

**Ad Hoc Community and Public Works Planning Committee (CAPP)
Alternative Energy Committee (AEC)
July 1, 2010 12:30 P.M. Meeting**

Members present: Burke Henry, Vice Chair; Carl Frederickson, Alan Fischlowitz, Tom Banner and Larry Bean on speakerphone.

Members absent:

Also present: Rory Artig representing Windustry.

1. Call to order.

Meeting of the Alternative Energy Committee (AEC) called to order by Vice-Chair B. Henry at 1:12pm on Thursday, July 1, 2010. A quorum of the committee is present as listed above.

2. Introduce Rory Artig, representing Windustry.

Windustry has been awarded a grant from the US Dept of Agriculture and have involved the Town of La Pointe's wind energy program in that grant. Rory Artig has been hired by Windustry as a consultant and to provide assistance on this project.

Rory said he has been involved in renewable energy for about 20 years. For 13 years he was the State of MN renewable energy engineer in the wind and solar areas. A few years ago he started his own company, Wind Management LLC and began to develop wind projects, one of which is the Kenyon project which will start this fall. Rory also does consulting, and assessments of meteorological equipment.

3. Discuss RBEG grant policies and procedures.

Rory said the RBEG (Rural Business Enterprise Grant) comes with funds to spend on various pieces that are needed to move project forward. He has been on this job for a couple of weeks, has met with Lisa and Samantha of Windustry and talked to B. Henry and L. Bean. He needs information on the site, interconnection, permitting and to see the physical site.

Rory said at this time Wisconsin is deciding on regulations for wind farms. Ashland County does not have a siting ordinance for turbines. Need to look at the site from setback, noise and financial standpoints.

The project could start with permitting. Need to apply for transmission access of which there is a cost. That is probably where the timeline will begin. Need to apply to the FAA for a permit – there is no fee for this permit.

Question if the FAA has been contacted regarding the tower at the north end gravel pit.

Rory said because of the remote location information is needed regarding how the turbines can be serviced, how big a crane the ferry can handle, and where the parts will come from if a blade has to be replaced. Downtime is critical. How would parts be transported during the winter season?

The project will provide jobs, but not a 40 hour week.

4. Present AEC background, present status and future plans to Rory Artig.

B. Henry said we have measured wind for over a year with a 50 ft met tower and hired Bob Owen, meteorologist to process the data.

Arnie Nelson is now present. (1:25pm). Arnie and Ronnie own 80 acres by the gravel pit where the AEC would like to locate the met tower in order to start another one year wind measurement program. The best location to locate the tower is by the tree line in the corner of the property. Arnie can level off a spot for the truck that would raise the tower.

Primary wind direction is SW. The lowest anemometer would need to be 30 feet above the trees. Discussion of what type of anchors is needed for the guy-wires. Seventh Gen favors cement barriers rather than auguring. Seventh Gen has not submitted a cost at this time.

Arnie would clean up the pit area for no cost but there will be a cost for cement work.

Rory said his company can also put up a tower but he will find out from Windustry if this would be a conflict of interest. If not, he will submit a bid.

Agreement to leave the anchors out of the Seventh Gen bid.

Arnie leaves the meeting.

B. Henry now presents the charts he used for the DNR meeting. The DNR is very concerned about how the project will affect the fish and wildlife because Madeline Island is such a pristine location. The charts deal with locations, population, the Comprehensive Plan, average wind direction, FAA exclusion zone, property owned by the MIWP (Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve), location of transmission lines including the 3 phase line from Big Bay to Benjamin Blvd, transportation lake access and issues, residential and the Emergency Service building assessments which were funded by Focus on Energy, map of the north end site with property owners shown, type of road access, elevations and wetlands.

L. Bean has to end phone call at 2:12pm.

There is concern about noise and the DNR thought this project would require an extensive study on birds which would be expensive.

The AEC is on the July 13, 2010 Town Board agenda. The AEC will also have a presentation August 5th at the Museum sponsored by the MIWP.

A. Fischlowitz now leaves (2:20 pm).

B. Henry said all this information has been sent to Samantha Smart. The major issues are:

1. Island is between two bird areas – the Apostle Island National lakeshore and the Long Island/Bad River wetland area.
2. Sound levels could be the biggest problem
3. Is a beach landing possible?

Discussion of siting six – 600 kW turbines using the draft PSC rules and the 50dba noise allowance. The town owns a noise meter and does have a noise ordinance.

B. Henry gave a synopsis of the trip he and C. Frederickson took to Byron, WI where wind farms are located and the PSC public hearing they attended in regards to setback and noise requirements for turbines.

5. Take tour of Island with Mr. Artig.

Tour of Island began at approximately 1:45 pm. Meeting will continue tomorrow at Town Hall.

6. Prepare an action item list and discuss/and or assign tasks.

7. Schedule next meeting.

8. Adjourn.

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant

Minutes approved as submitted July 13, 2010