

# Mower County Planning Commission

## Minutes of the Mower County Planning Commission – December 20, 2005

Members Present: Dave Hillier, Myles Bendtsen, Jim Risius, Sheldon Lukes, Margaret Kirchner

Members Absent: Barb Hovde,

Others Present: Daryl W. Franklin, Citizens, Lee Bonorden

Dave Hillier called the special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20, 2005, in the Board of Commissioners Room at the Mower County Courthouse, 201 1st Street NE, Austin, Minnesota. Minutes of the November 29, 2005, regular meeting were approved as mailed on a motion made by Sheldon Lukes and seconded by Myles Bendtsen. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Hearing on Horizon Wind Energy Environmental Assessment:**

Horizon Wind Energy has presented Mower County with a “proposed scope of an environmental assessment” for a 161 kV transmission line starting in Clayton Township and running approximately nine miles to Section 18 in Lodi Township pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4400.5000. The purpose of this hearing is to allow the public an opportunity to participate in the development of the environmental assessment scope.

Doug Jones, Kate Wattson and Bob Crowell, Horizon Wind Energy, were present and spoke about the proposed scope for the environmental assessment. They proceeded to show a powerpoint presentation with information about the project.

**Statements from the Public:** Questions were raised as to the number of poles there would be. Another person wanted to know why the overhead lines would not be buried underground. Bob Crowell explained that this would be cost prohibitive.

**Conclude the Public Hearing:** Dave Hillier closed the public hearing. After some discussion, a motion was made by Margaret Kirchner and seconded by Jim Risius to recommend that the County Board authorize Horizon Wind Energy to proceed with the preparation of their environmental assessment. The motion passed unanimously.

**Recognition of Sheldon Lukes for Service on Mower County Planning Commission:** David Hillier, Mower County Commissioner, presented Sheldon Lukes with a plaque and thanked him for his dedication and service on the Mower County Planning Commission for the past nine years. Cake and coffee were served in honor of Sheldon Lukes.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m. on a motion by Myles Bendtsen, seconded by Sheldon Lukes. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Daryl W. Franklin  
Mower County Planning Director