

**Renewable Energy Committee**  
Thursday, April 23, 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 3/19 minutes
- Public comments
- Potential Solar Study
  1. Solar panel study report with Kurt Reinhold
- 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

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Minutes

Members present: Timm Johnson, Marvin Caspersen, Craig Moriak, Jay Luke, Marlin Baillargeon, Jeff Peterson

Members absent: Dave Muller

Others present: Tim Anderson, Kurt Reinhold

Chairman Timm Johnson called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. with a quorum present. The agenda was approved as noticed on a motion by Jay Luke and Marlin Baillargeon. Minutes of the March 19 meeting were approved on another Luke/Baillargeon motion.

Kurt Reinhold of the E3 Coalition introduced himself and reviewed an energy audit report he co-authored titled "Targeted Investment Grade Energy Audit: Polk County Justice Center." He explained that his goal was to design a solar photovoltaic system that would meet but not exceed the electrical demand of the buildings on (or near) which they are placed. It is yet to be determined whether roof- or ground-mounting would be preferable for system components. Also to be determined is whether the system should be located entirely at the Justice Center or split between there and the Government Center and/or other county buildings.

In addition to a possible 400- or 600-kilowatt solar array, Reinhold explained that his report also recommends energy efficiency measures to be undertaken at the Justice Center, including modifications to interior and exterior lighting, new air-exchange controls on HVAC systems, and the adoption of a laundering process that utilizes ozone as a disinfectant.

Reinhold's report recommends that Polk County enter into a municipal lease agreement with a tax equity investor for the initial financing of this project, with the county experiencing a positive cash flow beginning in year one. After five years the county would have the option of purchasing the system at a discounted fair market value of about \$80,000. (Initial cost is estimated to be in excess of \$1 million.) At that point the solar panels would still have 20 years left on their warranty, though inverters would probably need to be replaced sooner than that.

Total lifetime benefits to Polk County from the combination of energy efficiency measures and self-generated electricity would be in excess of \$2 million according to Reinhold's calculations.

After considerable discussion, Jay Luke moved, and Marlin Baillargeon seconded, that the Renewable Energy Committee accept the E3 Coalition's report as presented and recommends further study by the county administrator and corporation counsel. The motion was carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Dave Muller will be requested to attend the May 19 county board meeting to provide that body with a broad overview of what is being contemplated. It was also noted that one or more standing committees of the county board will need to be consulted before going forward with this project.

The next regular meeting was set for Thursday, May 28 at 3 p.m. in the county board room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 on a motion from Baillargeon/Moriak.