

Ad Hoc Community and Public Works Planning Committee (CAPP)
Alternative Energy Committee
January 21, 2009

Present: Alan Fischlowitz, Vice chair, Burke Henry, Carl Fredrickson and Mark Eggleston

By phone: Larry Bean.

Also present: Kelly Randleman, Alliance for Sustainability.

Tape beings with:

2. Update on Regional Office of Energy Independence (OEI) Grant – Kelly Randleman

A. Fischlowitz said Kelly Randleman of the Alliance for Sustainability is here to give the committee an overview of the State Office of Energy Independence (OEI) grant for the region for planning; how we got where we are; what the grant does for us and how La Pointe is going to be involved.

K. Randleman said partners in the grant application are Ashland and Bayfield County, the Cities of Ashland, Washburn and Bayfield, the Town of Bayfield, Town of Pointe, the Red Cliff Tribe and Bay Area Rural Transit (BART). The Alliance will act as the Energy Independence coordinator for this region and representatives from each of the partners will make up the energy independence team. La Pointe will be represented by this committee. The application was for \$60,000 and we were picked as one of ten out of 70 communities.

We are required to work with UW Extension on this. They will be in training in Madison next week and Henry Blakely, chair of the Alliance, will meet with Brian Driscoll, who coordinates the program at the OEI. Governor Doyle has challenged communities in Wisconsin to get 25% of our energy from renewable resources by the year 2025; the 25 x 25 plan. The State also wants to attract green industry and green jobs.

We will be working with UW Extension and Focus on Energy to do site assessments in each community and gather energy consumption data. Templates will be provided to record how much energy is used for streetlights, stop lights; that type of infrastructure as well as for buildings and vehicles. The information will come from the public sector, not the private sector. Once this information is in place we will be able to develop our 25 x 25 plan. The information will also be presented to the OEI and used as a model for other communities. There will be quarterly updates and meetings at different locations to update our progress. We also have to have public education so people know what is going on.

B. Henry asked who “we” is. Kelly said the Alliance will hire an executive director within the next two months and there will be two staff people as well as the Alliance’s executive committee working on this. The Alliance staff will be the coordinating entity and will contact communities for the information regarding energy consumption in public buildings. A. Fischlowitz asked if the executive director is being hired specifically for the OEI grant administration or as the director of the Alliance. Kelly said the Alliance was pursuing an executive director position when this grant came up so a large portion of the director’s time will be spent on the OEI grant. The Alliance will be contributing about \$15-20,000 from the Green Team budget because the Green Team network can be used

for community education and assessments which are also a part of the grant requirement. Green Team is funded by the Otto Bremer Foundation for a three year period and works with businesses, municipalities and organizations committed to sustainability and then share information in regards to purchasing, sustainable practices and energy efficiency training.

B. Henry asked whose budget the \$60,000 of grant money is going to and how that money will be managed. Kelly said the \$60,000 will go into the Alliance budget and part of that funding will go towards the staff positions working on this. The OEI has explained the grant money is to be used explicitly for the collection of data and should focus on staffing in order to collect the data. About \$40,000 will fund the staff working on this and the remaining \$20,000 will be divided up between meeting costs and consultants. A. Fischlowitz asked what kind of administrative support they would want from La Pointe. Kelly said they are working out the details but this committee would be a contact point for all the information that is needed, and would review the assessments for accuracy and develop the 25 x 25 plan for the island.

B. Henry said we know how much we spend each year for gas and electricity. What is so complicated? Kelly said base assessments have to be done as well as renewable energy assessments and we have to figure out if we can attain a 25% reduction from our current energy levels by combining conservation, introducing renewable resources and promoting a green economy. That will take a long time and effort from many people.

L. Bean said he is pleased and impressed.

B. Henry asked about the large percentage of hours devoted to La Pointe as shown on the spreadsheet at the last meeting. Kelly said because of the wind assessment and the uniqueness of the Island, more hours will be spent here. Kelly will forward the current spreadsheet. Thank you to Kelly for her presentation.

3. Update on SODAR (SONic Detection and Ranging) project – Larry Bean

L. Bean talked to Bob Owen, consulting engineer and meteorologist last week and Bob said things are moving slowly. The Madeline Island Big Bay State Park area is #1 in terms of implementation of the SODAR element but he needs at least two to be effective. He is trying to get Bayfield County and the DNR as a team for the other one. DNR participation with Bayfield County is critical in the Xcel service category for Focus on Energy Funding and he anticipates that the DNR might have some money for SODAR as well.

SODAR is a Bob Owen project. He has a \$3,000 commitment from Xcel Energy for this project. The DNR is interested because the fish hatchery would be a candidate to receive power from a wind installation. SODAR data is needed to accomplish this. Question if this committee could help with funding. Agreement that we have enough on our plate. The total price for a SODAR install at the State Park would be around \$4500-\$5000 for both sides.

4. Tower Data – Burke Henry

B. Henry sent copies of the November and December wind summaries at Big Bay State Park along with two spreadsheets. One spreadsheet was his projection showing the amount of energy that would have been made if we had a Vestus 660 turbine at the site of the anemometer. He calculated this information four different ways: average wind for month; average wind for each of the days; average wind for each hour, and one for every 10 minutes. The smaller the increments, the better the energy because of wind

variability. He sent the information to Bob Owen who returned a critique saying the data indicated that there was a lot of turbulence at this site based on his evaluation of alpha co efficiency. (This is the equation which takes wind velocity from one tower height to another tower height.) Alpha was .4 or above turbulence means that there is not much wind difference between those difference elevations. Earlier assessments on 4 different sites had alpha values around .22, .24 and these are much higher. Because of that turbulence the turbine would probably have to go higher. Tower segments for that size of turbine come in 15 meter pieces instead of 50 meters. He calculated by going to 65 meters, and converting that to energy there was a 40% improvement. SODAR would measure that turbulence.

5. New Hardware – Burke Henry

B. Henry said the Oregon Scientific system has been purchased but the installation directions are not very good. Since he has been working on the final grant report for the AIACF grant he has not spent much time on installation. He brought some of the equipment. The system shows air pressure, indoor, outdoor humidity levels, wind direction, outside weather, and a bar chart that can be read out onto a computer. The anemometer comes with rods to mount to a roof or side of building. He said he had a conversation with Steve Haecker at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Steve is frustrated with the lack of interest in a wind study at that site. He would like to have a wind turbine as they have a very large electrical bill.

A. Fischlowitz said he ordered a perinometer or solar analysis unit. The Town Board has approved this purchase. This will be installed at the base of the tower and he will ask Seventh Generation about the installation today.

6. Update on County efforts – Mike Amman

Mike Amman, County Forester, could not be here today. L. Bean said he sent Mike some emails which the committee has received. L. Bean will email Barb Nelson, Administrative Assistant, to see if she could print out the emails for the file.

7. Possible new funding ideas – Alan Fischlowitz

B. Henry has a fund accounting as of today which he hands out to the committee. These figures are from the data Barb keeps. He will email the information, also.

Grants - \$4,000 AICAF; \$2500 OEI, \$10,000 Focus on Energy; \$2500 from AIACF grant #2; Fund for Environment \$2,000; Minneapolis Foundation \$2500. There is also some interest which is not shown. There is a check for \$100 from the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve. At the bottom of the page there is a possible \$2500 from the Minneapolis Foundation listed. They might give us \$5,000 but so far have sent \$2500.00.

A. Fischlowitz will attempt to verify the \$2500 is available. L. Bean said we decided to purchase the weather station out of those funds.

Expenses: \$620 to New Day Energy for Terry White to do the assessment; expenses for two meetings in Madison; \$3,953.70 contract to Seventh Generation for the equipment on the tower; \$2,000 lease with Bad River for the tower; \$3624 for contract with Bob Owen for data analysis. (Not paid yet) \$10,498.75 to Seventh Generation for tower installation. Discussion of the reductions from Seventh Generation. There was to be a 10% reduction on some hardware so this cost is higher than what it was going to be; the bill should be \$1445.90 less. L. Bean said if the 10% reduction is not there we have to ask because that was promised to us. We were also charged for multiple tower take downs of \$500 and we did not have that. B. Henry will get the bill the town paid and review it with L. Bean.

Future expenses: \$3500 tower decommissioning; \$534.60 from Seventh Generation for a solar sensor; \$350.00 for weather station, Oregon Scientific Total expenses not including the \$350 from Oregon Scientific is \$26,303.63 which comes to \$133.08 more than we have. If we get the second grant of \$2500 from the Minneapolis Foundation and we add the \$350 for Oregon Scientific we will be about negative \$500. L. Bean said there will probably be travel costs to decommission the tower. This should be checked out. B. Henry said we need to plan to raise a minimum of \$2,000. The granting cycle for AIACF has changed and applications are now due March 1st. We should try to get an application in for decommissioning the tower. A. Fischlowitz asked if we should add something for SODAR.

Tape not started until:

L. Bean said it was a cost, a grant for work. A. Fischlowitz said if we want to put that in we need to put down offsetting expenses as well. L. Bean said we should take credit and A. Fischlowitz agrees. The data is in the file. We sent the coupon to Terry White. B. Henry said we need to assign some costs directly to the AIACF grant #1 for the final report. He will discuss this with L. Bean by phone or email so we agree on what expenses we are putting on the grants.

A. Fischlowitz suggested looking for money with the T-Bone Pickens foundation. When we turn in the final AIACF grant report we will ask for another \$2,000. Maybe there is a change of heart at the Otto Bremer Foundation. There is also the Duluth Superior grant and Fund for the Environment.

8. Newsletter Plans – Carl Frederickson

C. Frederickson said to defer this until next time. B. Henry and A. Fischlowitz have articles for the Gazette.

9. Final Report to Apostle Island Area Community Fund (AIACF) on 2007 Grant. – Burke (Agenda item added 1/20/09)

A. Fischlowitz said the AIACF grant final report is due the end of the month. B. Henry has a copy of the draft report for the committee. He will send L. Bean a copy. L. Bean – good job, Burke!

B. Henry said this is a 16 page report plus attachments which are the assessments we have received from Focus on Energy. He cannot find the 2C certification form. L. Bean said it is in the file, each committee member had a copy that came July 1st.

B. Henry will include a final budget sheet showing where we assign expenses to this grant. A. Fischlowitz very impressed, thank you, Burke.

B. Henry said if the Alliance was interested in this data, the AIACF would have to release the data as this is private information. B. Henry said he would be glad to give the Alliance a presentation if they are interested. Kelly thanked B. Henry.

Motion by A. Fischlowitz to accept the final report with no additional amendments or edits. Second, M. Eggleston. All in favor, 3 ayes, Motion carried.

9. 10. Additional Hardware – Burke Henry

Already addressed in Agenda item 5

10. 11. Other Business

L. Bean asked M. Eggleston if he received the email about the endangered species review. M. Eggleston said the National Heritage Inventory will probably answer those questions.

11. 12. Set Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17th at 10:00 am

~~12.~~ 13. Adjourn

Adjourn

Motion by B. Henry to adjourn, second, C. Frederickson. All in favor, four ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 am

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

Minutes approved as presented February 17, 2009