

Northport Energy Action Taskforce, Inc.  
Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2016

Meeting called to order 9:10 AM

Members Attending:

Jim Landes, Steve Smiley, Doug and Ann McInnis, Gene Garthe, Jay Swink, Bill Collins, George Wellman, Phil Loud, Joe DeFors, Jan Rygwelski, Phil Von Voigtlander, Ray Kellogg, Ed Reinert, Jane Gale, Kent Shoemaker, John Todd, Jane and Russ Packard, Rick Foster, Tom Gallery,

**I. Approve Agenda**

**II. Treasurer Report**

Northport Energy Balance: \$1,265.42

**III. Miscellaneous**

**A. Northport School Senior Solar Project**

Caleb Brown's senior project, the installation of a dual-axis solar tracking array for the school took another step forward. Monday the School Board approved \$16,000 for the project. Earlier the LTCF approved a grant request for \$10,00 as well as the Youth Advisory request for \$2,500. This is expected to cover the total cost of the solar system. The next step will be obtaining an electric permit and a Michigan State building permit.

**B. U of M PACE Project**

Currently looking for renewable energy opportunities for businesses interested in the PACE renewable energy program. Potential businesses: Woda, developer of the Munson affordable housing project; farmers (biomass heating), Thomas Milliken (biomass heating & biochar) and Northport Building Supply (solar) to name a few.

The deadline for current REAP 25% grants is April 30<sup>th</sup>. The next round is October 2016.

**C. Trillium Power (John Todd) meeting with Wolverine Power**

John met with Eric Baker of Wolverine in March. The meeting went well but nothing in particular was resolved, however, John felt he established a basis for further discussion regarding a renewable energy "partnership". As far as the PPA which John was seeking it is certain that a rate of 8-9 cents is clearly out of the question given they are able of buying energy from windfarms and other sources at a lower rate.

**D. Cherryland Electric net metering changes**

The Cherryland Board approved a new net metering policy: 11 cents for delivered energy and 3-4 cents for energy returned to the local grid. The new policy will take effect after Nov. 1, 2016. Existing systems will be grand fathered in with true net metering. They will do instantaneous metering - their current meters can handle this. The new policy will significantly extend the payback period and make solar in the Cherryland service area a very poor investment.

What to do with this very unpopular move by Cherryland:

- Need to get organized like Groundwork. Contact Dan Worth, Jim Dulzo to help us come up with a strategy for this issue.
- Have a unique project meeting - bring in Cherryland folks.
- Make presentation at annual meeting on June 23 Grawn.
- Public "opinion" articles from various folks and coming from different perspectives.

Note: The Public Service Commission to establish the fair value of solar at generation point. The value is expected to be in the range of 7-9 cents per kWh.

E. Leelanau Township Storage Building

The plan is to hook up to Consumers Energy. Later on will consider a renewable energy/net metering plan.

F. Residential Energy Audits

Need to get the word out and utilize our future marketing strategy. Potentially ShareCare might provide some people in a training program to open up audits to more folks.

G. Adjust solar panels at the Wastwater Treatment Plant.

Agreed to adjust panels today at 5 PM. What a crew. Steve Smiley, Ray Kellogg, Russ & Jane, Packard, Jim Landes, Phil Loud, Phil Von Voigtlander, Tom Gallery and Doug McInnis adjusted 96 panels in 20 minutes. You could just feel the energy flow