

Wind Energy Citizen Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 9, 2007

**Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Betty Wolcott, Kenneth Critzman, Curtis Skoyen, Dan Wallery, Dave Vind, Garry Hageness, Ron Winn, Nancy Horton, Dan Theis, Gary Evenson, Cristeen Custer, Todd Quarne, Sage Kramer, Charles Doemel, Kevin Lien and Andrea Artz – Trempealeau County Zoning/Planning Department.

Others Present: Chris Peterson, Kaye Henderson, Ron Reimer, and Delores Vind.

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

**Adoption of Agenda:** A motion was made by Horton and seconded by Wolcott to adopt the agenda, 13-1; motion carried.

**Adoption of Minutes:** Horton had a change on page 2 about the revision on the first draft. The setback should read 2,640 feet. A motion was made by Horton and seconded by Kramer to adopt the minutes with the changes, all in favor; motion carried.

Lien gave an overview of the committee for the new members. Introductions took place around the room.

**Decibel Meter Demonstration:** Lien brought two decibel meter readers from the City of Galesville and Village of Trempealeau. The Village of Trempealeau's does not work. The City of Galesville is supposed to read as low as 50 but we can't get it to read below 70. As Lien spoke the decibel meter reads around 80 dBA. Lien sent the meter around the room for the committee to use it. The draft ordinance has a decibel level of 45 measured at the residence, etc., and the state's model ordinance has a decibel level of 50. Vind also has a noise meter he is sending around for demonstration. Vind's meter is geared towards higher decibel levels. Vind asked if everyone could keep silent for 15 seconds to see what the furnace running in the room is. Wallery read the meter and it was 47 to 60 dBA.

**Review Information Gathered by Committee:** Winn had a packet of information that was distributed. Last meeting Lien was instructed to send out a copy of the draft model ordinance from the State and State Statutes. Regarding wind energy Foote asked the committee to bring in information about setbacks related to height, noise, and shadow flicker. Winn also had booklets to hand out to the committee with additional information.

**Review State Statute and Model Ordinance:** Lien read the State Statute related to wind energy. The draft model ordinance from the State is just a draft. The State has draft model ordinances for every ordinance that the County has adopted. It is a template and to be used as a starting point. The issues related to wind energy have to be related to health and safety also cannot increase the cost or decrease the efficiency. Wolcott asked if health and safety were spiritual or mental health. Custer believed mental health would be considered part of health. Wolcott asked who developed the model ordinance. Vind's understanding was that it was made up by wind energy proponents. Everson asked about the double depreciation over the 5 year period. Wallery stated that they get

the tax benefits twice as fast. Lien mentioned that currently the county does not have an application for a wind energy site. There are three conditional use permits issued for meteorological towers. Lien stated that the committee needs to look at the ordinance as whole not specific sites. Lien mentioned that setbacks are the major issue to discuss.

Peggy Lautenschlager has written a letter about wind energy and it's in the front of the book that Winn handed out. This stated she isn't in office anymore and maybe the committee should get another opinion. Winn went through a few of the paragraphs. It states that a developer of a wind turbine does not need permits. Delores Vind mentioned that the letter was written for personal turbines not industrial sized turbines.

Custer mentioned in the State model ordinance there is no hazard prevention plan and also no bonding for removing the structures as in the non-metallic mining ordinance. Critzman mentioned at the last meeting the committee was going to use the zoning draft ordinance and not the proposed model ordinance. A motion was made by Critzman and seconded by Horton to use the May draft ordinance (chapter 21) as a starting point for discussion on the ordinance, 13 – 1; motion carried.

**Setbacks:** Quarne noticed in the ordinance that setbacks for public roads, railroads, etc. were 2 times the height of the tower and the state model has 1.1 times the height. Is that not increasing costs? Others brought up that if it fell it needed a further setback. Quarne stated if it fell the turbine isn't going to jump. Others said it is for ice throw and props. Lien said that it doesn't prohibit costs because there's a mitigation process stated in the ordinance. If the developer can mitigate with the landowner than the setback can be closer and the landowner will be subjected to whatever happens within the setback. Everson asked if the setbacks have anything to do with the manufacturing recommendation. Horton said that depending on the type and height it is 1/3 mile to 1/2 mile but a noise analysis must be conducted. Wolcott mentioned she visited Kewaunee County and also a telecast conference. People that lived near the turbines and were in favor of them had to move away from their homes because of the affects of the turbines. Vesta had a suggested setback of 1 1/2 miles but no less than a mile.

Vind used the chalkboard to show the issues that need to be addressed. Those were: height, noise, flicker, setback, vibration, ice throw, property value, mitigation, wells, wildlife, decommission, ground currents and government regulation. Custer asked if wildlife was a need. Lien stated Vickie from the Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge spoke at a meeting and there are flyways in Trempealeau County.

Flicker was discussed. The County's corporate counsel had December 21<sup>st</sup> as the longest shadow. Kramer mentioned with different season the flicker will hit different areas. Horton stated that roads should also be out of the shadow flicker. Kramer mentioned shadow flicker should pertain to more than just a structure; it should be on the entire property. Lien stated health and safety are the only arguments that can be used. This stated if the turbines are built in February they will not know what the problems are in December. What would be the recourse? Winn stated there is a planned view of the site that can be modeled on the internet. A motion was made by Critzman and seconded by Custer for item #12 in the draft ordinance to read *A document for each wind turbine including an accompanying diagram or maps showing the shadow flicker projection for a calendar year, in relation to existing roads and residences shall be submitted with the permit application*, 13-1; motion carried. Wallery asked if flicker affects livestock. Maybe structures should include outbuildings. More discussion took place on flicker on outbuildings. A motion was made by Wallery to amend in item #12 existing roads to *existing property boundaries* seconded by Everson. Amended motion by Wallery to change to *existing roads and residences*

seconded by Vind. Wallery made another motion to amend the previous amended motion to change to *affected properties, roads, and residences* seconded by Vind, 13-1; motion carried. Lien read amended motion. (*A document for each wind turbine including an accompanying diagram or maps showing the shadow flicker projection for a calendar year, in relation to affected property roads and residences shall be submitted with the permit application.*)

Custer asked if a farmers fields' are his place of employment so shadow flicker cannot be on the field. Quarne stated that animals adjust to things over time. The committee asked Lien to consult corporate counsel and ask if a farm and farmstead is a place of employment.

**Assign Additional Tasks:** Vind postponed discussion related to shadow flicker until next meeting. Tasks to be done for next meeting is shadow flicker, ice throw; fish and wildlife, while keeping in mind setbacks and mitigation.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** August 30, 2007 is the next meeting date at 6:00p.m. The September meetings will be held the 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn:** Motion was made by Skoyen and seconded by Quarne to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.