

March 16, 2009
Wind Energy Resource Zone Board
Wexford-Missaukee ISD, Cadillac, Michigan
10:00 a.m.
Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair, David Walters at 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: Cindy Norlin (Alternate for Trevor Lauer), Dave Walters, John Miceli, Steve Brock, David Bertram (Alternate for Gene Jorissen), Joe DeVito (Alternate for Rodger Kershner), Dave Wright, Thomas Vitez, Mary Templeton, Julie Baldwin, Robert Ianni (by phone)

Wind Energy Consultant: Chuck McKeown, MSU – Land Policy Institute

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair asked if there were changes, deletions or additions to the agenda. David Wright made a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Thomas Vitez. The Board adopted the Agenda.

III. Approval of the proposed minutes of the March 2, 2009 meeting.

The Chair asked if there were changes, deletions or additions to the proposed minutes.

David Wright proposed that the minutes be changed under agenda item V to add a third bullet point indicating that MSU-Land Policy Institute will use the 100 meter EWITS (Eastern Wind Integration Transmission Study) data as a reference.

Steve Brock made a motion to accept the minutes with the suggested addition. Joe DeVito seconded the motion. The minutes with Mr. Wright's addition were accepted by the Board.

IV. MPSC Staff and DNR State Lands Meeting Update

Mr. McKeown presented a slide showing the results of the meeting discussion.
http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/renewables/windboard/lpi_%203_16_09.pdf (slide 13 of 14)

V. Discussion with the Land Policy Institute

Mr. McKeown presented a status update to the Board and requested input regarding proposed wind turbine spacing. Mr. McKeown's presentation is available at the Wind Energy Resource Zone Board website: http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,1607,7-159-16393_52375---,00.html.

The Board discussed finding lands that have good wind. If the land is restricted now, it may not necessarily be restricted later. Appeals can be made to the state to open the land to wind leasing. Tom Stanton, MPSC Staff, commented that he thinks the DNR wants to be conservative on this mapping exercise and that as we get closer to identifying wind regions, recreation or other DNR areas might become open to leasing in certain situations based on the specific location and amount of land.

Wind Turbine Grid/Spacing

The Board discussed grid spacing and turbine layout scenarios. An initial suggestion was to use 1 turbine per 100 acres like the spacing for the Harvest Wind Farm.

Mr. DeVito offered to get turbine spacing information from RES if it was not considered proprietary.

The Board discussed how much land is needed to place the turbines compared to how much land is actually necessary to lease in order to obtain the needed land.

Mr. McKeown pointed out that there will be two turbine grids. One for 80 meter turbines and a second grid for 100 meter turbines.

Mr. Wright suggested that the Board consider how much land is already being excluded due to setbacks and instead use a 30 acre spacing grid.

The Board reached a consensus to use a 50 acre per turbine spacing as a minimum. The 50 acre spacing will be adjusted up or down to get maximum and minimum wind capacity and energy data. The 50 acre spacing is in addition to the setbacks the Board had previously adopted for wetlands and roads.

David Bertram asked how local ordinances might impact turbine spacing. Mr. McKeown commented that as turbines get quieter, due to technology improvements, we will still have the same setbacks in ordinances. Townships may expose themselves to liability when technology gets better and better and the setbacks (when expressed in distance as opposed to decibel levels) stay the same.

Mr. DeVito suggested that house setbacks are the single largest consumer of real estate in a wind farm layout. Mr. DeVito recommended that the Board develop modifiers to the 50 acre spacing for assumed housing setbacks based upon population density. Mr. McKeown will formulate three scenarios, one liberal, one moderate and one conservative when creating mapping scenarios.

Mr. Serafin, of Detroit Edison, commented that the increase in certain areas of the number of houses and population will be a factor. Density is increasing in some areas while decreasing in others. Mr. McKeown will factor in census data in the modeling.

Tom Vitez asked for clarification on the flow chart item labeled “Proximity to Grid and Power Line Rating.” Mr. Vitez thought the Board had previously agreed to remove transmission matters from the wind region identification process. Mr. McKeown commented there will be some review of transmission. Mr. Vitez commented that the existing transmission situation should not impact the identification of wind regions.

The Chairman mentioned that ATC will be making a presentation at the Board’s March 30 meeting in order to shed some light on the transmission situation in the Upper Peninsula.

VI. Planning Discussion

Report Writer Consultant

The Board discussed the timing issue created by the Friday, March 27, 2009 due date for the Report Writer Consultant proposals in relation to the Monday, March 30, 2009 Board meeting. It will be difficult and nearly impossible for the review subcommittee to review the proposals received on Friday and be ready to make a recommendation to the Board on Monday. The Board decided to have a special 30 minute conference call on April 2, 2009 to select the consultant. That timing gives the review subcommittee enough time to review the proposals and also leaves enough time for the selected consultant to be brought on board and be ready to attend the Board’s April 20 meeting. The same people who volunteered for the Wind Energy Consultant review committee also volunteered for the Report Writer Consultant review subcommittee: John Miceli, David Wright, Mary Templeton, and Julie Baldwin. Ms. Baldwin agreed to email the proposals out to the Board as soon as they are received.

Timeline for Wind Energy Consultant

Mary Templeton asked Mr. McKeown about the work task timeline in his presentation because the interconnection queue analysis and viability of wind production tasks were not listed. Mr. McKeown offered to send the Board a new timeline by the end of the week. A deadline of April 20 was decided on for completion of interconnection queue analysis.

VII. Public Comment

Mike Serafin, of Detroit Edison, asked how the Board would deal with so many different setbacks without double counting.

Mr. McKeown responded by saying a cookie-cutter method is used to “chunk out” setback areas and that double counting would not be an issue.

Joe DeVito motioned that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by John Miceli. The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 pm.