

## **Renewable Energy Committee**

Thursday, November 17, 2011 – 3:00 P.M.

Polk County Government Center, County Board Room  
100 Polk Plaza, Balsam Lake, WI 54810

- Call to order
- Approve agenda
- Approve 10/20 minutes
- Public comments
- Marlin Baillargeon and Tom Engel report on Waste Oil furnace project at recycling center.
- Timm Johnson update status of natural gas fueled vehicles project at Osceola
- Kathy Kienholtz and Tom Engel report meeting with Dana Frey and Debbie Peterson on electricity demand charges at the Justice Center
- Members comments and reports
- Set next meeting
- Adjourn

(Agenda items may not be presented in this order)

This meeting is open to the public according to Wisconsin State Statute 19.83. Persons with disabilities wishing to attend and/or participate are asked to notify the County Clerk's office (715-485-9226) at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting time so all reasonable accommodations can be made. Requests are confidential

**RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
**Polk County Government Center, County Board Room**  
**Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake, Wisconsin 54810**  
**Minutes of November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Meeting**

Vice-chair Tom Engel called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Present were county board supervisors Jay Luke and Kathryn Kienholz and citizen members Marlin Baillargeon, Joe Cronick, and Gary Dado. Supervisor Kim O'Connell and citizen members Timm Johnson and Gregg Westigard were absent.

Also present was Tim Anderson, Polk County planner.

**Motion by Luke / Dado to approve the agenda; carried by voice vote.**

**Motion by Luke / Kienholz to approve the minutes of the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting; carried by voice vote.**

No public comments.

**Waste oil furnace at the recycling center.**

Baillargeon and Engel reported on their meeting with Mike Volz, Manager of the Polk County Recycling Center, on the possibility of replacing a propane furnace at the center with a waste oil furnace. Even though DNR regulations require a permanent berm around an oil storage tank, the payback on the furnace would still be under three years. Baillargeon and Engel will continue to gather data and prepare a presentation for the property committee, either to replace an existing propane furnace with a waste oil furnace or to have everything in place to replace an existing furnace when it fails. One of the three propane furnaces failed last winter, and the two remaining ones are of the same vintage.

Other items mentioned in connection with the recycling center: Engel will investigate door opening controls that would allow the big door to be opened only part way, thereby limiting heat loss when the door is opened for a small vehicle rather than a large truck. It was mentioned that it should be publicized that county residents can turn in used oil at the recycling center for free; there may be many who are not aware of this.

**Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station.**

Johnson, who was not present, had reported by email that he and the representatives from Kwik Trip had not been able to get together to discuss the next step in having Kwik Trip install a CNG station in Osceola. Kwik Trip is planning to install 18 such stations in the region.

**Electricity usage at the Justice Center.**

Engel and Kienholz reported on their meeting with buildings supervisor Debbie Peterson, her assistant Butch Corson, and county administrator Dana Frey concerning the possibility of installing software from Northwest Electric to monitor electricity usage at the Justice Center.

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Peterson and Corson said they already have similar software from Johnson Controls but have never used it; it will require an upgrade to be functional. They were amenable to getting that software up and running to gather the data necessary to analyze peak demand at the Justice Center.

The committee agreed to invite Peterson to the February meeting to present a progress report with initial data from the software.

**Motion by Baillargeon / Dado to have Tim Anderson look into finding grant funding to have Focus on Energy do a comprehensive audit of electrical usage at the Justice Center to determine the causes of the inordinately and unacceptably high electric bills there (> \$170,000 per year); carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Members of the committee offered comments and observations on recent developments they have learned of. Coors, which has a number of other business lines besides beer, installed six hundred photovoltaic panels on a building in Minneapolis. It has also developed a ceramic battery that can be charged from such panels and could supply a household with electricity for three days. The cost of PV panels has dropped by 40% in the last three years.

Next meeting of the Renewable Energy Committee will be Thursday, December 15 at 3 p.m.

**Motion by Kienholz / Luke to adjourn; carried by voice vote.**

**Adjourned at 4:20 p.m.**

**By:** *Kathryn Kienholz,*  
Acting Secretary