

Wind Energy Resource Zone Board

February 2, 2009

Michigan Public Service Commission

6545 Mercantile Way

Lansing, MI 48911

10:00 a.m.

Approved Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair, David Walters at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: Julie Baldwin, Steve Brock, Robert Ianni, John Miceli,
Thomas Vitez, David Walters, David Wright

Members Participating by Phone: Mary Templeton

Alternates Present: Cindy Norlin, Joe DeVito (by phone)

The Chair noted that there was a quorum present.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair asked if there were changes, deletions or additions to the agenda. David Wright made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Steve Brock. The Board voted and approved the Agenda.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the January 19, 2009 meeting.

The following corrections were suggested: The minutes should be corrected to show that David Wright was present at the meeting. Under the presentation by Joe DeVito, the minutes should be clarified to show that in response to a question about installing additional transmission, Thomas Vitez explained that it may be possible to add wires on certain towers on a very limited basis. The public comments section where the minutes reflected that Thomas Vitez asked that question, the minutes should be corrected to show that a member of the public asked the question, instead of Thomas Vitez, and Thomas Vitez provided the answer.

John Miceli made a motion to accept the minutes as proposed and changed. The motion was seconded by Steve Brock. The Board voted and accepted the minutes.

IV. Consultant Update

Proposals were received from five consultants. Additionally, three other consultants responded that they were not interested in bidding. John Miceli, one of the five Board members on the subcommittee to review the consultant proposals, explained to the Board that the subcommittee recommended the proposal from Michigan State University – Land Policy Institute/Public Sector Consultants. This proposal met all aspects of the RFP requirements. Mr. Miceli said that their proposal would provide additional assistance beyond what was asked for in the RFP, including a financial viability analysis and interfacing with townships and municipalities. The subcommittee believed that Michigan State University – Land Policy Institute/Public Sector Consultants has a strong understanding of the RFP. John Miceli made a motion to recommend that the Public Service Commission award this RFP to Michigan State University – Land Policy Institute/Public Sector Consultants. The Board voted to approve the subcommittee's recommendation. The motion was passed.

David Walters suggested he, Julie Baldwin and another Board member meet with the new consultant before the next meeting.

- V. Presentation from Dr. David Hurlbut, NREL. Dr. Hurlbut is Senior Analyst at the National Renewable Laboratory (NREL), specializing in regulatory policy, transmission and renewable energy economics. Dr. Hurlbut gave a presentation to the Board titled *Transmission Development Zones for Renewable Energy*. The presentation is available at this web address:

<http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/renewables/windboard/nrel.pdf>.

Thomas Stanton, MPSC Staff, clarified that the current wind maps for Michigan are at a height of 50 meters. The data was taken from 80 meter tower stations. John Sarver, of the State Wind Outreach Team has sent a request to all Michigan wind developers for data they have available in order to gather data at a height higher than 50 meters. Also, he stated that Michigan has embarked on an effort to get public tall tower data for Michigan. In this effort, data will be gathered using State Police towers at 60, 80, 100 and even 120 meters. The work will begin in the spring. The first tower being used is in Berrien County.

- VI. Presentation from Dave Zwitter, Consumers Energy
Mr. Zwitter is the Manager of Renewable Energy for Consumers Energy. Mr. Zwitter gave a presentation titled *Consumers Energy WERZB Response on Zones*. The presentation is available at this web address:

<http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/renewables/windboard/ce.pdf>.

VII. Planning Discussion

Mary Templeton, Joe DeVito and Julie Baldwin, the Board's Planning Subcommittee, updated the planning document adding some details. Also there were two additions to the planning document. One was based on John Miceli's input about township involvement. The other was to involve the Commission in reading other states' reports and providing input to the Board on what kind of best practices they glean from those reports and potentially creating a template for the writer to use to write the report.

Mary Templeton asked the Board to determine if they were comfortable with using the Commission staff in this manner and asked for Board support of the creation of a report template. The Chair clarified that although the Board is independent of the Commission, to ask the staff to look at the reports and develop the template is something that the Commission could do on the Board's behalf. Hearing no objections, it was agreed to move forward. Julie Baldwin will be the interface between the Board and the Commission. The Board would like to hear from Commission Staff regarding the timelines in this planning document by the March 2, 2009 meeting.

The plan will be adjusted and reposted on the website accordingly.

The second document discussed was the consultant timeline. The Planning Subcommittee included dates that are consistent with the project plans so that all of the tasks are identified in the timeline.

The Planning Subcommittee asked the Board for support to review these timelines and objectives with the consultant before the next meeting. There were no objections.

The next meeting will include a presentation from Rich VanderVeen of Mackinaw Power. The Board will also receive written comments from Mr. Steve Smiley.

VIII. Public Comments.

A representative of the public asked how a contractor could become involved in the wind industry. The Chair said that the Board is not the body that will be making these decisions but said that anyone can follow along with the progress of the Board.

Mike Lindsey from the West side of the Michigan stated that the smaller units of government would benefit from the information gathered in this effort. He asked if, after the studies are done, data could be made available for them to use.

Comments from Presenters

Dr. Hurlbut encouraged Michigan to perform the wildlife studies as soon as possible. He further recommended that consideration be given to the focus of in-state demand and resources and to what extent Michigan may consider export of resources.

The Chair felt these are good points and that the Board should work these into the process.

Thomas Vitez motioned that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Steve Brock. The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am.