

Minutes - LC Energy Futures Task Force
Thursday, March 7, 2024

Members Present - John Dindia, Gwenne Allgaier, Steve Ruddell, Peter Walcott, Lois Bahle, Russ Packard, Bronwyn Jones, Joe DeFors, Kama Ross. Phil Dutton (Guest)

Previous February minutes reviewed and revised - Joe will wait until this afternoon for any corrections then email to Gwenne who will forward to County Clerk for their records as required.

Next Thursday, March 14, 10:30 am, Leelanau Energy is hosting Harvest Energy speaker on Solar Energy 101 at Leland Twp. Library. Open to the public.

Need for communications member to help us promote events. Joe is currently doing and seeks help. Desire to have PDF for sharing on social media.

Reviewed Energy Grid workshop with Frank Siepker from CEC - well received and just what the group had hoped for. 34 people in attendance - good mix of local residents.

We are tasks with educating ourselves, so bring what we have recently learned to the group informally. Reopening of Palisades/Wolverine Nuclear Plant will be costly and hope is that the idea is economically feasible for Cherryland and the other utilities. \$1.5 Billion projected to re-open the plant - unknown why so high. Leelanau Energy has never supported or not, nuclear energy. The group is behind "Clean" energy. News in today's news discussion reminds us of big new energy sucks bitcoin and computers for AI put a lot of pressure on electric generation.

Betsy Coffia will be hosting a live coffee hour at the Leelanau County Government Building on Monday, March 11, noon to 1 pm. Lois offered that it is an excellent time to make public comment about MI energy legislation.

Joe shared a graph of Greenhouse Gases, solar panel installations projected through 2034, he found in the news recently. Solid Waste graph showing Solar Panel waste is a small fraction of other categories in waste stream.

Mis-information, even within our group, we need to discuss when we find narrow facts and rebut them in a respectful and appropriate manner. Watch your sources and research widely the credibility of your sources.

Sub-Group Updates:

1 - Energy Efficiency and Education

Kama - utility company energy audits are great - experienced Consumers Energy came to her house, \$270 in LED bulbs free and installed by employee, lots of great ideas and testing and freebies. Next LCSS newsletter coming out this week with local energy efficiency article (look for). April 22nd workshop looks to be great on microplastics -

help promote once a pdf flyer is emailed to all. Kama will connect with TACPS about vocational ed. opportunities for energy technical education leading to careers in the industry. Bronwyn - NMC Energy Technician certification - in process Construction Technology, Renewable Certificate of Achievement Level 2, Electrical and HVAC tacked on. Carolyn Andrews is the Coordinator.

Lois - spoke with Habitat for Humanity contractor about struggles to be as carbon neutral as possible but supply is difficult. Demand is high for energy efficiency units.

2 - Clean Transportation

Joe - Some discussion of projects for GTB/casino. Courtney not here today.

3 - Clean Energy

Joe- Solar Array grant in, was a little surprised with the number of applications with the short open period, if Public Comment is a positive, Joe will let us know. Not understood right now.

Energy Efficiency and Education Sub Discussion:

1 - how do we reach out to builders/architects/developers to support energy efficiency in new and remodel construction in Leelanau County. Kama will reach out to Home Builders Association of NW MI - hbagta.com - they have a "Build a Better House Series" - see if we can support with speakers or printed information. Find out what their status and needs are. Bronwyn will reach out again to NMC building trades department for support needs. Kama will reach out to Amber, Dept. Head at LC Building Codes.

2 - Next LCSS newsletter article for May issue (due first week of April) will be about " best tips for coping with and even thriving during a power outage.". Everyone is to submit ideas to Bronwyn within the coming weeks before the end of March. Will include an update on Kama's Cons. Energy Audit results as a bulleted update. Maybe touch on Composting as a way to reduce waste hauler bills if there is a workshop planned to promote.

Kama Ross/Joe DeFors for EFTF