

**Alternative Energy Committee
October 8, 2013**

Members present: Larry Bean, Chair; Burke Henry, Vice Chair; Glenn Carlson and Tom Banner

Members absent: Carl Frederickson

Also present:

Public present: Jeff Goss

1. Call to order.

The Alternative Energy Committee meeting called to order by Chair Larry Bean on Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 10:00 am at the Town Hall. A quorum of the committee is present as reflected in the members listed above.

2. Minutes of the following meetings to be considered for approval:

A. September 24, 2013.

Motion by B. Henry to approve the September 24, 2013 Alternative Energy Committee minutes as presented, second, G. Carlson. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

3. Report on Madison Visit.

L. Bean and G. Carlson went to Madison Sept 29th through the afternoon on the 30th. The overall trip was productive and there is a list of business cards and the itinerary in member folders.

The first meeting was with Don Wichert, past Director of Focus on Energy and Renewable Wisconsin. He is closely involved with the Monona project and would like to see the State move toward getting third party options for everyone. He liked our project.

Discussion of the Monona project.

The City of Monona entered a six year agreement with a private company who will install and maintain the solar panels on municipal buildings. The private company will receive tax credits for the installation, which the City cannot. In return the City of Monona will receive renewable energy credits (REC) --which are not the same as tax credits-- and so the City will receive their electricity at a cheaper price, or free. This has to be structured in this manner so that the third party vendor does not become a public utility.

The KWs used by the City of Monona are being paid for by the parties who buy the RECs that the city has received. Anyone can buy these renewable energy credits including utilities. RECs are a common purchase and sold on the open market.

After six years the city of Monona can purchase the solar panels and go through a payback period, renew the agreement with the private company or terminate the agreement.

In a sense, everyone outside the City of Monona is helping to pay for that city's electrical use. To be noted is that there are 23 people on the Island who are interested in developing solar and that is also true for them. Each one of the interested parties is eligible for a 30% tax credit on their installation which all of us are going to pay for.

L. Bean said they then met with Megan Levy, Director and Dave Jenkins at the Office of Administration, (Energy), and both were very supportive. They anticipate having \$100,000 available in grants; awards would range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Our project would be a strong

candidate. Megan Levy said our grant application to Focus on Energy and other grantees with the Office of Administration endorsement is worth points; 10 points with Focus on Energy.

Tom Banner leaves the meeting at 10:15 am.

Next met with Bruce Biehoff, Prof. Tom Jahns, and Gary Radloff at the University who are specialists in microgrids. They thought our approach of linking a microgrid with energy preparedness was very sound, logical and the best way to go. They are very supportive and will help us find funding and be co-grant writers.

The WI Energy institute is new and brings together all the various disciplines that deal with energy. They also have ties to 90 other agencies.

Wanted to meet with Focus on Energy but Focus called to say that because their funding is under consideration they are not allowed to meet with anyone. L. Bean and G. Carlson called the Rural Development Council from USDA and who explained that they have no funds available for residential or local govt. They are limited to small businesses and farmers.

Met with Kurt Reinhold, Solar Connections, LLC. Kurt put the package together for the Monona project and his company is very interested in our project. They would like to come to the Island and make a proposal and also have offered to do some planning work.

Had a good meeting with Dave Donovan, Xcel Energy. Money is not forthcoming at this time.

The next morning L. Bean and G. Carlson met with the DNR: Bob Strous, environmental engineer, Tom Bennwitz, environmental engineer who looked at the cap at MRF (Materials Recovery Facility), and Tom Nowakowski, business sector specialist and energy team member. They told us we have been meeting with the right people, and we are on the right path. Bob Strous was the engineer who did the work on a closed landfill in WI. and had pictures. Landon Williams, comprehensive systems manager also liked the project.

We have been given an application for an exemption and a permit. L. Bean told the DNR that we hoped to have a study completed by late spring and then we would be back to them with the exemption request.

There was not a negative word at the meeting about the cap, just a suggestion that we put a small methane monitor, which could be purchased at Wal-Mart or Amazon.com in the MRF office as methane gas travels latterly. B. Henry will bring this up at emergency plan workshop meeting. Janet Brewley's chief of staff accompanied us to the DNR meeting.

4. Town of La Pointe Emergency Plan Update from Burke Henry, Chair

B. Henry is holding a workshop tomorrow with Department Heads who have been asked to review the existing plan and come up with recommended changes. L. Bean would like an inventory of generators, the size, fuel supply and location of each.

5. Budget 2014

A. Capital Expenditures

B. Town and Facility energy use and cost.

L. Bean has not had time to work on the budget so he included a copy of the 2009 La Pointe Energy Project Planning that we gathered for a grant application. Prices have not changed much.

1. Outdoor lighting replacement for 2 parking lots and ferry dock. Total installed cost: \$50,000
2. Town Hall retrofit—insulate crawl space, replace two doors. Total installed cost: \$13,100
3. Library retrofit – install insulation in exterior foundation. Total installed cost: \$6,000
4. Outdoor wood fired boiler. Total installed cost \$18,000

L. Bean will give this list to Pete Clark, Town Administrator for the 2014 budget request.

B. Henry will complete the Island Association grant for \$1,000 which should be included in the budget.

6. Grant Initiatives.

A listed of people interested in solar installations on the Island is in member's folders.

The Renewable Energy Competitive Incentive Program request for proposals (RFP) from Focus on Energy has just been received. The proposal deadline is November 1, 2013. A webinar on the RFP process will be held on Oct 9th and Oct 11th L. Bean will try to attend the Oct 9th webinar. He has the packet from Focus for the application.

7. Set next meeting and agenda.

L. Bean will be available by phone after Oct 15th

If we happen to qualify for the Renewable Energy Competitive Incentive Program the committee would have to meet before November 1st.

A tentative meeting set for Monday, Oct 28th at 10:00 am

Information has just been handed out from the DNR inspection of the cap at the MRF. Pete Clark also has this information.

8. Adjourn.

Motion by G. Carlson to adjourn, second, ~~G. Carlson~~, *B. Henry*. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 pm

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson.

Minutes approved as corrected, corrections struck through, changes in italics June 24, 2014