

# Sargent County Development Authority

## Minutes

Date of Meeting: 5-30-06 Time:5:30 pm

Location of Meeting: Sargent County Courthouse

**PRESENT:** Bob Cookson, Ron Narum, Sandy Hanson, Lu Dorr, Bill Anderson

Also present: Maurice Orn, Don Frye, Pam Gulleon

**Meeting Called to Order:** Ron Narum

**Minutes of Last Meeting Presented:** Draft minutes reviewed by board. Bob/Lu to approve minutes as printed. Motion Carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob reported \$31,600.16 in the JDA account.

## Committee Reports:

Images- Did Lake Agassiz put a judgement on Chuck Gates?

## OLD BUSINESS

**Wind Energy Tour-**Pam Gulleon will assist JDA in getting this set up.

**Revenue for JDA-**Ron Narum and Jerry Erickson met with the SC Commission to request interest from Waswick Loan and The Four Season's Nursing Home come back to the JDA as a continued revenue source. At the 5-1-06 commission meeting commission approved this request.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Don Frye, Ottertail Power Co.- Economic Development Consultant with Ottertail Power, assists Otter Tail in selling ND to Business and Economic Development Interests.**

Don asked group what our interests in Wind energy were and where we hope to see this go in future?

Response: Possible investment in Test Site currently located in Jackson Twp; Potential for future test sites in Sargent County; zoning & policies for twps & county. Don proceeded with information regarding wind energy development, Pam assisted with contact information and offer of assistance. The following information is strictly conversation and not all conversation is probably included or may be exactly correctly understood in this overview.

"Don explained location of the Tower located on west side of County is approximately 125 feet tall. Recording device every 25 ft. Measures for consistency, effececncy, velocity. Over the average a tower needs to be producing 25% of every hour to be considered cost beneficial. At this time it is financed by a grant and Oakes Enhancement Group.

Pam- stated that Kim Christensen working for the Energy Division of the Department of Commerce has potential grants available for feasibility studies. A letter of Interest would need to be drawn up and submitted. If we decide at some point to financially assist or buyin to this current study, A letter of agreement should be drawn up with Oakes Enhancement providing us a place at their table to be a player in decision making and the entire process. A web page is available to look at the wind map developed by EERC for the state of ND. <http://www.undeerc.org/wind/states/ND.asp> EERC materialized map working with different entities and gathering a lot of information & putting it all together.

Jay Haley is the person to work with to get connected with the developers.

Don-Lake Agassiz may have examples of zoning maps, but would check further than those to make sure all rights are protected in the best interest of all. Kim Christenson may have some examples of zoning & policies that could be useful. MN has a model zoning example. MN's was created on the legislative level.

Wind energy is still more expensive than coal. The tax credits are main drivers for investors. Tax Credits are not consistent. The Green credits are critical for power companies. Only so much wind can be put on the current power systems because there is only so much room. When a system is full it is full. Another problem with wind is it is not a consistent producing energy like coal.

Pam-EERC is the Energy Environmental Resource Center in Grand Forks. It was initially developed by grants and now is sustained by its own work, some grants, and contract work. It is known nation wide and has customers around the world.

Don- currently a 3m product is being tested to upgrade current transmission lines for additional capacity. It is being tested in Fargo. EERC is testing power storage with battery type mechanisms. The testing area of the present tower is not known off the top of head. It is dependent on topography of land. Life expectancy of a tower is 30 years. Around \$3-4,000 a year for landowners in lease or rent. Also a big boost for property taxes. Ottertail has several wind generator sites in ND & is looking to add additional sites in MN & ND.

Things the JDA Could do to stay involved if they so wish to:

- Get Tour arranged of Edgeley Kulm system- Pam & Sandy

- Take ownership

- Appoint a person to be the contact person & in charge of project follow through. Appoint a second person to work with first person so more than one knows what is going on. Keep JDA informed. This is very time intensive. Need to have a real interest in this.

- Look for zoning examples- Pam will forward information or connection to information

- Get a letter of agreement drafted – Pam will forward information regarding letter. SC States Attorney will work on this if directed by Commission.

- Responsibility for area cleanup after expiration of contracts. Back to pre-existing condition.

- Education of public and Landowners

- Need to be very careful of speculators-Need legal advice for protection of landowners & others.

Keep Pam Gulleon, Don Frye, Jay Haley close in movement ahead process. They are a world of knowledge and assistance.

With nothing further Don left the meeting.

With no further business, Meeting was adjourned.