

Bayfield Peninsula Energy Alternatives
Meeting Minutes December 18, 2017
Washburn Public Library

Review of meetings attended in the last 2 weeks:

--12/7 Those assigned to present at Town Meetings met with Kim Bro to review criteria/ranking

--12/7 meeting of Ed Gruhl, Bill Bailey, Bob Owen, Bob Adams, Roy Settgas, Kim Bro, & Wendy Stein regarding electrical details, solar, etc.

--12/11 Town of Bayfield Planning Commission meeting attended by Roy and Bob Adams: introduced statement of support; commission unanimously supported and engaged in dialog; should pass at upcoming Town meeting

--12/11 Forestry Committee meeting attended by several people who spoke asking the committee to delay any decision until after the County Board meets on 1/30/18; Chris Buboltz presented existing route details; Committee granted provisional approval of existing route to use Bayfield County forest land

--12/12 Town meetings: Bayview & Washburn signed the Statement of Support for the transmission line ranking process; there was confusion at Bayview & Washburn about generation vs transmission; Eileen and Barksdale supported but did not sign as it was not listed appropriately on their agendas

--12/14 Bayfield County Executive Committee Meeting attended by Roy & Bob Adams; explained criteria/ranking tool; County would like something in writing to inform other board members; asked questions; positive result; Xcel rep was also at meeting discussing solar farm; the irony is we can't get transmission and solar folks talking to each other. Xcel wants to put solar farm on own land and also wants \$400,000 from Bayfield County; Xcel told us to work with Mike Bebeau

Miscellaneous Discussions:

--Chad Abel lives on Bjork Rd. – existing line is near his house; if parallel poles used line would run on both sides of his house

--Bob Adams explained that existing line is typically considered for any transmission upgrade; required to be considered by PSC, Xcel, etc.; Xcel still plans to upgrade existing line at some point

--Is there a need for 2nd line? Discussed how repair could start on existing line from Iron River to Bayfield

Ryan & Moya just returned from Conserve School and have been tasked with doing a community project – they chose this transmission line project; they are attending this meeting to learn more about the project; they will be going to Superior Days – February 20th – could ask questions of PSC;

Planning for UW Extension Round Table: Jason Fischbach is looking at late January or beginning of February; panelists may include BPEA, Xcel (possibly president of a division); Tim Baye (UW Extension); perhaps this is route to get some questions answered; is this the venue for Kim to discuss ranking process? Ian Meeker will let us know the date. **(UPDATE: Round Table scheduled for Tuesday**

Feb 6th. Patrick Dalton is going to be present from Xcel (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/patrick-dalton-3b545015>.)

Actions:

- Written piece to entire Bayfield County Board explaining criteria/ranking – Would Kim do this with Criteria Committee (Lorraine, Phil, Jim Miller); Executive Committee said to get it to County Board ASAP; Lorraine & Phil will contact Kim (**UPDATE:** on 12/22 Roy sent to county administrator Mark Abeles-Allison, the piece Kim Bro put out on 12/12 as a draft for “December Progress Report & Recommendations”)
- Reach out to Mike Bebeau individually to see if he wants to participate more– Roy will call
- Set up meeting with Xcel (Chris, Ellen & Jason) prior to 1/30; Bob will inform Mike Bebeau and let him set up if he wants to (**UPDATE:** Bob Adams spoke to Chris Buboltz and tentatively set a date of January 17th at 6pm; Xcel would like questions in advance so they can be prepared)
- Compile list of questions for Xcel & PSC and hone down our questions; organize and prioritize
- Mike will share Google docs link with Ed.
- Need proposal for County - could polish Bob Owen’s ideas to give to County board prior to January 30th; speaks to need and other ways to achieve.
- At what point is this newsworthy for Duluth TV station? Maybe at round table?
- January 8th – Washburn City Council meeting (must request to be on agenda by 12/26); provide update on project and ask to sign statement of support (not assigned to anyone)
- City of Bayfield – will put BPEA on agenda in January

Next meeting: January 2, 2018; 6pm at Washburn Public Library – Wendy reserve library

Wendy Stein
Notetaker