

Leelanau County Energy Futures Task Force

June 6, 2024

9:30 am

Members Present: Bronwyn Jones, Tom Van Pelt, Russ Packard, Lois Bahle, Steve Ruddell, Courtney Hessel, Joe DeFors, Kama Ross

Guests: Jill Wellman, Dana Getsinger, Bob LaPorte, Susan Wheadon, Barb , Doug MacInnis

Welcome, review of public comment at the end of meeting (2 minute limit)

May meeting minutes - Steve Ruddell will send corrections (carbon credits, item on June meeting) consensus approval of draft minutes

Next meeting discussion - Tuesday, July 2, 9:30 am here at Leland (if available) - because of July 4th holiday.

Discussion of media coverage of solar grant and OMA requirements led by Chair DeFors. We will comply with OMA voluntarily. Bronwyn shared that Administrative expenses are standard operating procedures for most grant applications. Clarification that Joe wanted everyone on the Task Force to be well informed of this issue.

Reviewed Rebutting 33 False Claims About Aolar, Wind, and Elective Vehicles article from Columbia law School that was emailed out.

Credited Cherryland Electric with good handouts in the company lobby (Benefits of Electric Vehicles).

New Grant - Community Energy Management Program from EGLE

Explained grant process for BOC approval. Grant submission is on the June 11 Executive Meeting of the BOC for final approval on June 18. Lois Bahle recommended that we seek support from the Planning Commission. Joe will ask Steve Yoder as Chair of the LC Planning Commission for support for this grant application before the June 11th meeting. Should hear results from grant within a month of submission.

Energy Briefs - Discussion: EV Charging for Leelanau

Difficulty of building enough public charging stations throughout the state and especially along the main transportation corridors. Leelanau County lands in the third level of corridors (M-22) - not a high priority. Research paper out about LC having the highest per capita of EV miles driven (Steve Ruddell will send out article again to the members.). Another round of federal grants for charging stations was recently issued. Two sections to the grant: LC would be eligible Community Charging and Fueling Grants. Courtney shared that there might be a re-issuance of a Coastal Grant that EV charging along M-22 might qualify for. 80% grant with 20% local match. Idea to offer the "opportunity" to townships through this grant on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Group Reports -

Energy Efficiency - LC Senior Services - "tips on keeping cool" 200 word article for their newsletter will be submitted tomorrow for July publication. Leland School "evergreen" status as a Green Certified School.

Clean Transportation - Courtney will be submitting grant for two EV fast charging units at Casino soon.

Projects - no new report

What does Public Act 235 cover? Do we take a position or answer local questions/concerns?

Do we just refer residents to MPSC, Dan Scripps or other state agency. If we keep to an educational fact sheet without taking a position that might be helpful and not controversial. Is this appropriate for us to provide? Education is our Task Force's number one goal. Steve will circulate his updated white paper about carbon credits on solar to our members. Decision coming about hosting a public educational meeting.

Public Comment:

Susan Wheadon, Centerville Twp. - has a solar array, member of NMEAC, working with local churches on climate change actions

Doug McInnis, Leelanau Twp., - net metering project at Government Center

Break into Work Groups

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 9:30 am Leland Library (changed from July 4th)

Submitted by Kama Ross (Gwenne Allgaier not in attendance)

Sent from my iPad