

SUMMARY
4TOWN Solar Project Joint Committee
Dunkirk, Fulton, Porter, Albion
Dunkirk Town Hall – 6:30pm, Wednesday, August 5, 2026

For complete details, see 11-page minutes/notes from this same meeting.

The 4Town Joint Solar Project Committee meeting held at the Dunkirk Town Hall on August 5, 2026, served as a critical joint committee session involving four townships – Dunkirk, Fulton, Albion, and Porter – to meet with EDP Renewables to address the proposed Rock Solar Project.

The meeting was characterized by a “United Front” approach from the Townships and a rigorous questioning of EDP representatives regarding project specifics, local authority, and safety.

Project Specifications & Timeline:

EDP provided updated figures that differed from previous community understanding:

- Capacity – 170 MW total, consisting of 100 MW solar and 70 MW battery storage
- Footprint: Approximately 1000 acres under agreement with roughly four major landowners
- Timeline:
 - Late August 2026 EDP will have their first “sit-down” conversation with PSC
 - Late 2026/Early 2027 EDP will submit CPCN application to Public Service Commission (PSC)
 - Mid 2028 – EDP expects PSC approval (approval process takes approx. one year)
 - 2029 – Targeted completion and operation
- Investment: over \$200 million in capital investment by EDP

Regulating Authority:

Wisconsin law dictates that projects under 100 MW are governed by local zoning, while those 100 MW and over fall under the state PSC’s authority. EDP stated that since the total project is 170 MW, they believe it falls entirely under PSC jurisdiction.

Revenue Sharing:

EDP outlined the state-mandated utility-aid payments that will replace traditional property taxes:

- Annual Payment: Estimated at \$17 million over the life of the project (based on \$5,000 per MW).
- Distribution:
 - Townships: Receive 50% of the \$3,000 MW base payment and 2/3 of the \$2,000 MW capacity payment. *(The detailed minutes explain this more accurately.)*
 - County: Receives the remainder
 - Lease Payments: Landowner payments are confidential but generally involve a “waiting period” (\$50/acre) followed by payments in the high 100s once operational

Key Resident and Committee Concerns:

- Battery Safety: Concerns were raised about the cost and specialized equipment needed for lithium-ion battery fires, noting that a single incident could cost taxpayers millions in specialized suppressants.
- EDP countered that modern chemistry is more stable and they would provide an Emergency Response Plan.

- **Setbacks and Aesthetics:** Neighbors expressed frustration over the lack of guaranteed setbacks. EDP stated the PSC does not have strict solar setbacks (unlike wind) but offered to “mitigate” concerns through tree plantings or layout adjustments on a case-by-case basis.
- **Communication:** EDP was criticized for lack of transparency stating the “train has left the track” and that local municipalities had not been sufficiently consulted.
- **Agrivoltaics:** The committee is pushing for innovative land use, such as sheep grazing or pollinator habitats within the solar panels to preserve the rural character of the Townships.

Strategic Next Steps:

The joint committee and other board members concluded with a focus on maintaining collective bargaining power.

- **Joint Development Agreement (JDA):** The Towns identified the JDA as their primary lever for securing local protections (e.g., road repair bonds, specific setbacks, and fire safety funding).
- **PSC Intervention:** The group discussed drafting a formal statement to the PSC requesting a pause of “extra caution” to allow the towns more time to find answers.

Next Meetings:

August 19 in Albion

September 2 in Fulton

Project Name from Now On: Rock Dane Solar and Storage (formerly Rock Solar)

Developer: EDP Renewables

Key Contact: Jeremy Savala, jeremy.zavala@edp.com, 325.721.2977 (Houston, TX)