

The Wind Energy Working Group met informally on Wednesday, January 13, 2010. Present at the meeting were Hyla Napadensky, Lonnie Dupre, Ann Possis, Jim Boyd and Jeremy Lopez.

The purpose of the meeting was for everyone to get an update on the current status of the Wind Project since a meeting had not been held since last September. Jim Boyd the previous facilitator of the group has decided to take a break from the wind committee. Jeremy Lopez has enthusiastically agreed to attempt to keep all the great projects moving forward.

The Wind Working Group would like to start meeting monthly again. Most people at today's meeting agreed that the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 3PM or 4PM would work. If people prefer an evening meeting we could try the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7PM.

Please VOTE on your preferred meeting time:

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 3 PM

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 4 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7 PM

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

Jim Boyd's update is as follows (and as I remember it):

## BIG WIND

The Wind Working Group has established connections with many area and regional wind proponents including Arrowhead Electric Co-operative, University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnership in Duluth, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTS), Windustry and the Grand Portage Tribal Council. With the help of these and other partners, the group evaluated many potential big wind sites in the county based on proximity to existing power lines, available wind resource, concerns about birds and landownership. Due to the existing electrical transmission infrastructure, power purchase agreements and current permitting regulations we are limited to building at most 5 MW of wind capacity. This is about three or four commercial wind turbines. With this in mind the group selected three sites to begin detailed wind surveys.

Anemometers were installed by Mike Mageau (of UMD) at two locations in the fall of 2009. One anemometer is installed on a county owned tower near Bogus Lake (located a few miles north of County Road 14 off of Trout Lake Road.) The second anemometer is located on Lutsen Mountain ski resort property.

We are currently working to install a third anemometer on the land of Rob Foster on his property at Murphy Mountain. The MET (Metrological) Tower is sitting in Jim Boyd's driveway. We are missing a gin pole (which the MN Dept. of Commerce is going to supply) and the expertise to set up the tower. Lonnie Dupre has agreed to attend a training in April to learn how to use the gin pole to erect the MET tower and get it off Jim's driveway. Thanks Lonnie!

Anna Peterson who is working with the University of Minnesota, Duluth's National Resources Research Institute to map migratory bird patterns along the North Shore agreed to help us

evaluate the bird situation at Lutsen Mountain. Jeremy will be contacting her to get information on last fall's monitoring and to ask about her assessment of the site at Lutsen Mountains.

Our contact at Windustry, Melissa Peterson has moved along. Jeremy will contact Windustry to get a new contact so we can continue to utilize the experience and knowledge of this non-profit as we develop our community wind project.

A fourth big wind site with good potential is Trestle Pine Lake. The land is owned by the DNR and this has slowed down the process to install a MET tower and begin assessing the site for wind.

Looking to the future we will be working on developing a business model to manage any potential Big Wind development in the county. Ann Possis will be looking into the structure being used to develop a community wind project in Goodhue County. Jim Boyd has made some preliminary contacts with the business school in Duluth who may be willing to do a business plan for developing wind in Cook County. Jeremy will follow up on this.

If the initial research on wind resources, birds, access to power lines, permitting and community support are all positive we will work to initiate a full feasibility study that would result in our ability build a wind turbine or partner with a wind developer to build the turbine. There is much work to be done to explore the potential for big wind in Cook County.

#### SMALL WIND

The group has identified that the current county ordinance on wind towers is very prohibitive to small wind development due to the necessity of an expensive monopole design. The group has made some preliminary contacts with the county planning and zoning office and the group has drawn up a request to alter the current ordinance. We need to review this request and present it to the county board.

The group has identified a need to have more local resources to help people in the county understand the potential of small wind. We will be working towards building a database of installed small wind power in the county and people willing to act as references or mentors to others interested in installing a small wind system.

The group has done public outreach in the past and plans to continue doing public outreach to promote the use of small wind systems in Cook County.

Notes submitted by Jeremy Lopez

If you have any questions about the current status of the Wind Working Group projects please contact me at:

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