

March 2, 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,
John Miceli, Mary Templeton, Thomas Vitez, David Walters,
David Wright

Participating by Phone: Joe DeVito (Alternate for Rodger Kershner)

Alternates Present: David Bertram

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair asked if there were changes, deletions or additions to the agenda.
John Miceli made a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by
David Wright. The Board adopted the Agenda.

III. Approval of the proposed minutes of the February 17, 2009 meeting.

Trevor Lauer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was
seconded by Steve Brock. The Board approved the minutes as presented.

IV. Wind/Renewable Energy Zone Projects Presentation by MPSC Staff

Christine Battiste, an MPSC Staff Policy Analyst, reviewed Wind Energy Resource
Zone reports published by the states of California, Colorado, Nevada and Texas and
shared her impressions with the Board.

David Walters asked if a template could be used based on these reports Christine had
seen. Ms. Battiste then provided a handout that showed outlines for each of the state
reports.

Staff Handouts

http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/renewables/windboard/mpsc_staff_research_summary.pdf

http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/renewables/windboard/mpsc_staff_presentation.pdf

V. Discussion with MSU-Land Policy Institute

Chuck McKeown discussed the Board's options for wind datasets. Mr. McKeown explained that based on his analysis, the AWS Truewind 100 meter dataset and the EWITS (Eastern Wind Interconnect Transmission Study) 100 meter dataset did not correlate well enough for validation. The 70 meter dataset is no more accurate than the 100 meter datasets. Mr. McKeown noted that other states doing similar analyses have opted to use the best validated dataset – like Michigan's 50 meter dataset. After discussion, the Board agreed on the following:

- The minimum wind potential will be determined using the AWS Truewind/NREL/MI Energy Office validated 50 meter dataset.
- The maximum wind potential will be determined by rectifying the AWS Truewind 100 meter data with the 50 meter data. Using the 100 meter dataset, 6.5 mps and higher wind speeds will be rectified with the 50 meter data.
- After the initial estimates are completed, the EWITS data provided by NREL will be used to help validate the results. This analysis will be presented to the Board with the initial maximum and minimum estimates.

Mr. McKeown presented the Board with a list of exclusionary area types. The Board considered each one during the meeting.

Airports

Michigan has 1,500 separate airports. The Board discussed how to determine setbacks for airports. Radar setbacks are done on a case by case basis by a board. The Board concluded that using Metro Airport's radar setback would likely cause too much land to be excluded.

The Tall Buildings Act controls airport setbacks.

Mr. DeVito suggested having two airport setbacks using public or private airport type to determine the setback.

Joe DeVito & Mike Serafin (Detroit Edison) offered to work with Mr. McKeown on this matter.

Water

The Board decided to exclude lakes and rivers.

Wetlands

The Board decided to exclude regulated wetlands (> 5 acres) and later on in the analysis, look at our identified regions to consider excluding smaller wetlands.

Ownership

The Board agreed to a three-tiered state land analysis.

1. No state lands.

2. State forest land included.
3. State forest land, state recreation/game areas and state parks included.

Mr. McKeown noted that while there are Federal guidelines that would apply to placing wind turbines on federal lands, there are no applicable guidelines for state land in Michigan.

Tom Stanton of the Michigan Public Service Commission Staff offered to set up a meeting with DNR and MPSC Staff to discuss placing turbines on state lands and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Road Buffers

The Board agreed to $1.5 \times$ the rotor hub height as a road setback and agreed to do a sensitivity analysis using 80 meters since it might be hard to install 100 meter towers in the Thumb due to all of the roads. A 100 meter hub height is the default hub height.

Distance from Urban

The Board agreed to use no buffer since cities might be interested in developing wind.

Population Density

Mr. McKeown recommended not taking distance from houses into account at this point in the analysis. Mike Serafin pointed out that some townships are including setbacks from houses in their ordinances. A map with house locations for the entire state does not exist. The Board agreed that at the beginning of our analysis, we should not exclude lands based on population density/homes.

Once the Board has identified the regions, we can consider population density. Mr. McKeown suggested that at a later phase in our project, we could simply reduce the wind potential for a region by a certain percentage based on population density. The Board agreed with this plan.

Buffer from Public Lands

The Board agreed to not use buffers for the initial analysis.

Buffers from Great Lakes Shoreline

The Board agreed on a 1 mile buffer from Great Lakes Shorelines.

Buffer from Lakes and Rivers

Mr. McKeown suggested using $1.5 \times$ ultimate height (hub height plus the height to the tip of the blade in its vertical position). The Board agreed.

Bird and Bat Migration

Mr. McKeown told the Board that, at this time, it is not possible to have these areas excluded because the data does not exist.

Rare and Endangered Species

Mr. McKeown recommended using the MNFI (Michigan Natural Features Inventory) index. An index number of 26 and up is flagged. The Board agreed to wait until the regions are identified before applying the index and excluding any areas.

Mr. McKeown told the Board that he would discuss turbine spacing and grid layouts at our next meeting.

Joe DeVito asked about tribal/cultural and hazardous materials exclusions. Mr. McKeown said that he does not have data on tribal/cultural areas. The Board agreed not to exclude tribal/cultural areas during this phase of its analysis.

Mr. McKeown does have information on hazardous materials sites. The majority of these sites would be in urban areas and are likely to be excluded based on other reasons. No special exclusions were selected for hazardous materials sites.

Mr. McKeown's presentation:

http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/renewables/windboard/lpi_mar_02.pdf

VI. Planning Discussion

Julie Baldwin will work with the Board Chair and Vice-Chair to prepare the Report Writer Consultant RFP. The Board did not request the opportunity for input on the RFP documents. Copies of the RFP documents will be sent to the Board members via email.

Next Meetings

The March 16th meeting will be in Cadillac at the Wexford-Missaukee ISD facility.

March 30th at the MPSC

April 20th, at the MPSC (April 13th was rescheduled)

April 27th at the MPSC

May 11th at the MPSC

Bob Ianni said that he would be participating by phone during the March 16th meeting.

VII. Public Comment

There were no persons making public comment

Trevor Lauer motioned that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Steve Brock. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.