

Renewable Energy Committee

Thursday, November 19, 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 9/17 minutes
- Public comments
- Recap of October solar tour
- Review county board decision of REC sunset and failure to pass REC resolution
- Determine REC future
- 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

November 19, 2015

Polk County Renewable Energy Committee Meeting Held at the Government Center

Members Attending: Timm Johnson, Chair, Jay Luke, Marlin Baillargeon, Craig Moriak, Marvin Caspersen, and Dave Muller.

Members Absent: Jeff Peterson and Conall Gallagher.

Timm Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

The agenda and the minutes from the September meeting were approved by voice vote.

Johnson asked for a review of the solar tour that took place in lieu of the October meeting. Muller and Baillargeon recapped the three solar installations. The first and largest was at Crystal Ball Dairy in Osceola and featured over 550 panels on one large barn roof. The installer from Spooner was on hand with the owners to explain the project which had just been finalized three days earlier. The monitor in the retail dairy shop utilized software to display the current output of electricity and various other functions. Fifteen people were in attendance.

Viebrock Construction on Highway 35 was the next stop. This multi-panel installation consisted of 30-40 panels and included an electric car charging station. The electricity generated was also used to power the construction office nearby. Kris Schmid, who did the installation, was on hand to answer questions. He also did the third installation further south in Osceola at the Common Harvest Farm. The owner was on hand to answer questions and display a modified old tractor that was converted to run on six electric batteries. They were charged from a ground-mounted panel system. The solar panel systems all had lengthy warranties and included rebates from various agencies to help defer the construction costs.

Jay Luke next reviewed the recent Polk County Board meeting where our resolution was presented. The entire board voted down the REC request by a tally of 8-7. This result means we are not funded in the county budget for 2016. After discussing many different options for the present committee, Johnson made a motion that the REC will go dormant until needed by a request of the Polk County Board. This may or may not be in conjunction with building planning and engineering in the foreseeable future. By unanimous voice vote, all members agreed to the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Muller, Secretary