

Mower County Planning Commission

Minutes of the Mower County Planning Commission – October 31, 2006

Members Present: Ray Tucker, Myles Bendtsen, Margaret Kirchner, Barb Hovda, Harlen Peck

Members Absent: Jim Risius,

Others Present: Daryl W. Franklin, Bob Crowell, Doug Jones, Martin Culik, Citizens

Ray Tucker called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2006, in the Board of Commissioners Room at the Mower County Courthouse, 201 1st Street NE, Austin, Minnesota. Minutes of the September 26, 2006, regular meeting were approved as mailed on a motion made by Barb Hovde 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 three miles to Section 23 in Clayton Township and a 161kV substation to be located in either Section 10 or 14 of Clayton 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.

Bob Crowell and Martin Culik, 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 developing scope for the substation which would change the voltage from 34.5 to 161 kV.

Statements from the Public: Dan Lohuis spoke and was concerned about farm land being taken out of production. He wanted to know if the energy produced could be limited to Minnesota.

Margaret Kirchner, Planning Commission Member, was also concerned about agricultural land being taken out of production.

Conclude the Public Hearing: Ray Tucker closed the public hearing. After some discussion, a motion was made by Margaret Kirchner and seconded by Barb Hovde to recommend that the County Board authorize Horizon Wind Energy to proceed with the preparation of their environmental assessment based upon the proposed scope of work .

The motion passed unanimously. Chair Ray Tucker does not vote.

It was stated that the County Board would be acting on this petition at their Tuesday, November 7, 2006 meeting at 1:15 p.m. at the Mower County Courthouse.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. on a motion by Myles Bendtsen, seconded by Harlen Peck. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Daryl W. Franklin
Mower County Planning Director