

**LEE COUNTY RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**Special Meeting**

**Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 9:30AM**

**County Board Room  
Old Lee County Courthouse, Dixon, Illinois**

**Zoom Video- & Tele-conferencing**

Meeting ID: 828 7215 0974

Password: 797986

**YouTube**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wy8RqCrGcSg>**

or search, "Lee County Renewable Energy Committee – 9/23/21" in YouTube

**Appointed Committee Members**

Chris Norberg – Chair  
Marilyn Shippert  
Tom Kitson  
Katie White  
Tom Wilson  
Danielle Allen

**Advisory Members**

Dee Duffy, Zoning Administrator  
Alice Henkel, Renewable Energy Coordinator/ Clerk

At 9:30AM, Chair Chris Norberg called the meeting to order.

Chair Norberg called for roll call of members of the committee and county staff.

Appointed Members present: Norberg, Shippert, Kitson, White, Allen (via Zoom)

Appointed Members absent: Wilson

Advisory Members present: Duffy, Henkel

Advisory Members absent: None

Chair Norberg recognized the following visitors as present:

Dan O'Connell, Carpenters' Union  
Len Saunders, Business Agent with Carpenter's Local 790  
Danelle Burrs, Lee County Farm Bureau  
Joel Schroeder, Invenergy  
Dave Balley, Lee County Board Member

There is no old business.

The first item of new business was solar ordinance update. Invenergy's is looking to develop a green hydrogen production facility at its Nelson location for research and development purposes. Green hydrogen is hydrogen that is produced without the use of fossil fuels. The facility would require a three-to-four-acre solar field that would power an electrolyzer. Water will be pumped from the Rock River, purified on-site and then be run through the electrolyzer which will separate the hydrogen atoms from the oxygen atoms.

Under the current Lee County ordinance, solar energy systems are only allowed in Agricultural Districts. Invenergy's facility in Nelson is zoned I-3, Heavy Industrial District. The Renewable Energy Committee reviewed whether it would be appropriate to allow solar energy systems in any Industrial District.

Joel Schroeder, with Invenergy, said they had a chance to review our current ordinance for solar energy systems. They did not find anything in the current solar ordinance that would prevent them from being able to develop the proposed green hydrogen facility.

Chair Norberg made a motion amended Subsection D (Special Use) of 10-15-20: Solar Energy Systems under Title 10 of the Zoning Regulations in the Lee County Code of Ordinances so that it states, "An SES may be permitted in an Ag-1, I-1, I-2, or I-3 as a special use, in accordance with the following regulations and design standards." A second was discerned and there was no debate. A vote was taken, and all were in favor. Motion passed, 4-0 (members appearing by ZOOM may not vote).

The next order of new business was the green hydrogen discussion. The Committee discussed the electrolyzer that will be installed as part of Invenergy's green hydrogen project and ways to limit these types of projects from coming into the County until one has been developed and implemented.

The next order of new business was the wind ordinance update. While the ordinance was recently updated to include all the standards the County has been requiring wind farm projects to comply with as special use conditions, the ordinance needs to be reviewed to see if updates need to be made.

Danelle Burrs from the Lee County Farm Bureau provided a couple of definitions for this Committee to consider when reviewing the wind ordinance. The Committee asked that she please bring the Farm Bureau's concerns and suggestions to the discussion and that it appreciates the assistance.

Chair Norberg deviated from the agenda and noted that this Committee still needs to discuss solar energy systems in residential and commercial zones, as well as community solar and solar gardens. Alice Henkel was directed to find examples of ordinances adopted by other counties addressing these topics. She was also asked to contact a representative from Moxie Solar; Paul Fossler/Fossler Construction; and Dave Simpson to see if they can participate in the discussion. All parties install residential and commercial solar.

The next order of new business was pipeline discussion. The County has been approached by a company that wants to build a facility at the landfill that will capture methane gas and convert it to pipeline quality renewable natural gas. As part of the project, the company will be installing a pipeline that will carry the gas from the landfill facility to the pipeline grid interconnect owned by

Kinder Morgan. Since it is a private pipeline, the County needs to consider regulation of the pipeline, protecting the landowners and potential profitability for the County.

The main discussion for the next meeting will be the discussion of residential and community solar.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 30, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

At 10:34 a.m., Chris Norberg made a motion to adjourn. A second was discerned and there was no debate. A vote was taken, and all were in favor. Motion passed, 4-0.

*Live feed can be viewed on **YouTube** at [Lee County Renewable Energy Committee – 9/23/21](#).*

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Henkel