

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 15, 2011
Administrative Center, 400 N. 4th St., B390
5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tara Johnson, Jill Billings, Vicki Burke, Steve Doyle, Sharon Hampson, Don Meyer, Marilyn Pedretti, Roger Plesha, Charles Spiker

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Bill Shepherd, Jeff Schroeder, Maureen Freedland, Leon Pfaff, Dave Holtze, Betsy Bloom, Toni Yeske, Joe Morse, Brad Walker, George Nygaar, Travis Simpson, Michael Banashak, Mike Herro, Jan Contreras, Duane A. Teschler, Beverly Brady, David Brady, Peter VanLaarhoven, Maureen McCollum, Dae Miles

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was received from the following:

- Toni Yeske, W1527 CTH A, Mindoro, spoke about devaluation of property values, and favoring local, renewable energy. She presented almost 800 petition signatures opposing the CapX2020 project; 69% are from La Crosse County residents.
- Michael Banashak, W5740 Baker Rd., Holmen, spoke about health and safety issues, decline in property values, and no demonstrated need for the power lines. He urged the committee to investigate and be informed.
- David Brady, N6378 CTH XX, Holmen, spoke about his concern regarding cancer and exposure to electromagnetic fields, and said that the power lines will be too close to schools.
- Travis Simpson, 320 N. Cherry Ln., Holmen, cited the American Journal of Epidemiology claims of chronic health problems resulting from electromagnetic field exposure, and also spoke about loss of scenic beauty and property values. He said a .5% population growth prediction does not match the claim for future energy use.
- Mike Herro, representing Xcel Energy, stated that the Resolution was short-sighted and made false statements, and cited electromagnetic field language and rate payments claims. He stated that if the project was not done, there would be a proposal for another project, and that not going through with it would create the potential for brown-outs, jeopardize regional reliability, and inhibit development and growth. He said there were various route options, and that one of the routes does not go by the high school. He noted there have been numerous public meetings, and that two public hearings are scheduled. For clear information, he referred to the Public Service Commission website.
- Dae Miles, 1915 State St., La Crosse, questioned how many windmills could be built with the same resources to be used on high voltage power lines, and spoke about focusing on local energy projects instead.
- Leon Pfaff, County Board supervisor from the Farmington area, stated that the Farmington Town Board unanimously adopted a resolution to oppose the project, and estimated that at least 90-95% of residents have expressed opposition.

RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSING AND REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING CAPX2020 AND ATC APPLICATIONS FOR A 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

The Resolution opposes the proposed CapX2020 345 kV high voltage power line, which would crisscross La Crosse County, and disrupt natural habitats, farm land, and scenic areas, condemn private property for easements, and place lines within 75

feet of residences, businesses, or schools. The Resolution calls into question the need for the line since energy demand has declined significantly since 2006, and requests the following: Further public hearings by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission; further information to support the perceived need; action on Wisconsin's energy policy including energy efficiency efforts and local ownership of energy generation; and an independent study of adverse health effects of the electromagnetic field. Supervisor Hampson asked Mike Herro if any public hearings were to be held in La Crosse, and he replied that there were none planned since the line would terminate north of Holmen, and that hearing locations are determined by the State of Wisconsin. Supervisor Pedretti stated that the Public Service Commission has questioned the correlation between sufficient population growth and energy demand. **MOTION** by Hampson/Pedretti to approve the Resolution Re: Opposing and Requesting Additional Information Regarding CapX2020 and ATC Applications for a 345 kV Transmission Line Project. **Motion carried 8-0-1.** Meyer abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Burke/Plesha to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Approved, January 11, 2012, Margaret Norden, Recorder