

**LEE COUNTY RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**Special Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 8:30AM**

**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=3DM-aPSs7iM>**

or search, "Lee County Renewable Energy Committee – 10/19/21" 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 8:30AM, 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, Wilson, Allen (via ZOOM)

Appointed Members absent: White

Advisory Members present: Duffy, Henkel

Advisory Members absent: None

The following visitors were present:

Dan O'Connell, Carpenters' Union  
Len Saunders, Business Agent with Carpenter's Local 790  
Danelle Burrs, Lee County Farm Bureau  
Emily Pratt, Lee County Farm Bureau  
Dave Bally, Lee County Board Member  
Stephen Hall, Ameresco  
Margaret Brechon, Interested Party  
Anthony Neve, Recall Strategies  
Josh Libby, Fosler Construction (via ZOOM)

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes for the October 8, 2021 meeting. Marilyn Shippert made a motion to approve and a second was discerned. There was no debate. A vote was taken, and the ayes prevailed. Motion passed, 4-0 (members appearing by ZOOM may not vote).

Under old business was the pipeline discussion. Stephen Hall was present on behalf of Ameresco which is looking to build a biogas facility that would turn landfill gas (methane) into pipeline-quality renewable natural gas (“RNG”). The RNG would then travel from the facility to the Kinder Morgan interconnect, on Dutch Road north of US Route 30, via private pipeline.

The committee members were provided proposed language for a pipeline ordinance. This committee will contact County Engineer, Dave Anderson, to obtain his input on this project and any proposed pipeline ordinance.

Mr. Hall answered questions from the committee and the visitors regarding the proposed project. Mr. Hall agreed to provide to this committee liability insurance information, decommissioning information and the nameplate value of the project.

The next order of old business was the solar ordinance update. Josh Libby, Business & Project Development for Fosler Construction, was again present via ZOOM to follow up on some questions the committee has regarding residential solar and small-scale solar energy systems.

Mr. Libby provided some photos of some larger, on-site use solar energy systems that do not have fencing to address any safety concerns the committee may have. It is his opinion that projects under 300-500 kW would be safe without fencing.

Mr. Libby has reviewed Lee County’s existing ordinance for solar energy systems and did see some ordinance requirements that may affect small solar energy projects, such as community solar projects.

One requirement that could be problematic is the requirement that all power and communication lines need to be buried. Newer solar energy systems have power/communications lines running aboveground, underneath the panels, known as a CAB system. It allows for faster and cheaper installation and prevents having to dig up the wires should repairs be necessary.

Mr. Libby clarified what would be required of a petitioner concerning Glare and Interference, based on what is stated in our ordinance. He noted the requirement to post a \$100,000 Consulting Fund in relations to the Road Use section of the ordinance could be problematic but feels any issues could be talked through.

He feels overall the ordinance is good verbiage and that community solar projects could be able to come in under the current ordinance if a few changes were made, such as to allow for CAB systems and adding the definition of community solar to the ordinance.

Mr. Libby invited the committee to reach out to him for any future questions that may arise relating to the solar discussion. The committee thanked Mr. Libby for his time and input.

State’s Attorney Charley Boonstra joined the meeting.

The committee discussed amending the ordinance to allow for CAB systems.

The committee would like to arrange a tour of a solar energy facility, that would be open to the public, as well as County Board members.

The committee proceeded to a discussion about residential solar. With regard to fencing, the committee agrees that fencing is not necessary. An insurance requirement for residential solar was brought up, but it is likely that will be addressed by the resident's homeowner insurance provider. The Zoning Office was directed to create a draft residential solar ordinance for the committee to start with.

Chair Norberg would like to focus on completing the pipeline ordinance, the residential solar ordinance and the changes to the existing solar ordinance before it moves on to any other agenda items. He hopes to get the Battery Energy Storage System discussion in the near future.

The Renewable Energy Plan for Lee County will be placed on the agenda for the Lee County Regional Planning Commission as any renewable energy plan adopted by the County will need to coincide with the Comprehensive Plan.

The next meeting will be Monday, November 1, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

At 9:45 a.m., Marilyn Shippert 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 – 10/19/21](#).*

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Henkel