

## Leelanau County Energy Futures Taskforce

1/4/24 Minutes

Present: Bronwyn Jones, Lois Bahle, Russ Packard, Steve Ruddell, Tom VanPelt, Lisa Brookfield, Kama Ross, Gwenne Allgaier, Joe DeFors

Absent: Courtney Hessel, John Dinda, Eric Gustad, Melinda Lautner, Peter Wolcott,

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Joe DeFors at 10:40 am.

We began in general collective session.

Two speakers have been booked for the educational benefit of both the task force members and the public. Previously the group had chosen Wednesdays, 3-5pm as the ideal times. Events will be at the Leland Library

Mr. Frank Siepker, chief engineer of Cherryland Electric will be speaking on "How the Grid Works" on February 20.

Mr. Gregg Holladay will be speaking on Air to Air hot water heating on July 16th.

We'd like to schedule a speaker between the two above. The suggestion was made that April 22 is Earth Day, would be nice to find someone for that topic. Joe is willing to be a speaker in April if we don't find another. He would talk on Clean Energy 101, the Facts and Myths.

Our regular July meeting falls on the 4th. After discussion, the group moved it to Tuesday, July 2.

Workgroups then reported in.

The Energy Efficiency workgroup was complimented on their fine article that was published in the Senior Services publication. We will have this opportunity on a regular basis. This goes out to over 6,000 households.

Joe Reported for the Clean Transportation workgroup. There seem to be opportunities for grant funding of chargers in Empire and Suttons Bay through the Lake Michigan Circuit program. But they are having trouble making a connection with the grant contacts. Also discussed the possibility of working with the Tribe through Courtney to install level II or higher chargers at the Casino. It seems a natural location, on M22 and central on the peninsula. They have also been meeting with County department heads to identify whether there are opportunities for them to move to EV or hybrid vehicles which would be expected to save the county both on fuel and maintenance expenses.

Russ Packard reported for the Clean Projects workgroup. Working is continuing on a grant application for solar to serve the County Government Center complex. Russ is

handling the practical side of the project for now, Joe the application work. They have met with facility director Jerry Culman who has been very helpful. There will be a contractor walk-through day scheduled to interested parties can see the facility first hand. At least three solar installation companies have expressed an interest in the project. They have had talks with both local health department officials and EGLE regarding researching some ground now designated as reserved drainfield. This research continues. They are also in contact with representatives from MSU which has huge solar covered parking to better learn about this possibility and their experience.

Discussions concluded, the attendees broke into workgroups for further work.

No public in attendance, no comment offered.

Meeting adjourned 11:30pm.