

April 20, 2009  
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, Robert Ianni, Trevor Lauer,  
Mary Templeton, Thomas Vitez, Dave Walters,  
David Wright

Member Participating by Phone: John Miceli

Alternates: Joe DeVito, Alternate for Roger Kershner participating by phone  
David Bertram, Alternate for Gene Jorissen participating by phone

II. Web Meeting Announcement

III. 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 Robert Ianni. The Board adopted the Agenda.

IV. Approval of the proposed minutes of the March 30, 2009 meeting.

The minutes shall reflect that Steve Brock was present. The proper name of the group that will write the report is Public Sector Consultants – Land Policy Institute throughout the minutes. Trevor Lauer made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Steve Brock. The Board approved the minutes with the changes requested.

V. Discussion with Public Sector Consultants on project timeline, local government outreach, interconnection queue analysis and report outline.

Sally Talberg of Public Sector Consultants presented a Proposed Report Outline for the Board's review.

Ms. Talberg then presented options for gathering input from local units of government. The options presented were developed with input from the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Township Association, and Michigan Association of Counties. The proposed comment solicitation timeline, provided by Ms. Talberg, placed formally asking local units of government to provide input on the Board's Proposed Report after

the report was issued on June 2, 2009. The proposal included developing an on-line tool, similar to a survey, for local governments to provide comments to the Board. Comments would specifically be solicited from local units of government with lands that are located within the Board's wind regions.

The Board agreed that comments should be from a single person speaking for each local unit of government.

An additional option presented by Ms. Talberg was assisting local government associations in educating and notifying their members of the opportunity to provide input as part of the Board's process.

Bob Ianni suggested that local government input should be requested from all local units of government as opposed to only those located within the Board's wind regions. The reasoning was that it is possible that local units of government may consider it advantageous to be located in a wind region and those that are not should also have the opportunity for input. The Board discussed inviting local units of government to a Board meeting possibly sometime in May.

The Board decided that communications with local units of government should clearly state that the Board is focusing on commercial scale wind.

Ms. Talberg will begin designing the comment template and incorporate the Board's comments into the outreach plans for further discussion.

Mary Templeton noted that asking local units of government for comments after the proposed report was issued is a change from the timeline the Board developed early in the process. Several Board members felt it was important to solicit input from local units of government prior to issuing the proposed report.

Ms. Talberg provided a status update on her interconnection queue analysis. The Board agreed that 3 MW represents a good cutoff for inclusion in the queue analysis. Ms. Talberg will bring her completed analysis to the next Board meeting.

Ms. Talberg will provide the first draft of the proposed report to the Board on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed to email comments to Ms. Talberg before May 18.

The documents discussed during Ms. Talberg's discussion are posted on the Board's website: [http://michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/publicsectordocs\\_275291\\_7.pdf](http://michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/publicsectordocs_275291_7.pdf)

The Board agreed to add additional meetings on May 18<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup> – this is the Tuesday after Memorial Day. The meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> will begin at 12 Noon.

VI. Discussion with the Land Policy Institute

Chuck McKeown presented the 80 & 100 meter tower generation capacity scenarios. During the past week, Mr. McKeown located house/structure GIS data that he used in the analysis. A 200 meter buffer from any development class in the land cover data was used.

Mr. McKeown presented annual kWh state totals for each of the scenarios.

For the wind viability analysis, Mr. McKeown mapped a ratio of megawatt hour output to number of turbines. He explained that power generated from each turbine must be above a certain level in order for wind generation to be viable in a given area.

Mr. McKeown asked the Board how they wish to proceed with defining the wind regions. The Board discussed selecting wind regions based on township lines. They discussed wind region size and buffer zones and agreed to start with the 50 meter wind data map. Mr. McKeown will forward to Board members, a spreadsheet that includes capacity factors by this Friday.

The Board discussed how to size the wind regions and whether the Thumb area should be one large wind region. Thomas Vitez mentioned that from a transmission planning standpoint, dividing the Thumb area into many wind regions or a single wind region does not matter.

The Board discussed segregating wind regions by tiers. For next week's meeting Mr. McKeown will show wind regions with tier 1 townships, all tier 2 neighbors, plus any neighboring townships that show up as orange on the 100 meter wind map.

Chuck requested that Board members ask him for any clarification to issues that they feel they need addressed before the report writing phase begins.

VII. Planning Discussion

The Board decided that planning issues had already been discussed as part of other agenda items.

VIII. Public Comments

Mr. Russell Lundberg of Huron County joined the meeting to comment. Mr. Lundberg thought the Board would benefit by keeping in mind that the focus of the Huron County area is agricultural and that many community members regard wind farms as an agricultural endeavor. Mr. Lundberg pointed out that that zoning issues should be considered in the development of the Board's wind regions. Mr. Lundberg extended an invitation to the Board to host a meeting, should the Board decide to meet in Huron County.

Mike Serafin commented that the Board is charged with answering four basic questions and the Executive Summary of the proposed report would do well to include the answers to these four questions. He also brought to the Board's attention that the wind direction in the Thumb is at 45 degrees.

Steve Brock made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was supported by Trevor Lauer. The meeting was adjourned at 12:36.

Recorded by: Sheila Muniz Aleshire  
Edited by: Julie Baldwin