

Several Local Sites Eyed by Developers as Potential Wind Energy Producers

Wind: From page 1

Recent state legislation, which mandates that at least 10% all Michigan energy suppliers' output be produced from renewable resources by 2015, has spurred increased interest in wind power throughout both peninsulas as well as on the water.

According to a report released October 1 by the Land Policy Institute at Michigan State University, Michigan's portion of the Great Lakes has the capacity to produce 322,000 megawatts of electricity from wind energy, 13 times as much energy as Michigan actually uses during peak use times. The Land Policy Institute was founded in 2006 and focuses on the research of land use and strategic growth in the economy.

"This result has the potential to elevate Michigan's wind energy profile nationally and internationally because the resource available is significant," Dr. Soji Adelaja, director of the Land Policy Institute, said in a statement. "Michigan is one of the few states with the opportunity to generate wind power from its off-shore areas."

Michigan touches four of the Great Lakes and controls 40% of the lakes' surface area.

The new legislation is expected to save Michigan consumers and businesses \$1.04 billion a year by 2025, according to the office of Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Research on environmental, technology, and aesthetic concerns need to be addressed before any turbines will be seen off Michigan shorelines. Studies would also make sure fishing and shipping patterns are not disturbed by underwater transmission lines.

"Our wind potential is some of the highest in the state," Mr. Nelson said.

Winds offshore and along the shorelines of lakes Michigan, Superior and portions of Huron have the highest rating in the state for wind turbines 50 meters or taller, according to a wind power density map made by AWS Truewind, a wind energy activist group from Albany, New York. On the map, coastal regions are rated higher than inland winds for much of the state. Maps of optimal wind density for turbines of different heights can be seen on the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth Web site.

The proposed wind sites in both counties have the same wind density rating, according to the map.

While the development site in Chippewa County is more than 11 times larger than the site in Mackinac County, developers at both sites are planning to erect a similar number of windmills.

The site in Hendricks Township will probably have two different size turbines which will stand 250 to 400 feet tall and require two-and-a-half acres of land each, Mr. Bundy said. He said he doesn't understand why only 20 turbines are being planned for the 1,500-acre site in Raber and DeTour townships.

If zoning requirements are the same in Raber and DeTour Townships, the site has the capability of housing up to 600 turbines.

"The whole [eastern U.P.] is in the wind tunnel. This is just the tip of the iceberg," he said.

There is an overwhelmingly positive response, about 90% of those polled, from township residents, Mr. Nelson said.

"We actually did a poll in our township and a majority of our people were in favor of it," he said. "We found very little public opposition."

"They've really done their homework over there. There's a lot of potential in this area," said Michelle Walk, Michigan State University Extension director in Mackinac County, who speculated that the area could someday offer vocational training to maintain wind turbines.

Other wind projects in Mackinac County have been looked into, but never came to

fruition.

In the past decade, St. Ignace Area Schools has been approached by two developers to erect a series of turbines in the adjacent field west of the school buildings on Portage Road, Superintendent Michael Springsteen said.

He said presentations were made and consent was given to study the land, but developers in both instances ended communications with the school board.

The school board "is open to the possibility if it's economically plausible," he said.

December Meeting Expected To Yield Decision on Commuter Tolls

Bridge: From page 1

Rico, and 162 in Canada. Residents of Mackinac, Chippewa, Cheboygan, and Emmet counties hold about 35% of the cards in circulation. People living near the bridge are the ones who cross most frequently, Mr. Sweeney said.

The increase in commuter card minimum purchases from \$40 to \$80 this summer was to help weed out individuals who abuse the commuter card system, Mr. Sweeney said.

State Representative Gary McDowell wrote a letter to the Authority in September asking it to

reverse the minimum purchase increase.

"In these difficult economic times, an \$80 minimum is simply too much to ask of our working families," he wrote.

He suggested the MBA instead place an expiration date on commuter cards to discourage infrequent travelers from purchasing commuter cards.

Mr. Sweeney said committee members seem to be favoring that course of action.

"We certainly don't want to make it inconvenient for customers if they are crossing that often," he said.

Similarly, Sand Products Corporation in Moran Township was approached in recent years by wind developer Mackinaw Power L.L.C., which erected the two turbines in Mackinaw City in 2001.

The attorney for Sand Products, Prentiss "Moie" Brown Jr., of Brown and Brown in St. Ignace, said studies were conducted, but no action to develop was taken. Mackinaw Wind Power studied more than 1,400 acres on the north side of Sand Products' property, about five miles north of US-2 in Brevort.

About a year and a half ago, he

said, the developer contacted Sand Products to indicate they were still interested in the land.

"There still has to be definitive locations and talk," Mr. Brown said. "Nothing has been decided at this stage."

Last week, *The St. Ignace News* reported the city of Holland is researching a 1,500-acre site in Raber and DeTour townships; potentially a \$140 million development to build 20 wind turbines. Holland officials are conducting a one-year study on the site to decide if they will pursue the wind farm development.

Committee member and MBA Chairman William Gnodtke said the meeting was just to discuss possible options and no decision was made.

"Nobody made any motions or advanced any proposals," he told *The St. Ignace News*. "It's all information gathering at this point."

Restricting card access by location and setting an expiration date on the cards were the only two ideas on the table, Mr. Gnodtke said.

Whatever the Authority decides about commuter qualifications or restrictions, the commuter fare will increase 10¢ on January 1, from \$1.60 to \$1.70 per crossing, and

will continue to increase 10¢ every year until 2014. Toll rates for non-commuter passenger cars will also increase 50¢ every two years until 2014, making the eventual bridge fare \$4.50 per passenger car by 2014.

Attending the committee meeting last week were committee members Murray Wikol and Bob Struck, along with Mr. Gnodtke and Mr. Sweeney. Another meeting will be scheduled, most likely in November, when the committee is expected to make a recommendation for the full board to act on.

The seven-member Mackinac Bridge Authority will meet in St. Ignace Friday, December 12.

Pediatricians Share Trick or Treating Safety Tips for Children

The American Academy of Pediatrics and DeVos Children's Hospital recommend the following Halloween safety guidelines:

- Costume Safety**
 - Wear bright and reflective costumes. Make sure shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping.
 - Add reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.
 - Masks can limit or block eyesight. Consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives. Hats should fit properly to prevent them from sliding over eyes.
 - Purchase costumes, wigs and accessories that are flame resistant.
 - If a sword, cane, or stick is a part of your child's costume, make sure it is not sharp or too long. A child may be easily hurt by these

accessories if he or she trips.

- Purchase new batteries for flashlights for all children and their escorts.

- Dress for the weather. Michigan weather changes rapidly.

- Welcoming Trick or Treaters**

- To keep homes safe for visiting trick-or-treaters, parents should remove garden hoses, toys, bicycles, and lawn decorations from the porch and front yard.

- Parents should check outdoor lights and replace burned-out bulbs.

- Wet leaves should be swept from sidewalks and steps.

- Restrain pets so they do not jump on or bite a visitor.

- Gathering the Treats**

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on neighborhood rounds.

- If older children are going alone, plan and review the route

that is acceptable to parents. Agree on a specific time when they should return home.

- Teach children to only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.

- Wait until children are home to sort and check treats. A responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped, or suspicious items.

- Ensure children consume only age appropriate treats. Be aware small candy may pose a choking hazard.

- Pedestrian injuries are the most common injuries to children. To prevent injury, encourage the following:

- Stay in a group and communi-

cate where they will be going.

- Carry a cell phone for quick communication in an emergency. Don't text message while trick-or-treating or walking.

- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.

- If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic.

- Never cut across yards or use alleys.

- Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks. Never cross between parked cars.

- Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing children. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will follow suit.

St. Ignace School Conferences Planned

St. Ignace Elementary and Middle Schools will host parent-teacher conferences for developmental kindergarten through eighth grade Tuesday, November 4, and Thursday, November 6, in the evenings. Parents of elemen-

tary students will receive a scheduled appointment time from their child's teacher.

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade parents should meet with all teachers in the Middle School cafeteria from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Elect Richard OLIVER MACKINAC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

- Mackinac County resident since 1979
- 30 years experience as a successful business owner/operator
- Married, 3 children and 7 grandchildren
- Life time member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honors Society
- Certified in State and Community Corrections program through North Central Michigan College
- Michigan State University Extension Certified Master Citizen Planner
- State of Michigan Assessor - Level II Certified
- State of Michigan Certified Building Official, Building Inspector and Plan Reviewer
- Vice Chairman, Mackinac County Board of Public Works
- Portage Township Assessor and Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator
- Newton Township Assessor and Building Inspector
- Property owner in Portage Township and City of St. Ignace
- Newly selected Assessor for Brevort Township
- Moran Township Assessor

My wife Cynthia and I are the owners of a Property Tax Assessing business. We do contract assessing in four Mackinac County Townships and one in Chippewa County. By doing this along with being a state licensed building inspector it allows me to travel the county roads approximately 500 miles per week.

FACT: Mackinac County is made up of primarily gravel roads. I can remember when we had only a few roads constantly in bad shape, in the summer months some of our roads might have been dusty but shoulders were mowed for safety and in general the roads were better maintained. Now many of our gravel roads are in deplorable condition and our black topped roads have deteriorated with the shoulders breaking up worse than ever due to less repairs being done than in previous years.

SO WHAT HAPPENED: The Road Commission believed they could build roads and make enough money to keep them afloat. What I've discovered is that the expensive equipment they bought could not sit in a field most of the time waiting for the right project to come available, but a business needs to use this equipment every day in order to generate the revenue they need. It is my position that the Mackinac County Road Commission needs to get back into the business of road maintenance as Public Act 51 states and leave the road building to private businesses that specialize in that type of work.

WHAT CAN WE DO: Stay out of the road building business and sell off some of the equipment that sits in fields the majority of the time and use that money to keep the workers maintaining our roads keeping them safe and passable all year around. Almost every Township has voted in road millages, which tells me that YOU want the roads you travel on made better. You did not vote in those extra millages to build new roads and then not maintain them. And, better communication between the Townships, the Road Commission and YOU the citizens.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4TH

PAID FOR BY RICHARD OLIVER CANDIDATE FOR MACKINAC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

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ELECT NEIL HILL Mackinac County Surveyor

- Experienced**
I have 8 years experience as the Mackinac County Surveyor. I also have the most extensive knowledge of Mackinac County property, and I am familiar with the challenges presented in this area.
- Committed**
I am a lifelong resident with over 35 years of surveying experience in Mackinac County. I am dedicated to serving *this County's* best interests.
- Innovative**
I will bring the benefits of cutting edge technology coupled with common sense approaches to the office. I will attempt to make County information more easily accessible to the public.
- Enthusiastic**
I will actively seek all available funding sources for the County Reclamation program, to stop the steady decline in funding.

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT NEIL HILL

Re-elect Beth Gibson District Judge



PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT BETH ANN GIBSON JUDGE, P.O. Box 113, Newberry, Michigan 49968, Lynne Kainbach, Treasurer