

Renewable Energy Committee

Thursday, January 15, 2015– 3:00 P.M.

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

- Call to order
- Approve agenda
- Approve 12/18 minutes
- Public comment
- Replace Tom Engel on committee
- Potential Solar Study
 1. Update on solar panel study
- Member comments
 - Discuss potential renewable energy workshop
- 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

Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Meeting

Held on January 15, 2015 at the Government Center

Members Attending: Timm Johnson, Marlin Baillargeon, Jay Luke, Marv Caspersen, and Dave Muller. Jeff Peterson, Tim Anderson, County Planner, and Debbie Peterson, Buildings Director, also attended all or part of the meeting.

Chair Timm Johnson called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. The agenda and previous month's minutes were approved by voice vote without changes or corrections. Jeff Peterson, a former committee member, was acknowledged by Johnson and asked to speak during public comments.

Peterson told the committee that he would like to become a member again and replace the late Tom Engel. He reviewed his qualifications and history with the committee back to 2007. After general discussion, Jay Luke moved and Marlin Baillargeon seconded a motion to approve Jeff Peterson as a committee member replacing Tom Engel. The motion carried unanimously.

The next order of business involved the solar study update with Kurt Reinhold from Solar Connections. Dave Muller reported that he had spoken with Reinhold at the RENEW Wisconsin Conference in Madison on January 9th. Reinhold indicated that he would contact Debbie Peterson by phone regarding the utility release form. Muller reached Reinhold by phone and Debbie Peterson joined the meeting shortly after the phone call began. Per Polk County requirements, any proposal with a value of \$2500-7500 must be put out to the public as a Request For Proposal (RFP) to obtain any other bids as part of due diligence by the county. Peterson requested an original proposal from Reinhold's Group on the phone call which Reinhold promised to provide. She also indicated that she would contact a group from Hudson led by Craig Tarr for another comparable bid. The call ended and Debbie Peterson left the meeting.

Dave Muller reviewed his notes from the RENEW Wisconsin conference with the members. The speakers he heard included an environmental attorney from Chicago, a three member panel on solar projects and initiatives, and the keynote

speaker, CEO Joe McDonald from the Vernon County Electric Co-op talking about the first solar farm project to be completed in Wisconsin in June of 2014.

Chair Timm Johnson summarized the events of the meeting and recommended that our committee proceed with the solar study and wait for proposals to arrive. Jeff Peterson agreed to speak with the county's electric provider, NW Electric CEO, John Richards about the solar project and find out the supplier's concerns and attitude toward municipal solar systems to avoid any surprise controversy by disclosing intent early in the study stage of the project's development.

A brief discussion on hosting a possible wind seminar and an update on the biomass digester near Turtle Lake followed. We agreed to focus only on the solar project at this time and not host any events in the near future.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 19th at 3 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Muller, Secretary