

# **LEE COUNTY RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE**

## **Ad Hoc Meeting**

**May 3, 2022, at 9:00 AM**

**County Board Room  
Old Lee County Courthouse, Dixon, Illinois**

### **Zoom Video- & Tele-conferencing**

Meeting ID: 828 7215 0974

Password: 797986

### **YouTube**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSjpe5H1G5U>**

#### **Appointed Committee Members**

Chris Norberg – Chair

Marilyn Shippert

Tom Kitson

Tom Wilson

Danielle Allen

Dave Bally

Bob Olson

#### **Advisory Members**

Dee Duffy, Zoning Administrator

Alice Henkel, Renewable Energy Coordinator/Clerk

Charley Boonstra, State's Attorney

At 9: AM, Chair Chris Norberg called the meeting to order.

Acting Chair Norberg called for roll call of members of the committee and county staff.

Appointed Members present: Norberg, Kitson

Appointed Members absent: Shippert, Allen, Wilson, Bally, Olson

Acting Member: John Nicholson

Advisory Members present: Duffy, Henkel

Advisory Members absent: Boonstra

The following visitors were present:

Len Saunders, Jr., Business Agent with Carpenter's Local 790

Martha Johansson, Interested Party

Will Hantzmon, Associate Development Manager at Hexagon Energy

Scott Reamer, Director of Development at Hexagon Energy (via ZOOM)

Emily Skill, Development Manager for Enel Green Power

Ben Sych, Associate Development Manager for Enel Green Power

Anthony Neve, Recall Strategies

Courtney Kennedy, Attorney

Adam Henkel, President of Lee County Farm Bureau

Gordy Simanton,

John Nicholson, Lee County Board Member

The next order of business was the approval of the minutes for the April 7, 2022 meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

Chair Norberg proceeded to the review of the private pipeline survey results. A total of 36 responses were received. Based on the responses submitted, the primary concerns are safety, property values and public health.

He further explained that the survey is a tool that outlines the concerns of the citizens. The County does intend to make changes based solely on the survey results.

Chair Norberg then moved on to the review of the pipeline ordinance draft that was received from Chastain & Associates (“Chastain”) shortly before the meeting. Tom Kitson made a motion to table this discussion to allow the Committee time to review the draft. A second was discerned, and there was no debate. A vote was taken, and the ayes prevailed. Motion passed, 3-0.

The next order of business was review of the proposed renewable energy survey that will address wind, solar and battery energy storage systems.

Chair Norberg said that it was suggested that adding a question to differentiate between community solar and utility-scale solar may be useful to the public.

Mr. Kitson asked how the survey is being distributed to the public. Ms. Henkel said that an article was printed by the Sauk Valley News letting people know that the County is doing a survey, how long the survey will be available and where to locate it. To complete the survey online, the link is available on the County’s website homepage. Hard copies are placed in eight locations throughout the County – Dixon, Amboy, Franklin Grove, Ashton, Paw Paw, West Brooklyn, Steward and Harmon.

Mr. Kitson asked if the County had any way to prevent people from “padding” this survey. Chair Norberg said yes because the online survey tracks IP addresses but also no because there’s no way to tell with the hard copy survey.

The definition of, “community solar project, was discussed. Small-scale community solar is a facility that is a maximum of 2 MW and is located on approximately 20 acres. A larger-scale community solar is a facility that generates up to 5 MWs and is located on up to approximately 50 acres. The small-scale community solar projects tend to be located in rural areas while the larger-scale community solar projects tend to be located near large municipalities.

It was noted that some of the developers would like to see more education to the public, prior to the survey, so the public is able to give informed responses. They also voiced concerns about people taking more than one survey to skew the results. Chair Norberg emphasized that the survey is a tool for the County to use to determine where the concerns of the citizens lie. It gives a snapshot of what issues the County needs to focus on when developing policy. It also gives the renewable energy companies insight about what issues they need to inform the public.

The County supports the renewable energy companies holding townhalls in proposed project areas as a way to inform the public as to what may be coming to their area.

Stephanie Brown with Chastain & Associates was present via ZOOM. She is going to add more definitions to the survey, as well as photos to help inform the public as they complete the survey.

Tom Kitson made a motion proceed with releasing the survey, with the changes that were discussed during this meeting, to public from May 8 to May 21, 2022. A second was discerned, and there was no debate. A vote was taken, and the ayes prevailed. Motion passed, 3-0.

Lastly under old business was an update on the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the City of Amboy with regard to the proposed biogas facility. Ms. Henkel said Lee County State’s Attorney Charley Boonstra is still working with the City of Amboy’s attorney to complete the MOU.

With regard to the wind, solar and battery energy storage systems moratoriums, the County will be looking to extend the moratoriums to allow the County time to continue working on the respective ordinances.

The next meeting of this Committee will take place on May 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

There was no other old business.

There was no new business.

There was no other business.

There was no executive session.

At 10:00 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

*Live feed can be viewed on **YouTube** at Lee County Renewable Energy Committee – 05/03/22.*

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Henkel