

Leelanau County Energy Futures Taskforce

April 4, 2024 Minutes

Members Present: Joe DeFors, Gwenne Allgaier, Kama Ross, Lois Bahle, Steve Ruddell, Peter Wolcott, Bronwyn Jones, Courtney Hessel, Lisa Brookfield

Guest: Bob LaPorte

General Announcements:

Lois Bahle shared Groundworks promotion of solar projects, they are seeking finance partners. Offers a group buy program which makes solar more affordable for residents. We may invite a rep to tell us more about their program to a future meeting.

Program Energy Briefs: Other less discussed types of clean energy. Presented by Joe DeFors

- Hydropower. Ludington facility one of the largest facility in US and the world.
- Hydrogen - 75% of the mass in the Universe. On earth abundantly found in water. Color categories by how and from what energy source water (H₂O) is split (electrolysis) to get the free hydrogen molecule. "Green Hydrogen" uses clean energy to split.
- Geothermal - having a reveal of sorts, oil & gas industry interested because of their drilling expertise and ownership of abandoned existing wells. Currently 1% of US energy production.
- Bio energy - wood-crops-agriculture
 - Bio mass - veg oils, animal fats, trash
 - Bio fuels - sewage, manure

Workgroup Reports:

- Clean Transportation: Tribe may move forward in applying for EV Charger grant. Joe may prepare a short program on this grant for the May meeting. Members should look in our townships for possible places/boards that may be interested in this rolling grant before the June deadline.

- Energy Efficiency: Possible topic for public presentation - Home Electrification (might Eric Gustad from Consumers have a speaker on this topic? Joe will contact). Third article submitted to LC Senior Services for their Connections newsletter. Article planned every other month. Great content, well received, EFTF members very impressed.

- Projects. Financing details of solar grant discussed, a meeting will be arranged with Interim Finance Director, Treasurer, Joe, Gwenne, Kama to discuss concerns/details.

Breakout into workgroups.

Public Comment:

Robert LaPorte - asked if he should share info on grants he finds in his biochar work.
Encouraged to do so.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Mtg - 5/2/24