

Wind Energy Citizen Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 27, 2007

**Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Members Present: Todd Quarne, Danny Foote, Betty Wolcott, Alice Brenengen, Sage Kramer, Dave Vind, Ken Critzman, Dan Theis, Nan Horton, Curt Skoyen, Gary Evenson, Ron Winn, Dan Wallery, John Vehrenkamp, Kevin Lien and Andrea Artz – Trempealeau County Zoning/Planning Department.

Others Present: Kaye Henderson, Ron Reimer, Val Critzman, and Delores Vind.

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

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

**Adoption of Minutes:** A motion was made by Quarne and seconded by Vind to adopt the minutes, all in favor; motion carried.

Vickie Hirschboeck from the Fish and Wildlife Service brought Jeff Gosse and Pat Heglund to speak about wind generators and wildlife habitat. Jeff Gosse, regional wind coordinator, gave a short presentation on impacts of wind generators and bats/raptors. As for mortality and injury it varied by site of generators, but in West Virginia and Canada there were thousands of raptors that died. Pat Heglan of the USGS (United States Geological Survey) studied migration along the river corridor. The birds tend to migrate below 2,500 feet. The wind rotors would be out of the way except for their flight up in the morning and back down in the evening, with the exception of bad weather. Heglund's studies stopped 10 miles from the river corridor.

**Personal Wind Turbine (rotor dia. And Kilowatt rating):** Discussion took place on personal wind turbines. The committee thought there should be another category added such as *hobbyist* for wind turbines. These hobbyist turbines could be about 20 feet and lower. Evenson mentioned having a 12 foot diameter props and a max of 50 feet high. A motion was made by Evenson and seconded by Critzman to have *a hobbyist turbine to be below 50 feet high with a propa diameter not more than 12 feet*. Questions were asked if there would be a fee involved. A motion was made by Vind and seconded by Kramer to amend the previous motion to read *a hobbyist turbine to be below 50 feet high with a prop diameter of 12 feet or less not subject to fee but subject to all regulations in the ordinance, 11 – 1*, motion passes. A motion was made by Horton and seconded by Wolcott to add under 21.08 there is no fee for a hobbyist, 11 -1; motion passes.

**Review Information gathered by Committee:** Critzman handed out a wind turbine syndrome which has suggestions for setbacks. Lien asked Critzman to summarize the article. Critzman mentioned the article stated not to place the turbines close to people's residences, about 1 ½ to 2 miles is safe. It also depended on the terrain, those places with hills and valleys a bigger distance should be given because of noise travel.

**General Setbacks:** Hobbyist and personal wind turbines where discussed. Under section 15 in the ordinance the committee decided to keep the hobbyist and personal wind generators separate

from the commercial generators. A motion was made by Vind and seconded by Quarne to remove commercial and add hobbyist to the sentence to read *Setbacks: The following setbacks and separation requirements shall apply to Hobbyist and Personal Wind Turbines*, 11 – 1; motion passes. Vind mentioned the property line being setback 2 times the total height of the tower. A motion was made by Vind and seconded by Horton to create 15.(e) and stated property lines must be 3 times the total height of the wind turbines, 10 – 2; motion passes. A motion was made by Horton and seconded by Critzman to eliminate 17 (a) on page 227 of the ordinance which read *Setbacks: The following setbacks and separation requirements shall apply to Personal Wind Turbines. (a) The wind turbine shall be set back from a neighboring residence or property line at a minimum of 1.2 times the Total Height of the wind turbine and 2 times the Total Height from public buildings*, 11 – 1; motion passes. Under the definition of Personal Wind Turbine a motion was made by Quarne and seconded by Vehrenkamp to eliminate the nameplate capacity and the kilowatts, 10 – 2; motion passes.

**Assign Additional Tasks:** Start with section 16 for the next meeting.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** October 11, 2007 is the next meeting date at 6:00p.m. in the County Board Room.

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