

**Town of La Pointe
Energy Committee
Wednesday June 28, 2023
10 am at Town Hall/Zoom
Minutes**

Members present: Larry Bean (Chair), Zach Montagne, Scott Hayman, Lilah Guertin
Members absent: Robin Trinko-Russell and Craig Buttke
Public present: Amy Simpkins and Laura Novak, muGrid Analytics
Bill Bailey, Cheq Bay Renewables

1. Call to order/Roll Call

The Energy Committee meeting was called to order by Larry Bean, Chair.

2. Public Comment - None

3. Minutes of the following Energy Committee meetings to be considered for approval:

A. November 9, 2022

Motion by Zach to approve above minutes, seconded by Larry, all ayes. Motion Carried.

4. Membership

A. Welcome new members. The chair introduced Craig, Lilah and Scott.

B. New committee chair. Larry announced he will step down from the committee. He intends to continue attending meetings when he is available.

C. Brief review of the committee history. Larry gave a brief history of the committee's 15 years: it started with the goal of sustainability in general. Investigated possibility of powering entire island with wind or solar. Wind was not feasible: There was only one potential location; would have required expensive equipment and road infrastructure just for installation, and presented potential noise issues. Focus turned to solar arrays, which have been installed at library and clinic, town hall, and MRF. (ESB array was not replaced after previous building burned down.) Now working on microgrids.

5. Committee development priorities

Amy and Bill outlined US Department of Energy's ERA grant program (Energy for Rural Areas). Pre-application is due July 13; if selected, application would be due Oct. 12. There is no local match; projects must range from \$500,000-\$5 million. For this round, Town could pursue town cluster microgrid (town hall, library, clinic and potentially school building), ESB microgrid, EV charging stations, workforce development to reach minimum project size. muGrid willing to submit pre-application pro bono, but would charge roughly \$8,000 if selected to submit final application.

Amy and Bill also updated town cluster microgrid project developments. Right now, Xcel Energy's RS1 tariff charges \$450 monthly fee; rate case at Public Service Commission would reduce that to \$80. muGrid's partnership with Strychen on flow battery demonstration project has pre-selection interview July 13 on federal long-duration energy storage application, which they see as a good sign.

6. Ashland County EV charging station project

Work group meets July 20. Bill has mapped out potential locations throughout Ashland County. Potential sites in La Pointe include town hall, BBTP, town shops, museum, marina and rec center. There is lots of funding available.

7. Recommendations to Town Board

Zach moves recommendation that Town Board authorizes committee to file pre-application for ERA grant, with understanding that if accepted, muGrid will be paid for final application. Lilah seconds. All ayes, motion carries.

8. Public Comment - None

9. Set next meeting and agenda

Next meeting scheduled for Monday July 10 at 10 a.m. Agenda will be review of pre-application draft.

10. Adjourn.

There being no further business, Larry adjourned meeting.

Minutes taken from committee notes and submitted by Dorgene Goetsch, Clerical Assistant.
Minutes approved as presented 10/9/23. D. Goetsch, Clerical Assistant