

Renewable Energy Committee

Thursday, August 20, 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 7/16 minutes
- Public comments
- Review draft enabling resolution and potential committee renaming
- Update on OEI 25 X 2025 plan & updated energy usage
- 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

Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Meeting held at the Government Center on August 20, 2015

Members attending: Timm Johnson, Marlin Baillargeon, Marvin Caspersen, Craig Moriak, Jay Luke, Jeff Peterson, and Dave Muller.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Timm Johnson. The agenda was approved by voice vote with motion and second from Caspersen and Baillargeon. The minutes were reviewed and approved by voice vote with motion from Jay Luke and second from Baillargeon.

Chair Johnson asked Jeff Peterson for an update on the proposed resolution discussed and revised at last month's meeting. Peterson commented that the resolution was not approved by Administrator Dana Frey because the \$15,000 requested for committee work fell outside the county budget process. Discussion followed and Luke noted the financial amount requested must be a budget item. Caspersen said that the entire Polk County Board will be reviewing budget items for the 2016 budget at their next meeting. He also noted that there is concern about the REC in general and the possibility is being discussed of eliminating the committee altogether to save the county money. Caspersen added that the REC cost the county about \$15,000 in 2014 so the request for funding is in line with previous expenses.

Luke commented that some commissioners have targeted the REC for elimination because they do not understand the potential value of our recommendations or the work that has been enacted like the LED lighting updates in various buildings, the efficiency work at the Recycling Center and the alternative fuel conversion of the sheriff's vehicle. The REC is not mandated by the state of Wisconsin and so the expenses are under review by the Committee of the Whole Board in September. Luke requested an REC member attend and present a list of accomplishments to show the viability of renewables and the long-term sustainability values that the REC is proposing as an advocate for Polk County. Luke believes the REC should not be eliminated; instead he would like to consider expanding the scope of the REC.

Johnson met with Deb Peterson, Polk County Building Director, and gave an update on the parking lot LED lighting project. The work has not been completed to date by the low bidder and the grant has been extended from its June 30th expiration date. Johnson observed a 300 panel solar project underway at the Crystal Ball Farms property south of Osceola on Hwy 35.

Moriak commented on the status of the REC and asked us to answer the questions: Why do we exist? What do we do? Is our work worth it? All REC expenses have been paid out of the Polk County General Fund. Peterson noted that we have work to do per the County Comprehensive Plan. Luke suggested we follow the standard budget procedure like all other committees and present a budget to the PC Board for review. Johnson requested that lines 43-47, specifically asking for \$15,000 for next year's expenses, be struck from the proposed resolution. He is willing to present a list of REC accomplishments along with Jeff Peterson and Tim Anderson, the County Planner who has knowledge of grants received and projects completed for the 25x25 plan. Anderson also has prepared an update on the base energy #'s for the last five year period. No member has heard from Kurt Reinhold at Energy Solutions and we consider his proposal rejected and not revised per Administrator Frey's request to be a solar panel-only project with stated guarantees and costs for the county. Johnson Controls had no new report for the county. The next meeting is set for September 17, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Muller, Secretary

