

Renewable Energy Committee

Monday, July 23, 2007 - 3 p.m.

West 2nd Floor Conference Room - Polk County Government Center
100 Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake, WI 54810

- Minutes -

Attendance: Art Gamache, Marlin Baillargeon, Thomas Engel, Mike Welch, Mike Voltz,
(Arriving Late: Gregg Westigaard, Jeff Peterson)

Meeting called to order by Thomas Engel, Vice Chairman @ 3:05 pm

Previous Minutes: Not available

Public Comments: None

Guest presenters: Mark F. Dahlberg, President and John J. Richards from Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company gave a brief history of NWECC including approximately 13,000 customers, 53 employees, 400 shareholders. NWECC obtains 8% of its electricity from hydropower and 93% of its purchased electricity comes from XCEL. NWECC sold all of its hydroelectric dams to American Hydro Power and purchases back electricity from them due to Federal Energy Commission and various Wisconsin state agencies relicensing issues
Wisconsin Public Law 141 requires a statewide average of 15% electricity produced from renewable sources by 2020. NWECC currently obtains 12.8% of its electricity from green sources. NWECC must obtain approximately 18% of its electricity from green sources by 2020, therefore NWECC is eager to obtain renewable-sourced electricity and add it to the grid.
Cost for a 1000KW Power plant is in the neighborhood of \$3.5million or approximately \$3,500/kw.
For comparison purposes, the SCF hydroplant has a capacity of 25,000kw

Members Reports & Comments: Mike Voltz once again encourage the committee to work toward energy reduction and conservation education and citizen participation, He requested that the committee pursue county publicity

Art Gamache reported on attendance at the Renewable Energy Expo at Stevens Point. Lots of interesting exhibits.

Marlin Baillargeon asked that the committee get in touch with the Public Works Campus steering committee so that the steering committee is aware of the renewable energy committee and the information we are developing in regards to renewable energy on Polk County.

Mike Welch reported on very successful developments and progress on the Lake Country Cheese Company methane digester project. The state people have met with Lake Country Cheese and see this project as a very favorable one for the state. XCEL Energy has really come onboard and shown a great deal interest in this project and has recently changed their buyback rates so to make this project even more attractive. Also, he reports continuous progress in the development of a private company pursuing a wood pellet plant in the county.

Jeff Peterson, with county board member Kay Friberg, arrived late and reported on the on the county property committee authorizing the hiring of Short, Elliot and Hendrickson (SEH) to prepare a feasibility study for the public works campus. They also reported that SEH is expected to make preliminary report to the county board within 30 days.

A motion was made and seconded and approved to contact SEH and invite them to meeting with the Renewable Energy Committee within 2 weeks so that the committee's input could be consider in their feasibility study. Jeff Peterson will contact SEH and coordinate a meeting date and time.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:50pm

Prepared by: *Thomas G. Engel*