

## **Renewable Energy Committee**

Thursday, August 21, 2014– 3:00 P.M.

Polk County Government Center, County Board Room  
100 Polk Plaza, Balsam Lake, WI 54810

- Call to order
- Approve agenda
- Approve 7/17minutes
- Public comments
- Short term project updates
  1. LED lighting project- CDRE committee action on recommendation
  2. Alternative fueled vehicles
  3. Solar panel proposal with Kurt Reinhold & energy audit
  4. Review next steps on priority list
- Member comments
- Set next meeting date
- Adjourn

(Agenda items may not be presented in this order)

This meeting is open to the public according to Wisconsin State Statute 19.83. Persons with disabilities wishing to attend and/or participate are asked to notify the County Clerk's office (715-485-9226) at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting time so all reasonable accommodations can be made. Requests are confidential

**RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
**Polk County Government Center, County Board Room**  
**Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake, Wisconsin 54810**

**Minutes of August 21, 2014 Meeting**

Chairman Timm Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Present were county board supervisors Jay Luke, Craig Moriak and Marv Casperson, citizen members Marlin Baillargeon, Tom Engel, Timm Johnson, Kathryn Kienholz, and Dave Muller. Tim Anderson, County Planner was also present. Bill Schmidt, Todd Schulte, Mike Jenssen and Jeff Peterson from Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative were present.

**Motion by Luke/Casperson to approve the agenda; carried by voice vote.**

**Motion by Casperson/Luke to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2014 meeting; carried by voice vote.**

**Public Comments:** Bill Schmidt gave a presentation and answered the committee's questions on the planned community solar system to be built by Polk-Burnett. PB members can purchase 500watt units and receive a credit on their electric bills for electricity produced by the solar system to be built at the Polk-Burnett's Centuria site. Since Polk-Burnett furnishes electricity to the county's Recycling Center, Polk County is a member and could purchase a unit or as many units as desired. No decision or recommendation was made by the Renewable Energy Committee since this subject or presentation was not a published agenda item

**LED Lighting Project:**

Tim Anderson reported on the *Focus On Energy* grant application that was submitted to the Wisconsin State Energy Office. He has received a favorable reply from Wisconsin State Energy Office and expects to that Polk County will receive a grant up to \$10,000 to assist with the installation of LED fixtures at the Justice Center parking lot. The final grant announcement and amount should be known by the end of August.

**Alternate Fueled Vehicles:** Jay Luke stated that there have been some issues with the propane refueling coordination for the sheriff's vehicle with Polk-Burnett. Committee members said that the county should consider an overnight CNG fueling station in next year's capital budget.

**Solar Panels Proposal:** Since Deb Peterson was not present, the committee did have an update on the Work Proposal submitted by Kurt Reinhold and E3 Coalition. It was noted by the committee that the solar panel proposal initially made by Kurt Reinhold is somewhat time sensitive because of the expiring federal Production Tax Credits in 2016 and that they were once again somewhat frustrated by the lack of or difficulty at advancing money saving ideas within the county's organizational structure.

**Annual Report:** Dave Muller presented his *draft* of the committee's annual report. Several small changes were suggested by the committee.

**Members Comments:** Several committee members spoke to the issue of not accomplishing anything meaningful. For example, last month's REC motion to the CDRE committee to request an LED RFP was not presented to the CDRE committee. They stated that their efforts are not

being appreciated or accepted by the county and therefore several energy - money saving conservation ideas have not been implemented. The committee is not sure where it stands in the county's new committee organization.

Jeff Peterson, former Renewable Energy Committee chairman and present Polk-Burnett Electric Coop board member asked to speak during this portion of the meeting and stated that much of what he heard during the meeting where the same or similar comments, complaints made by the prior committee members.

The issue of the committee's relevance, status and priorities needs to be address in future.

**Next Meeting: Renewable Energy Committee** will be Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 3 p.m. in the County Board Room. All Polk County Board Supervisors are welcomed.

**Motion by Luke/Muller to adjourn at 4:45 p.m.; carried by voice vote**

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Engel,  
Secretary