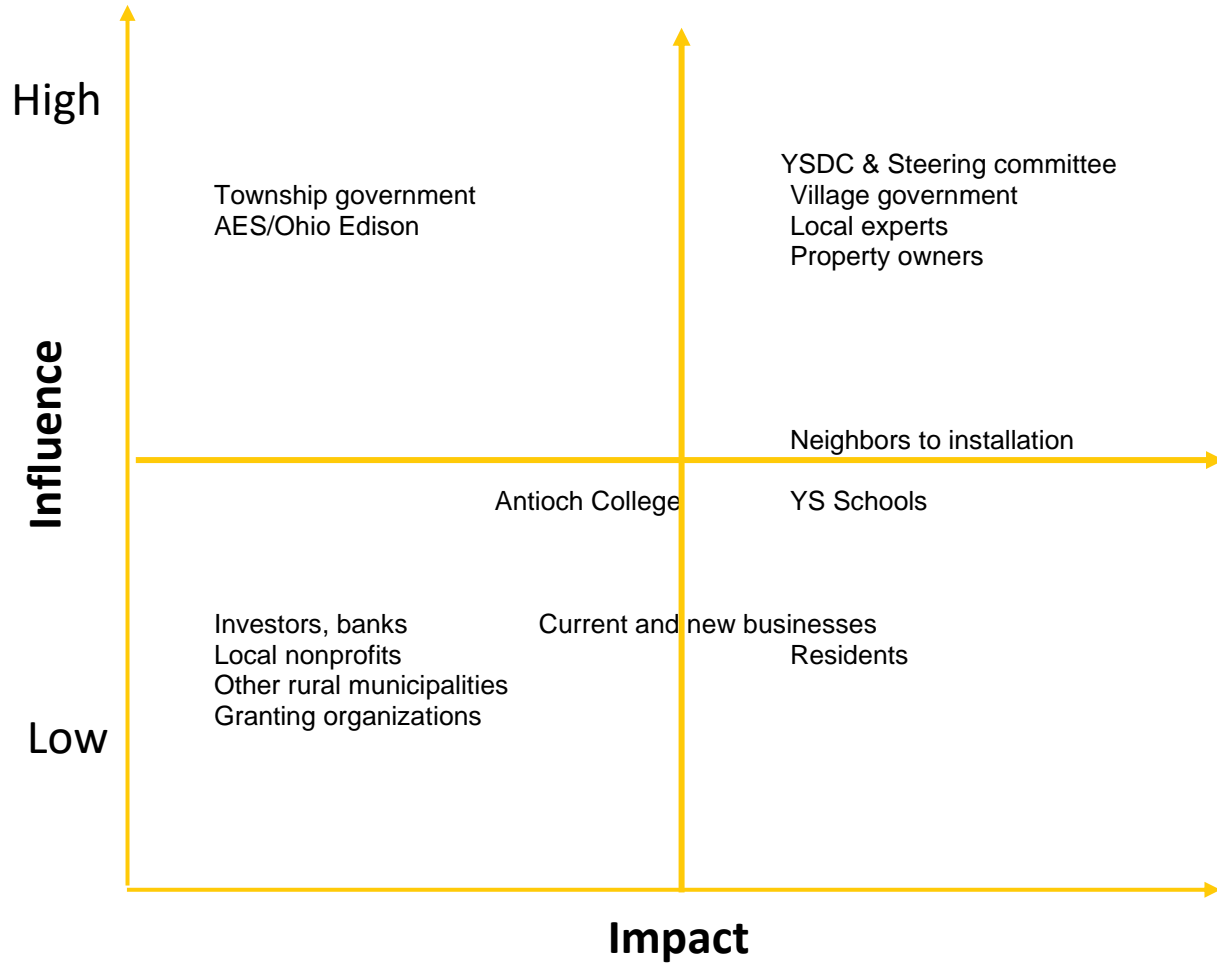
Stakeholder List Table

Residents of Village & Township, limited income residents
Village and Township governments
Current and new businesses
YS Schools
Neighbors to any new solar installation
Antioch College
Experts: Village Solar (Alex R), Bob Brecha, Encompass (Mike Kiser), John Cordan
AMP Ohio, AES, Ohio Edison
Grant organizations (USDA REAP, DOE, etc)
Investors and banks
Local nonprofits (TLT, GHA)
YSDC and community solar committee
Other rural municipalities

Question 2:

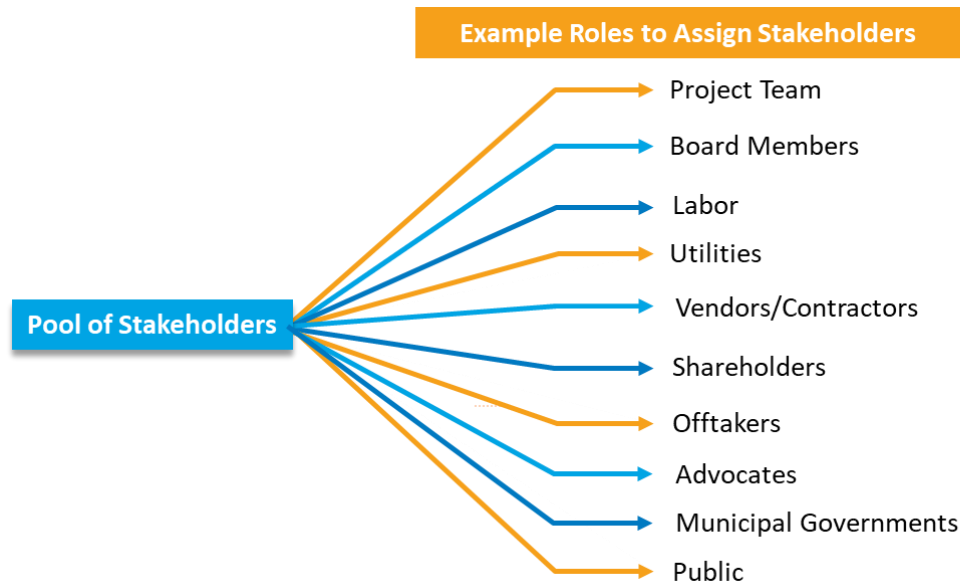
Using the list above, populate the Stakeholder Map below based on the relative Influence and Impact each stakeholder has on the development of the community energy project. Note: if you are completing this exercise on your computer, double click in the quadrant you want to fill out.

Stakeholder Map



Question 3:

Once the pool of stakeholders has been identified and mapped, it is important to define their responsibilities and understand the level of engagement necessary for each given stakeholder group. The responsibilities and levels of engagement are related to the stakeholders' relative amount of influence and impact, and it is important to balance the decision-making power to maintain project economics while optimizing benefits to the community. Factors such as financial, liability, risks, etc. will need to be considered and weighed.



Based on the stakeholder mapping from Question 2, assign roles and responsibilities to each stakeholder by filling in the table below following the example in the first row:

Stakeholder	Level of Engagement	Role
YSDC Board Members	Monthly	Providing guidance and direction to the project
Steering committee	Every 2-4 weeks	Runs the project
Village government	Monthly	Steering committee & YSDC board
Local experts	Every 2-4 weeks	Steering committee
Property owners	As appropriate	May provide sites for solar install
Township government	Monthly	Steering committee & YSDC board
Electric utilities	As appropriate	Connection to grid
Neighbors	As appropriate	May live near solar install site
Residents	As appropriate	Beneficiaries and users of solar power
Businesses	As appropriate	Beneficiaries and users of solar power
YS Schools	Monthly	Steering committee & YSDC board
Antioch College	Monthly	Steering committee & YSDC board
Investors/banks	As appropriate	Funding
Local nonprofits	As appropriate	Fit with their mission
Other municipalities	As appropriate	Learn from this project
Granting organizations	As appropriate	Funding