

Ad Hoc Community and Public Works Planning Committee (CAPP)
Alternative Energy Committee (AEC)
October 28, 2009

Members present: Burke Henry, Vice Chair; Carl Frederickson and Mark Eggleston

By speaker phone: Larry Bean.

Members absent: Alan Fischlowitz

Also present:

The Alternative Energy Committee posted meeting called to order by Vice Chair B. Henry on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 10:05 am at the Town Hall. A quorum of the committee is present as reflected in the members listed above.

1. Review and approval of the following AEC minutes:

A. October 9, 2009

Motion by B. Henry to approve the October 9, 2009 AEC minutes as presented. Motion died for lack of second as C. Frederickson and M. Eggleston were not present at this meeting. B. Henry withdraws motion. The minutes will be placed on the next agenda.

2. Budget Review and Funding discussion.

Focus on Energy (FOE) will not fund our grant proposal. The letter L. Bean sent with the additional materials requested by FOE is in committee packets. This letter is significant because that is the reason Shelly Laffin, FOE and L & S Technical Associates, gave him for rejecting the proposal.

L. Bean said they did talk about resubmitting the application and talked about Bob Owen or Terry White doing something similar to site assessment of the north end site.

Bob Owen is licensed with the FOE to do a site assessment of commercial property; Terry White is not.

L. Bean said the \$50,000 development grant from FOE needs a wind assessment done in order to get the grant. Shelly Laffin said in order to apply for the development grant you need to do soil samples, distribution analysis and interconnection analysis. L. Bean said he thought that was what a development grant was for. Shelly said yes, but the information is needed ahead of time.

L. Bean said we could bring up the fact that our goal is to be able to use 100% renewal energy resources by 2025 instead of the governor's initiative of using 25% renewable energy resources by 2025.

B. Henry said our possibilities could include the following: the north end site is totally decoupled from all the work we have done. Close out the first grant, write a final report and close the book on the Big Bay State Park site by saying it is not feasible to put up enough towers in that area to meet our goal. In that final report we can include all the wind we did measure, the projections we have for wind at a higher altitude and discuss turbulence. We would then apply for another feasibility grant at the new site which starts the process from scratch. A site inspection by Bob Owen would have to accompany that application. That would be a feasibility study, not a development study. We would go through the process, get the grant approved and start another measurement program as early as next spring. Another option would be to send a formal protest to the FOE stating

that the FOE deviated from their policy, which means we would have to find the requirements the FOE deviated from and then ask for reconsideration.

L. Bean said it would be best to close the first and start the next. We could request a letter in writing from FOE explaining why our proposal was denied and that letter would also serve as a first step if we re-apply.

B. Henry will write a formal letter to Don Wicker, FOE, have the letter signed by Greg Nelson, Town Chair asking for a formal explanation since we have been told verbally that our project will not result in a completed project.

L. Bean had a conference call this morning with Windustry in regards to the grant they have received, asking if we could use some of those funds for a meteorological assessment and they said yes.

L. Bean said he talked to Nathan Hillgard, Natural Resources, Bad River and told him we did not get the grant so we need to decommission our tower at Big Bay State Park - but would they let us leave the tower up until next spring. Nathan thought we could, but will check with his supervisor. There is also the possibility, since Steve Hoecker at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center is looking for a tower, that he could decommission our tower, if that money is in his budget. B. Henry will talk to Steve Hoecker and Nathan Hillgard. The instruments on the tower are ours.

Action items: write final reports to the Apostle Island Area Community Fund (AIACF), the Duluth Superior Foundation – Fund for Environment and FOE grant #1. No final report is needed for the Minneapolis Foundation. The final reports will include the data at Big Bay State Park, will mention that the site near BBSP and the Anderson Farm site are not good sites since the sites would only be able to accommodate 1 or 2 turbines, which is not our goal, and that we are now investigating the NE area of the island. B. Henry will work on the final reports and when the drafts are ready the committee will review. L. Bean will talk to Bob Owen about a site assessment at the north end site. B. Henry said he and Barb Nelson, Administrative Assistant, agree on the following budget data:

Grants awarded: AIACF: \$9,500 (3 grants. One final report is finished, owe two more reports. FOE, first grant: \$10,000. Need to write a final report. Office of Energy Independence: \$2500: Does not require a final report but we could submit to them copies of final reports for other grants. We did do an Interim Report. Fund for Environment (Duluth-Superior Foundation): \$2,000 B. Henry will find out what their requirement is. Minneapolis Foundation: \$2500. Excel Energy: \$3,000 for SODAR program 1. Honorariums: \$250.00. Bank interest: \$71.00. Total: \$29,821.00.

Expenses:

4 residential site assessments: \$620.00; met tower lease \$2,000; met tower instrumentation \$3954; met tower installation \$10,499, Madison trip 1 \$856; Madison trip 2 \$681; presentation material \$209; misc travel – ferries, etc: \$760. Met tower analysis #1 contract with Bob Owen will be \$3624; SODAR measurement \$3,000; spent \$313 at Oregon Scientific; last trip to Madison: \$457. Total spent as of today \$26,973.00. Minimum future expense is the decommissioning of the met tower: estimate: \$5,000. Total expense: \$31,973; overrun of \$2,152. If Steve Hoecker would decommission our tower instead of a tower at Bad River we would only have to cover ferry costs. If we do put a second tower up on the north end we would have to pay a decommissioning fee one way or another.

L. Bean said the National Renewable Energy Lab is assisting one of the four Windustry partners with a meteorological assessment. L. Bean has that contact information. B. Henry copies the committee with the email he received from Bob Owen. L. Bean will contact Bob Owen.

3. Site discussion.

The north end site is postponed. M. Eggleston said he replied to Bob Owen saying that as long as the tower is up he will keep shipping the data out. B. Henry will let the Town of La Pointe, Arnie and Ronnie Nelson know that the north end site assessment has been postponed. The Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve has not responded to the emails that have been sent.

4. Review of correspondence.

Letter has been received from the Dept of Interior, signed by Ernest Quintana, Regional Director in response to the letter we sent to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. He said Salazar is aware of our project. The National Park Service and Dept of Interior are concerned about the impact on bats and birds. Our contact will be Superintendent Krumenaker, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

5. Discussion of Madison trip and meetings 10/13/09 – 10/15/09

L. Bean and B. Henry stopped in Stevens Point for a 5 presentation at the WI Town Association conference regarding the work done by the Alliance for Sustainability and our involvement. The next day met with the DNR and discussed the impact on birds and bats. Shari Koslowsky, Conservation Biologist was there. Would like find out what the DNR position is so that we do not put in a year of detailed study just to find out the DNR will say no. B. Henry suggested scheduling a meeting with the DNR in a month to start this process.

Senator Jauch was very supportive of our request to Focus on Energy.

Met with Seventh Gen and updated them on the north end site which now has been postponed.

The next day met with Judy Ziewacz, Director of Office of Energy Independence and gave her copies of the report we gave to the FOE. B. Henry then met Dave Donovan at Excel to ask for funds. Dave said there is budget trouble and said the invoice to Bob Owen should be submitted ASAP. The invoice has been submitted, even though we would have received the report from Bob Owen first. B. Henry asked about other sources of funding – could apply to the Excel Foundation but that grant cycle does not begin until the middle of next year, about the same time as the Wal-Mart Foundation cycle begins.

6. Set next meeting and agenda.

B. Henry said he would prepare a status presentation to be held at the Library in a couple of weeks, around the 18th of November.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17th at 10:00 a.m. Agenda will include an update of everything that is open right now.

7. Adjourn.

Motion by B. Henry to adjourn, second, M. Eggleston. All in favor, 3 ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

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

Minutes approved as presented December 14, 2009