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To

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cc

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Subject

RE: CEAB- Compromise on Non-Agency Representation on the Standing Working Group

I would recommend that we focus on whether or not we need to establish subcommittees now that the CEAB has expanded and if so, what their mission and makeup will be - rather than discuss adding Board members to the working group. Please let me explain.

If I recall correctly, the working group began as an opportunity for CEAB to utilize agency staff to move forward on projects and plans that the Board could not accomplish with outside consultants given the small amount of money allocated to the Board. It was work that was critical to the individual agencies so we agreed that it was worth the staff time.

The meetings of the working group were actual working sessions to prepare information for the Board to review and/or approve. They were not subcommittee meetings. No final decisions were made by the working group and, as far as I know, no Board members participated in the sessions. In fact, that is what was so great about the working group - free labor!! At this point I am not at all sure why the working group shouldn't or couldn't continue to do their thing, if we all agree that it helps us to be more timely, cost-effective and productive.

However, if you add Board members to the working group you are essentially morphing the working group into a subcommittee. So, while DEP staff have been happy to work as a team with other agency staff to get critical work done and sent up to the Board for review and approval - as we have been doing - I would have to shift gears a bit if Board members participated and attend myself or send a representative. It would no longer be a working session. And while everyone knows I am generous to a fault (sure they do), I cannot ask my precious few air/energy experts to act as staff to a CEAB subcommittee.

So, if there is a problem with the working group can someone articulate it? If not, let's not try to fix something that isn't broken. (Wow - a triple negative!) If Board members are simply more anxious to become active in the nitty gritty issues, then I would suggest that we discuss forming subcommittees - right after we conduct some psychological assessments. Just kidding!

Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Gina