

## MPSC Solar Working Group

### Minutes

4/8/14

Attendees: See [attendance sheets](#).

#### Subgroup Update

See [Staff Presentation](#)

Julie Baldwin discussed the Value of Solar Subgroup activities.

Julie was asked to follow up with MISO on capacity credit for solar. Our solar projects may only receive a 30% capacity credit for the first three years until actual data can be used.

Kim Walton confirmed that the MAREC solar PV project is 30 kW DC.

Julie was asked to provide a list of all the likely contributions to line loss.

Kevin Krause discussed the Solar Tariff, Rate Impact and Program Cap Subgroup activities.

Kevin was asked about net metering program caps.

Jesse Harlow discussed the Program Design subgroup activities.

#### Solar Installer Perspective

##### Art Toy & Dan Alway – Four Elements Energy

Has not installed commercial wind in over two years. Solar PV is more economical. They recommend air to air heat pump & solar PV for water heating instead of solar thermal.

There is a two tiered market for solar panels: companies going bankrupt trying to dump panels and companies trying to sell panels with a long term growth goal.

Expect a similar type of two tiered market for solar racking soon.

\$1 per watt is the typical solar panel cost now.

We are entering a more mature, long-term market.

Idea of community solar is very important. Concept of private group installing solar panels is very important too.

Sees a stabilizing market long-term. Compared the Consumers Energy 2 MW expansion to the 2 MW backup generator at Bronson hospital.

Art was asked if price was the sole factor in more interest in solar. He says it is both economics and aesthetics.

Where is the sweet spot for solar pricing? Additional cost for extra meter in Consumers program impacts small projects at 25 cents. Don't want to make customer wait for lottery. Price is good for larger commercial customers.

We are not doing enough to grow the solar industry in the US. Must stabilize programs and eliminate boom and bust.

New problem with time of day customers. Last three plug in vehicle clients were advised to get off the plug in vehicle program and go on net metering.

Are there any states with more robust solar programs that we should be looking at? Yes, the subgroups are looking at other programs.

For small systems, keep it simple. Consider time of day for larger system.

Orienting panels SW to produce from 2 – 7 pm will help utility.

### **Jeremy Zinn – Oak Electric**

From 2009 to 2011 he experienced a boom with 2 – 3 crews installing. 25 – 50% of the company was working on solar. Now it is one crew that probably won't be doing solar all the time. Jeremy rarely talks about the programs. People want batteries too. They want emergency power. Oak has done over 200 installations in MI.

Jeremy says that analysts think the solar tax credit will not be renewed. He thinks that solar prices will start to increase a little.

DTE allows line tap and CE requires a line side tap Which costs a lot of money. Jeremy has never had a problem with his CE solar bill. Customers of DTE have problems with billing. Jeremy is no longer allowed to contact DTE on his customer's behalf. Now the customer has to call the 800 number.

Jeremy recommended making the programs large enough to eliminate the lottery.

In the last two years, 50% of what he has done includes batteries.

SRECS, 5 Lakes REC purchase and net metering are the programs he recommends to his customers.

### **Dynamic Pricing Tariff-Douglas Jester**

See [presentation](#).