

October 3, 2017  
Washburn Town Hall

Next meeting is scheduled for October 10 at 6PM in the lower level of the Washburn Library.

Updates on Action Items from 9/26 meeting

### **Sub-marine Cable:**

Bob Adams has communicated Travis Lake from Durocher Marine located in Cheboygan, MI. (a division of Kokosing Industrials from Ohio.) They are a company that is capable of laying this cable. They laid the cable between Bayfield and Madeline Island in 2003. Durocher is interested in having their engineers meet with Xcel's engineers and Cheq Bay Renewable to delve deeper into this issue. There will also be a representative from the cable manufacturing company. They are prepared to meet sometime in the next couple of weeks.

Bob has communicated this to Chris Bubolz (Xcel Project Manager for the transmission line) who said he wants Xcel's engineers to develop their own plan prior to meeting with Durocher.

As part of the project price, Durocher would help to secure all the necessary permits to lay the cable, though we are going to continue to look into what that process entails as part of our study group.

- Bill Route and Jay Glase have been in communication with the DNR and the Army Core of Engineers requesting information. To date, there has been no response.
  - Representative Beth Meyers said that her office can help get answers from any state agency.

Bill Baily (CBR) was asked if the sub-marine cable did NOT go through, could the solar array still be considered for the generation piece of the project and he thought it could be.

Bill has heard from Xcel recently about a 1 megawatt community solar project that has been in the planning process. They have requested he present them with pricing ASAP, which has been a change in their previously slower timeline. Xcel is now considering placing this south of Ashland rather in the Bayfield area where it could play a more pivotal role in the larger solar option for the peninsula. This is a concern.

### **Public Service Commission (PSC)**

It will be important to anticipate arguments that may be put forward by the PSC and develop clear responses and alternatives to these arguments.

- **Action Item:** This can be a focus for our group. Our website would be a good place to post the questions/arguments that need research.
- **Action Item:** Need someone to research the PSC website to learn more about what their arguments might be.

## Website for BPEA

Mike Sterner had done a remarkable job it putting a website together. Kudos.

<http://bayfieldenergyalternatives.org>

### Action Items:

- The mission statement is being developed. The drafts of it will be emailed and input is requested to get it concise and clear. It will help guide our efforts
  - If you are interested in working on this, email [info@bayfieldenergyalternatives.org](mailto:info@bayfieldenergyalternatives.org)
- A vision statement is also needed.
  - If you are interested in working on this, email [info@bayfieldenergyalternatives.org](mailto:info@bayfieldenergyalternatives.org)
- We need content for the “About” page that describes what we are trying to accomplish as a group. When someone new to the issue lands on this page, we want them to be able to readily understand the issue.
  - Susan will work on this.
- We need a rough timeline of what we have accomplished to date and where we are headed.
  - Lorraine will work on this.
- Photos are needed that demonstrate the beauty of the area, particularly around the proposed transmission line.
  - Submit these to [info@bayfieldenergyalternatives.org](mailto:info@bayfieldenergyalternatives.org)
- Our site needs links to other related sites such as communities who have gone solar and to other pertinent information that can further the understanding of our mission
  - Submit these to [info@bayfieldenergyalternatives.org](mailto:info@bayfieldenergyalternatives.org)

### County Board

- They want to hear from us about our progress prior to January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. We should plan on making a report at their November 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
  - We will present our report during the public comment time at the meeting. The chairman did not want this as an agenda item at this time.
  - We need to put a report together. Who will work on this?

### Getting the word out to more citizens

- Hope McCloud has been contacted and she is willing to write articles when we have something news worthy.
- Everyone is encouraged to write letters to the editor of the Daily Press to keep the issue in the news.
- Xcel sent the notice of the Transmission Project to everyone along the proposed route. They are not willing to share those addresses but **may** be willing to send out a letter that we generate informing these citizens of the issue.
  - Wendy will work on getting addresses of these people so we can reach out directly.
- All for the Town Boards were contacted asking if they could send representatives from their Towns to participate in the study group. To date, Eileen said they would put it on their agenda and Bayfield has found two representatives from their Town. There was someone in the audience from Bayview who is willing to be their rep.
- The topic of doing a petition was tabled for now until the mission statement gets solidified.

### **Researching the use of the existing right-of-way for the transmission line**

- Someone will contact Mike BeBeau from Xcel to get access to this information
- There are questions regarding this that have been posed to Xcel. Once those answers are sent to us, we will have a better understanding of what the issues are from Xcel's point of view.

### **Alternative routes for transmission line**

- Wendy will check into the National Forest to find out more about that option.
- This needs more study. If interested in helping with this aspect, email [info@bayfieldenergyalternatives.org](mailto:info@bayfieldenergyalternatives.org)

### **Meetings going forward**

We will keep the meetings to no longer than 1.5 hours, shooting for just an hour. Agendas will be sent out in advance.

- We need someone to take minutes. If interested email [info@bayfieldenergyalternatives.org](mailto:info@bayfieldenergyalternatives.org)

### **Summary of Action Items**

- PSC arguments and responses. This can be a focus for our group. Our website would be a good place to post the questions/arguments that need research.
- Need someone to research the PSC website to learn more about what their arguments might be.
- Mission and vision statements
- Develop "about us" page for website
- Develop timeline for website
- Links for website
- Photos for website
- Contact Mike BeBeau for info on current transmission line
- Write letters to editor
- Get addresses of mailing list used by Xcel for people along proposed transmission route
- Volunteers needed to study alternative routes for transmission line
- Develop report to present to County Board