

Great Lakes Regional Wind Energy Institute Annual Meeting February 23-24, 2009 Columbus, Ohio

Report Monday, February 23, 2009:

On February 23-24, 2009, the GLRWEI held there Annual Meeting (see attached agenda). The goal of the meeting was to discuss regional wind energy development issues and roadblocks. The Annual Meeting of the GLRWEI is designed to allow discussions to flourish and ideas to be shared across the Wind Working Groups to work to remove the barriers to wind development in the target states (Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois).

The meeting opened with remarks from Larry Flowers, Wind Powering America program. This was followed by remarks from Lisa Barnett, Department of Energy. She gave a great presentation about the DOE, their role, WWG, and regional collaboration to move wind development forward. Additionally, she discussed the opportunities for organizations and state governments to get funding from the DOE.

Next, we jumped right into the program and had our first session on Supply Chain and Workforce Development. We heard from Matt Garran, Technical Director at the Great Lakes Wind Network, which works to connect leaders from manufacturing companies serving the wind industry in order to build new business opportunities, link buyers and sellers, and provide technical expertise and guidance. He discussed the opportunities for manufacturing in the wind industry in the Great Lakes States and how to encourage more development of the manufacturing capacity. Additionally, he discussed the role of the manufacturing sector in the industry and how we can help companies find a niche to work within. Emily Amato, Cuyahoga Community College, followed up his presentation discussing the workforce development training program at Cuyahoga Community College. This program is unique because their curriculum was created with the input of the manufacturing and development sector to train workers with the skill that are needed. We hope that this model can be used to assist other colleges and universities to develop workforce training programs for the wind industry.

The Economic Policy Panel followed, with presentations from industry experts. Ron Lehr of the American Wind Energy Association discussed fuel price forecasting and how wind energy plays within the mix of energy. He went into detail about the lack of actual cost associated with traditional methods of generation (i.e. carbon cost) and how that inaccurately affects the price of renewable energies. Following this presentation was Ric O'Connell of Black and Vetch who talked about the costs of comparative generation. This presentation detailed the growing wind industry paralleled by the rising costs of conventional generation. The price of conventional generation is rising as transportation, extraction, fuel costs and an insufficient labor force are increasing. Additionally, stricter regulations and more costly technology are making conventional generation more timely, costly and difficult to permit and build.

We ended the first day of the meeting with state updates and reports. Below is a summary of each states update:

Illinois: Randy Winter from Illinois State University started off the state reports from Illinois. The Illinois Wind Working Group has been very active. They have held monthly landowner forums to educate landowners who have been approached by a developer about participating in wind energy. Attendance at these forums has ranged from 60-150 landowners. They also held a one day conference on Siting, Zoning and Taxation, which drew over 300 participants. The conference was aimed towards county board members, zoning officials, wind developers and attorneys. They also will hold their annual Illinois Wind Conference on July 15-16, 2009. This conference will cover all aspects of wind energy development including corporate wind, community wind, policy, case studies, plus more. Lastly, the Illinois Board of Education approves a Center for Renewable Energy at Illinois State University. The Center will have three major functional areas which include 1) supporting the renewable energy major at IL State University 2) serving the Illinois Renewable Energy Community by providing information and education to the public and 3) encouraging applied research at Illinois State University on renewable energy.

Indiana: Indiana has had a lot of interest and development this last year. The wind working group has 5 meeting set for 2009 to work on some of the issues. There legislative session is extremely busy with multiple bills being introduced on net-metering, RES, and transmission. They have a big event coming up in July 2009, their first statewide conference called Windiana 2009. It will be held in Indianapolis, July 21-22. The event will cover policy, outreach, transmission issues, financing projects, supply-chain and state experiences. Additionally, they are working with the Great Lakes Network to create a variety of supply-chain workshops across the state. They have been heavily focused on outreach with their work hosting landowner forums, partnering with the Indiana Farm Bureau and their booth at AWEA. Some of the roadblocks they have experienced include lack of staff at Indiana State Offices, competing interests for legislators, fragmented renewable energy community and methodical/slow government.

Michigan: Michigan has had a very successful year for policy to support renewable, they passes a state RPS, as well as they are introducing a bill that supports Renewable Energy Payments (Feed-in Tariff). This would be to support utility scale wind development. Additionally the Kalamazoo Technical College installed a 100 kw turbine for education and are developing a workforce training program. They are going to be installing a 1.5 MW nacelle in the classroom for training.

Ohio: This year Ohio, passed a RPS of 25% by 2025, which must include 12.5% from renewable, the other 12.5% from advances technology. Currently, Ohio has 19 wind projects in the queue to be developed. Hawking Technical College is also developing a workforce training program, based on the success of the Cuyahoga Community College model. Dale Arnold from the Ohio Farm Bureau has meet with hundreds of landowners throughout the state to discuss landowner options, community wind and leases/easements. Additionally, the state is working on creating state siting rules for

wind projects. Ohio University in Athens, OH is currently developing a wind energy resource center.

Wisconsin: Will be introducing Uniform Permitting Standards which would apply to all projects in the 1-100 MW range. There are two components to the bill. 1) requires PSC rulemaking to establish standards for setbacks and 2) establish timeline for local review and mechanism for appeal. Want to enhanced their RES to 25% by 2025 and this will be introduces with climate change legislation. Additionally, there is going to be an Advanced Renewable Tariffs bill introduced which is the most promising support for small and community wind. The Wind on the Waters study was released which focused on the potential for wind development in Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Current operating capacity is 449 MW and there is an estimated 10 MW to be added in 2009.

Report Tuesday, February 24, 2009:

We had a lot to squeeze into the second day, so we started right away in the morning. Our first speaker was John Hummer from the Great Lakes Commission. He talked about the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative Update and Overview. The Great Lakes Wind Collaborative will be having their 2nd Annual Meeting June 10-11, in Milwaukee, WI. This conference will cover state updates, offshore wind, avian and wildlife issues, and transmission. The purpose of the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative is to build consensus on issues affecting wind power planning, development and operation, provide a forum for dialogue and information exchange among diverse interests, and facilitate sustainable wind power development. The GLC has 5 workgroups, including environmental siting and permitting, offshore, Great Lakes Wind Atlas, Transmission and Economic Development. We are currently working to collaborate more closely with the GLWC.

Following John Hummer, we heard from Michael Milligan from NREL covering how to integrate wind energy into the grid. His presentation drew lots of great dialogue and conversation about wind energy and how to integrate more into the grid. Michael framed his presentation as “10 FAQ’s related to integrating wind into the grid”. The most interesting topics include wind variability, wind forecasting, wind backup/storage, and transmission constraints. This topic has many more layers and should be addressed at future meeting/webinars.

Kevin Schulte of Sustainable Energy Development, Inc presented next discussing the current and future mid-sized turbine market. SED, Inc. is a leading community wind developer in the Northeast who focuses on smaller sized projects and machines. He presented on the various opportunities for disbursed generation, such as school, local business, municipal utilities and small manufacturing. Kevin provided his expertise and experience to demonstrate that this is a strong market with lots of potential to develop in the Great Lakes States.

Following a short break for networking and lunch, we had a presentation by Lisa Daniels, from Windustry. She presented on Landowner Options and Legal Issues in Wind Energy. She discussed the various methods in which landowners could participate in wind energy

development, stressed landowner education about leases/easements, and discussed the new landowner associations. This presentation is important because as the Great Lakes States continue to become more developed, Wind Working Groups will need to be educated and informed about leases/easement and providing that information to the landowners.

We wrapped up the day with two wonderful speakers in the afternoon. Jeff Anthony of the American Wind Energy Association gave a great overview of the policy incentives for the wind industry and the new Economic Stimulus Package. This was something that everyone was interested in learning more about because there are a lot of new incentives to get projects in the ground. We extended the PTC, included an ITC, which can be transferred to grants. We also uncapped the small wind ITC, which will stimulate many more small wind projects. He also discussed AWEA legislative priorities which include, 1) National RES 2) Transmission Legislation and 3) Carbon Legislation. He also discussed some Federal Siting Policy Initiatives and R&D funding.

We ended on a topic that is very much an issues in all states, which is offshore permitting. David Nash of McMahon DeGuilis spoke about Ohio's experience with permitting offshore wind projects as a model/case study for offshore development. He wanted to address the question of how to create an offshore wind industry without all the red tape. The largest question is site control, different from land-based projects in which leases are obtained from landowners, offshore has the issues of submerged land leases and site control, including water rights. A variety of topics need to be addressed before a project goes through the permitting process. The Great Lakes Science Center did a "faux" permitting experience for offshore to determine all the stakeholders. It was helpful in understanding the roles that agencies play and overcoming barriers.

Overall, the GLRWEI Annual Meeting was very successful with a strong turnout and participation. The goals of the meeting were met as many contact and discussions will be carried on. Participants were able to interact and learn from other states experiences to develop a strong WWG. The Annual Meeting provided tools for Wind Working Groups to better equip themselves with the knowledge and skills to promote wind energy within their states.