

MINUTES OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
HELD ON AUGUST 30, 2021, STARTING AT 7:00 PM
IN THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
112 W. MADISON ST. PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m..

Roll call was taken.

Those present were: John Slagel, Dee Woodburn, Rudy Piskule, Dean Wahls, Jerry Gaspardo, Verne Taylor, Ed Hoerner, and Scott Sand

Those absent were: Scott Cranford, Michael Haberkorn, Shane Long, and Keith Bahler

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda to this meeting was mentioned by Jerry Gaspardo. With no recommendations for additions or amendments to the agenda for this August 30th, 2021 meeting, John Slagel moved, seconded by Verne Taylor, that the agenda for this meeting be approved as amended. This motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the June 28th, 2021 meeting were mentioned by Jerry Gaspardo. With no needed changes noted, Rudy Piskule moved, seconded by Dee Woodburn, that these minutes be approved as presented. This motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

BUSINESS:

SU-11-21 – Flanagan Solar

This zoning case pertained to the review of a proposed solar farm (up to 10 MW) in an AG, Agriculture, District located in Esmen Township at the Enbridge facility.

The assistant zoning administrator provided an overview of the zoning case to the commission members.

Joseph Horn, an engineer for this project also presented an overview of the development of the project to commission members. Mr. Horn also mentioned that one of the reasons the subject land was selected was because it had been determined through research on the soils in question that the quality of the soil for farm use was not great for farming operations.

There was then a question about how weeds and overgrowth would be managed with specific concerns noted about an existing solar farm in the area where the weeds are beginning to outgrow the height of the solar panels. Mr. Horn stated that there will be specific types of plants planted on

site to manage growth of foliage which would also include a seeding & maintenance plan to manage growth.

A commission member then asked about the difference of effectiveness of fixed solar panels compared to the tracking solar panels that are being proposed. Mr. Horn addressed the question by stating that the tracking panels follow the sun as it crosses the sky and results in approximately 30% more production compared to a fixed panel.

There was then a question raised as to the comparison of energy output of this project compared to what a single wind turbine's output would be. The zoning administrator stated that most turbines located in Livingston County produce approximately 2 MW of power per turbine which would be equivalent to approximately 5 wind turbines. However, the newer turbines can create up to 3 MW of power per turbine.

There was then a question posed about whether or not there would be lights illuminating the solar farm at night. Mr. Horn stated that there would not be any lights on at night.

Next, a question about whether the funding of this project was dependent upon selection through the state's lottery. The representatives of the project stated that it was not and that the cost of the project in its entirety was being funded independently by Enbridge.

A question about the project's footprint was then posed by asking why the project was going to encompass two different pieces of land rather than having it all in one tract. Representatives of the project clarified that it was decided to be laid out this way due to the fact that all of the land was already owned by Enbridge and it would eliminate the need to purchase more land.

Lastly, there was a question about whether or not the solar panels that would be used would be coming from China. Mr. Horn acknowledged that most solar panels are imported from China, but there was a long wait for imported solar panels from China at this time, so he was not sure where the solar panels would be coming from.

With no other questions or comments noted, John Slagel made a motion, seconded by Dean Wahls that zoning case SU-11-21 be approved as presented.

The motion was then approved by roll call vote:

Jerry Gaspardo:	Yes	Dean Wahls:	Yes
Michael Haberkorn:	Absent – No Vote	Dee Woodburn:	Abstain
Shane Long:	Absent – No Vote	Scott Sand:	Yes
Ed Hoerner:	Yes	Rudy Piskule:	Yes
Verne Taylor:	Yes	Scott Cranford:	Absent – No Vote
Keith Bahler:	Absent – No Vote	John Slagel:	Yes

OTHER BUSINESS:

The assistant zoning administrator provided an update on a prospective windfarm interested in coming to Livingston County. The assistant zoning administrator noted to commission members that the wind farm project that's footprint would stretch from Woodford County into the Southwest corner of Livingston County contacted the zoning office and informed them that they have begun the process of land acquisition and further developing the project.

The zoning administrator also noted that the EDF renewables wind farm project was currently on hold due to complications in state funding. It was noted by the zoning administrator that it was possible that green energy would be voted on at the upcoming state legislature meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Verne Taylor moved, seconded by John Slagel, that the meeting be adjourned. This motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

This meeting was then adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse J. King, Assistant Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission