DRAFT Minutes
Community Energy Plan Steering Committee

Thursday, June 29, 2023

Central Park Place, Woodbine Room

4:00 PM

1. **Call to Order:** John Job, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM and reviewed the agenda.

2. **Changes or Additions to the Agenda:** None


   **Not in Attendance:** Patti Nelsen, Grand Haven Citizen; Jerry Sias, Ferrysburg City Council, David Mann, Grand Haven Citizen; Will Montgomery, Ferrysburg City Council; Greg Griffin, Bill Cargo, Grand Haven Township (ex-officio); Gordon Gallagher, Spring Lake Township (ex-officio)’ Dave Walters (ex-officio)

4. **Introductions (New Attendees):** John welcomed Karen from Grand Haven Township.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the June 13, 2023 Meeting:** Ryan indicated he received one correction and read the correction. Mike moved approval, supported by Garry. The minutes were approved unanimously.

6. **First Opportunity for Public Comment:** Bob Monetza was recognized. No comment.

7. **Review of Cost Proposals Received from Four Consultants and Discussion of Any Further Reference Checks and General Comments** – John said he knows many individuals from the firms and could not weigh-in due to an appearance of a conflict of interest. John asked for feedback on each person’s top two firms. The following comments were made around the room, in no particular order:
   - **Blue Strike Environmental, Boston/Monterey:** They made no initial comments on determining transportation carbon nor consideration of solar possibilities; 105 hours of community engagement; Members suggested they could be removed from further consideration given the obvious benefits of firms that were closer.
- Garforth International, Toledo/Canada: Very thorough; Very technically competent; Only provided 47 hours of community engagement.
- Michigan Energy Options/5 Lakes Energy, Lansing/Grand Haven: Appears talented; Plans to have over 40 hours dedicated to focus groups alone; Very thorough; Questions were raised about being on the BLP ballot—there is a whole litany of potential conflicts; Great history in Marquette and did a wildly successful community solar garden there; Will be spot-on given their knowledge of the area and will not take needless time with general questions; Although being local is good, it should not be the only persuasive criteria; Will provide 150 hours of community engagement -- this was recognized as important for community energy literacy and for outreach purposes; their work in Traverse City and Marquette was recognized.
- Public Sector Consultants/Fresh Coast Climate Solutions, Lansing/Ann Arbor: Appears talented and competent about renewables; Being in-state is positive; Appears qualified; Well-known in public policy circles. 97 hours of community engagement.

Erik said he could not be involved in interviews if Michigan Energy Options was invited due to potential conflicts as a key BLP staff member since John Kinch is on the BLP ballot, as well as, Michigan Energy Options is a competitor to one of BLP’s existing contractors, Franklin Energy Options. Some Steering Members concurred; however, some thought it was not an issue since he was not yet elected. The members generally said three firms should be invited to present, minus Blue Strike Environmental.

Karen L. moved to invite all but Blue Strike Environmental to make a presentation/be interviewed. Supported by Mike. Approved unanimously.

Ashley was designated to have formal contact with the bidders as the fiduciary and to advise Michigan Energy Options, and specifically John Kinch, of the concerns and questions that will be raised about him being on the BLP ballot.

8. Discussion on date, location, format, and selection criteria for interviews and how to otherwise proceed- After general discussion the consensus was to invite each firm to make a 15 minute presentation (4 or 5 slides was suggested), followed up with standard questions from the Steering Committee, and specific individual questions particular to that firm, for a total of 45 minutes.

Ryan was requested to send out the questions he voiced to all in advance of the interviews for the Team’s edits, inclusive of questions about community engagement hours/percentages.

Ashley was asked to schedule Thursday, July 20th at 9 AM in the City Council Chambers with the consultants for their presentations and the next meeting.
9. **Discussion on Spring Lake Township’s Participation**— Ryan reported that the consultants had been advised that Spring Lake Township should not be included in their cost proposals. Garry asked what the status is of their interest. Ryan said they have been kept abreast of this project, yet this matter has not appeared on another Board agenda to-date. He also said he has not yet followed up on Robinson Townships’ additional contact yet planned to do so.

10. **Discussion and Motion on Next Meeting Date, Time, and Place**— Discussion reaffirmed the decision to meet at City Hall at 9 AM on Thursday, July 20th.

11. **Second Public Comment:** None.

12. **Discussion on Next Agenda Items**— No further discussion.

13. **Motion to Adjourn:** Made by Mike, supported by Nick with unanimous affirmation at 5:12 PM.

Ryan Cotton  
Assistant Chair  
Community Energy Plan Task Force  
Cell: 616-638-8910  
Corrections? Send to: ryan.d.cotton@gmail.com
General and Specific/Individual Questions

For Consideration by the Community Energy Plan Steering Committee

As discussed/requested, see my thoughts to-date. Please get your suggested edits, additions, or deletions to Ashley Latsch, Grand Haven City Manager, by Friday, July 7th.

Save the date of Thursday, July 20th at 9 AM in the Grand Haven City Council Chambers for the consultant presentations/interviews.

General Questions For All

- Tell us more about your in-person availability.
- What is your overall percentage of in-person hours?
- Explain how the annual carbon pollution updates should be tracked/done?
- What did you have to cut to stay within your number of hours? Alternatively, what did you add to get to the higher cost proposal number you noted?
- Tell us about your ability to build consensus in competitive, volatile, and confusing public environments?
- What project best demonstrates your capabilities to do the above?

Specific Questions For Garforth

- Peter Garforth is listed as the co-Project Manager and has the most hours, why?
- Tell us why you have the highest number of technical hours and the lowest number of public engagement hours?
- Who decides what energy data to use and how?
- Who decides which baseline year to use and why? Flexibility to capture the decommissioning of the coal plant?
- What do you feel about the menu approach of not just one Community Energy Plan yet providing choices from “good, better, and best” strategies?
- Which is the Community Energy Plan you did that you liked the best?

Specific Questions For Michigan Energy Options/5 Lakes Energy

- What is meant by your “Carbon only costs noted for approximately $41,000?”
- What did you mean about stipends paid? How much does this amount to in your total budget?
- What do you mean about “being negotiable?”
- How can you become the face of the Community Energy Plan and then deal with the conflicts this poses as a candidate and/or board member?
• Would you consider removing your name for BLP consideration if awarded the Community Energy Plan responsibility?

Specific Questions For PSC/Fresh Coast Environmental

• What baseline year are you thinking? Do you have flexibility to capture the decommissioning of the coal plant?
• Are you assuming the City would provide transportation data?
• Why do you write about the EATF and not the Community Energy Plan Steering Committee?
• Which is the Community Energy Plan you did that you liked the best?
The total collected towards Fire Barn Park is $329.50.

Collected at the Mayor’s Breakfast and 4th of July Picnic.
Caution! This email is from an external address and may contain links. Use caution when following links as they could open malicious web sites.

Craig,

MDOT does not have a policy or legal recourse for panhandling. I believe that can only be enforced by law enforcement if there’s a local ordinance, but I’ll defer to the authorities if that’s accurate. We do get involved if there’s a homeless encampment on MDOT property, so let us know if this appears to be turning into something more than the current appearance.

Regarding right-of-way fence, we are looking to repair/replace the fence in this location as funding allows. Currently that could happen late this year, or next spring. It’s a fluid situation, and unfortunately we have not been able to prioritize this location this spring/summer. If it’s something you’re requesting to fund and do the work yourself, we would allow that via permit and require the city to go through that process.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance on either issue.

Thanks,
Marc

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Mark:

1. Please see attached. Does MDOT have any regulations prohibiting this?
2. What would be the process to have the fence along the east side of US-31 replaced from Third Street to Ridge Avenue?

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SPRING LAKE – LAKE BOARD  
www.springlakeboard.org

MEETING AGENDA  
July 10, 2023  
4:00 p.m.

Spring Lake Township Hall  
101 S. Buchanan  
Spring Lake, Michigan  

1. Call to Order  
2. Lake Board Members Present  
3. Additions/Corrections to Agenda  
4. Review Draft Meeting Minutes June 12, 2023  
5. Public Comment  
6. Muskegon County Commissioner Representative  
7. Draft Budget and Special Assessment Criteria  
8. Public Comment  
9. Next Meeting Date - Hearing of practicability August 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.  
10. Adjourn
Spring Lake - Lake Board
Draft Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2023

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mike Rolf at 4:00 pm.

Members Present: Mike Rolf, John Nash, Joe Bush, Vance Meyer, Roger Bergman and Roger Vanderstelt

Members Absent: Brenda Moore, Samantha Verplank and Dave Split

Also Present: Tony Groves and Paul Hausler, Progressive AE

Additions/Corrections to Agenda: No additions or corrections.

Draft Meeting Minutes: April 10, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed and accepted with no corrections or revisions.

Treasure's Report: Bush presented a Financial Report for the 11-18-22 through 6-9-23 timeframe that indicated a current fund balance of $179,099.32. Fruitport Township assessments have been paid in full. Hausler presented a summary of treatments of the lake conducted in May and indicated an invoice from PLM Lake and Land Management in the amount of approximately $24,000 is pending. Motion by Bergman seconded by Rolf to accept the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: No public in attendance.

Muskegon County Commissioner Representative: Currently, the Muskegon County Commissioner representative position on the lake board is vacant. Groves will contact the commissioner that represents the district bordering the lake to inquire about filling that vacancy.

Consultant's Report:

Draft Budget and Special Assessment Criteria: A draft budget for a new program was presented and discussed. The new program is proposed to include the same components as in previous years (i.e., aquatic plant control, plant control coordination/field evaluations, water quality monitoring, information and education, watershed management plus an alum treatment). If an alum treatment is approved, it is proposed to be financed over a 10-year period. The special assessment criteria for the project was reviewed and discussion ensued about how to assess businesses and marina facilities. After considerable discussion, a tentative apportionment for commercial businesses and marinas was devised (copy attached). Assessment apportionments will be revisited and discussed further at the July meeting.

Public Hearings and Legal Counsel: Two public hearings will need to be held to proceed with a new project. The first hearing called the hearing of practicability is to obtain public input on the necessity of the project and the second hearing is on the special assessment roll.

The hearing of practicability was scheduled for August 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. and the hearing on the assessment roll was scheduled for September 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., locations pending. Nash will check on availability of school. A court recorder may be retained to keep an official record of the public hearings.

Given the costs associated with the proposed new project, Groves recommended that consideration be given to retaining legal counsel to assist with the public hearing proceedings and the bonding process. The law firm of Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes was recommended to assist with the hearings and the firm of
Dickinson Wright was recommended as bond counsel. Both firms have been contacted and Groves will follow up with the firms regarding letters of engagement.

**Meeting with Assessors:** Groves will contact the local assessors to discuss the pending hearings for the new project and the need for an updated assessment roll.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., at the Spring Lake Township Hall.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:15 pm.