

Wind Energy Citizen Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2007

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Members Present: Ed Dauer, Betty Wolcott, Kenneth Critzman, Danny Foote, Curtis Skoyen, Dan Wallery, Dave Vind, Garry Hageness, John Vehrenkamp, Ron Winn, Nancy Horton, Kevin Lien and Andrea Artz – Trempealeau County Zoning/Planning Department.

Others Present: Chris Peterson, Sage Kramer, Val Critzman, Roger Onsrud, Jim Nalied, Kay Henderson, Ron Reimer, Gerry Van Tassel, and Paul Halderson.

Certification of Open Meeting Law Requirements: It was announced that the open meeting law requirements have been complied with.

Adoption of Agenda: A motion was made by Skoyen and seconded by Vind to adopt the agenda, all in favor; motion carried.

Introductions: Introductions took place around the room.

Election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary: A motion was made by Skoyen to nominate Hageness as Chair. A motion was made by Critzman to nominate Foote to serve as Chair of the committee and seconded by Hageness. Lien asked for a second for Hageness. Skoyen retracted his motion. Lien asked if there were any other nominations. A motion was made by Vind to nominate Vehrenkamp as Chair and seconded by Wolcott. Lien asked if there were any other nominations three times. Vehrenkamp officially withdrew his nomination as Chair. Lien stated a motion was made and seconded to elect Foote as Chair. All in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by Wolcott and seconded by Critzman to elect Horton as Vice Chair. Foote asked if there were any other nominations. A motion was made by Vehrenkamp and seconded by Horton to elect Vind as Vice Chair. Foote asked if there were any other nominations. A vote was taken by a show of hands. 3 – 4 Vind is voted in as Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Skoyen and seconded by Critzman to elect Artz as secretary. Foote asked if there were any other nominations. All in favor; motion carried.

Set Quorum Number: Foote turned the meeting to Lien. Lien stated that not everyone is going to make the meetings, so there is a need to set a quorum number. Lien stated that there are 21 on the committee but 4 of them cannot make the meetings or do not reside in Trempealeau County so he will bring before the Zoning Committee 4 names. A motion was made by Hageness to set a quorum of 11 seconded by Vehrenkamp. Wolcott is not comfortable with 11 as a quorum. More people should be at the meeting than 11 out of 21. There are serious decisions that are to be made at these meetings. Critzman agreed with Wolcott but because only 11 showed up this is probably a good number to stay with otherwise we cannot hold a meeting. Lien stated that this is a minimum number. Hageness mentioned conference calling. Lien stated that could be a possibility. Wolcott asked if there could be alternates on the committee if a member could not make the meeting? Lien said he would have to discuss the alternates with the Zoning Committee and the County Board Chair. All in favor of the motion to set the quorum at 11, motion carried.

Overview of Draft Ordinance: Foote turned the meeting to Lien. Lien gave a brief overview. The county was approached by a developer to have wind turbines in Trempealeau County. A six month moratorium was placed on wind turbines to write an ordinance. An extension to the moratorium for 3 months was passed. Once the moratorium was up the County Board extended the moratorium for 6 months to create a citizen advisory committee. The Zoning Committee had a list of around 60 citizens willing to serve on the committee. They chose 29 citizens and the County Board Chair chose the 21 voting members. Lien stated that the main issues of the ordinance from the citizens and developers are the setbacks, height requirements, and noise levels.

Foote asked if there were any questions. Vind asked why the draft ordinance was chosen. Lien stated this is the ordinance that was approved by Zoning Committee. This is the most current working document. There is less than 5 months to amend and review the ordinance because it needs to go in front of the Zoning Committee in November and ready for County Board approval in December.

Tasks assigned by Zoning Committee: Lien stated that the staff and Joint Committee came up with these tasks for the committee to address; these can be amended or added on to. Foote read the tasks and asked if any one had any questions. Wallery asked if this was going to be looked at on a County wide basis and not just the prospective areas. Lien stated that was correct. Winn asked if it would make more sense to start with the State's Model Ordinance and not the County's ordinance. Lien mentioned that the County draft ordinance came out of the Zoning Committee as an approved draft so the committee could reflect or amend issues off the States' Model Ordinance but this should be the starting point for the committee because it came out of Zoning. Winn stated it was voted down by County Board. Lien stated that it was not rejected by Zoning Committee. Lien stated it would be up to the committee if they would like to start from beginning but with the time limit the committee has to complete the ordinance starting from ground zero would probably not be advisable. Peterson asked if the committee that approved this ordinance would be surprised if the ordinance was not used. Lien stated he thought it would be because it started at that level. The committee would like to get a copy of the State's Model Ordinance. Lien stated that he would also have a copy of the statutes also. Critzman asked if the committee could get a copy of the previous draft ordinance that went before a public hearing. Lien stated that this draft ordinance was strict and the major restrictions were: total height could not exceed 300 feet, setback would be 1,320 feet or a distance of 3 times the height of the tower. Lien didn't think that the draft ordinance would be beneficial because it was redrafted before moving forward to County Board. Critzman commented that it shouldn't be up to this committee to determine if wind towers fit in our County, but determine at what point is it safe to put them in and if they either fit or don't. Nalied agreed with Critzman comment. Nalied also stated that the number of wind turbines would be small if the height was higher. Lien went on to state that if the County does not have a model ordinance in place by the end of this moratorium the County has no authority over placement of wind turbines, so it would be in the best interest to have an ordinance. Winn mentioned that mid to late next year the State will have a standard ordinance that will make all this useless. Lien stated that typically if a County has an ordinance in place that ordinance at the County level still stands. Recently the State had preempted the County's feedlot ordinance, so anything is possible. Foote stated the task list should be broken down and cover the issues in the meeting with the input of the people that are knowledgeable try to resolve two issues at a meeting. Wolcott suggested that if there isn't going to be a tour that she would like to go sometime so she could get a feel for them.

Timeline to Accomplish Tasks: Reimer wanted to know if they could get a list of what is going to be discussed at each meeting so there was time to have professionals attend those meetings. As

stated earlier November the ordinance must go before Zoning Committee and then December to County Board. Foote asked to bring in issues for the next meeting such as setbacks, height, noise, and flicker effect on both sides of the issues and the committee can look at that next meeting.

Possible Tour of Wind Generating Facility: Lien stated that Riverland Energy is going to have a tour and extended the invitation to County Board members. Lien also stated that what is assumed to be placed in for Trempealeau County does not exist as a similar site around here. Nalied stated that the Monfort site would be a site to tour because there are rolling hills over there. They have 9 to 13 towers that but Nalied did not know the height of the towers. Lien asked if the committee would like to have a tour or if they committee should tour on their own. Critzman mentioned that it may be better if the committee tours a site on their time. Peterson asked what type of wind is there in Trempealeau County. In Iowa where it is nice and flat the wind blows all the time. Peterson would like to know what the wind is like over here and also what effects are there on health. It was stated that wind maps suggest that there is better wind towards the northern end of the County but it is still doable here.

Nalied mentioned that two websites worth while to look at is the American Wind Energy Association and the Danish Wind Association. Lien also said the SEEBBA site has the large towers on them. Peterson mentioned that he has never seen topography like ours have turbines on them. Nalied stated that on the east coast they have them all over. Kramer wanted to remind the committee that if they go tour a site to remember that in the hills and valleys during the winter month's sound travels different then in the summer months due to lack of foliage.

Wallery asked if other committee's have information for this ordinance. Lien mentioned Non Metallic Mining committee came up with a maximum decibel level of 45 for the generators to run. In this draft ordinance for the wind turbines there is language suggesting a maximum of 45 decibels for the wind turbines. It was asked by the committee to take a decibel reading of the roar in the County Board room. Lien said that the Sheriff's department has a decibel reader and we could get that reading.

It was asked to see if the committee could get some copies of other ordinances such as Shawano, Eau Claire, Monroe, and Buffalo Counties. Winn mentioned that the personal and the industrial turbines should be in separate ordinances.

Set Meeting Dates: The next two meeting dates were set for August 9, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board room and August 30, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Motion was made by Skoyen and seconded by Hageness to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.