

September 14, 2009
Wind Energy Resource Zone Board
Michigan Public Service Commission
6545 Mercantile Way
Lansing, MI 48911
10:00 a.m.
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, Bob Ianni, Trevor Lauer, Mary Templeton, Tom Vitez, David Walters,

Alternates Present: David Bertram, Alternate for Gene Jorissen

Joe DeVito, Alternate for Rodger Kershner

Susan Harley, Alternate for David Wright

II. Web Meeting Announcement.

Christine Battiste, MPSC Staff, provided technical assistance for the web meeting.

III. Adoption of the Agenda.

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

Ms. Harley made a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Templeton. The Board adopted the Agenda.

IV. Approval of the proposed minutes of the August 10, 2009 meeting.

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

Mr. Vitez made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer. The Board approved the minutes.

V. Review public comments with Public Sector Consultants and discuss any necessary response and potential changes to the report.

A discussion was held with Sally Talberg (Board's Report Writer Consultant) regarding comments received to date. Ms. Talbert presented this information using several documents: Comments from Local Governments within the Four Regions; Comments from All Others, Including Local Governments outside the Identified Regions; Common Issues; and Input on Proposed Report.

Ms. Talberg explained that the Board received 31 local government comments with the majority coming from Region 3.

Ms. Baldwin mentioned that the MPSC Staff is locating the various health studies mentioned in comments. Staff will compile a fact sheet on health issues.

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The Board decided that all comments should be made available on the Board's website. The Board determined that the comments should clearly be identified as comments from the public and not the Board's position on issues.

Ms. Talberg said that she would send a more complete draft of the Input on Proposed Report document to the Board by the close of business on Wednesday, September 16. The Board is asked to comment to Ms. Talberg by the close of business on Wednesday, September 23.

A discussion was held regarding setback of wind turbines from homes. Joe DeVito pointed out that a 1.5 kilometer setback would mean that there would be no wind development in Michigan.

The Board decided to ask Chuck McKeown (Board wind energy consultant) how difficult and time consuming it would be to determine the impact on MW/MWh output from each region assuming a 300 and 400 meter structure setback. If possible, the Board would like this analysis at the next meeting.

During the discussion of the Common Issues document, the Board noted that many issues would be appropriately addressed as a micro-siting issue between the wind developer and the landowner.

Ms. Harley requested a motion to revisit the Board's decision to select the four wind region option instead of the nine wind region option. There was no support for this motion from other Board members.

The Board decided to ask Mr. McKeown to include the Charlevoix airport on Exhibit D-1 Areas Excluded due to Airports.

The Board recommended no significant changes to the report and decided not to remove any townships from any of the regions. However, the report should stress that the maps are not meant to be detailed or used for micro-siting.

VI. Planning discussion.

The Board has regularly scheduled meetings on September 28 & October 12. The final report is due on October 15, 2009.

VII. Public comments.

Valerie McCallum, Lake Township, Huron County, asked if the Board planned to incorporate the US Fish & Wildlife recommendation for a 3 mile buffer along the great lakes shorelines.

Tom Stanton, MPSC Staff, pointed out that the US Fish & Wildlife recommendation is advisory only. It is considered temporary until rules are developed.

Mr. Stanton also said that Department of Agriculture land in conservation programs is likely open to wind development and that the Department has already given letters on this to wind developers.

Eugene Champagne, Oliver Township, Huron County, asked if comments submitted to the Board would be provided to the MPSC. The Chair answered yes.

Ms. McCallum asked the Board if it was going to exclude townships that asked to be taken out of a region. The Chair responded that at this point the answer is no, however the Board has two additional meetings scheduled before the final report is issued.

The Chair asked Ms. Talberg to provide a list of which local governments included a request to be excluded from a region in their official comments.

Mr. Lauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by Mr. Vitez. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.