

MINUTES OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2022, STARTING AT 7:00 PM  
IN THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE  
112 W. MADISON ST. PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken.

Those present were: Michael Haberkorn, Rudy Piskule, Joel Barickman, Verne Taylor, Jerry Gaspardo, Dean Wahls, Dee Woodburn, and Scott Sand

Those absent were: Keith Bahler, Shane Long, and Ed Hoerner

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda to this meeting was mentioned by Haberkorn. Joel Barickman moved, seconded by Verne Taylor that the agenda for this meeting be approved as presented for this September 12, 2022 meeting. This motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

BUSINESS:

**Case SU-9-22 – Livingston Wind Project, LLC**

This zoning case pertained to the review of a proposed 255 MW wind farm in unincorporated Livingston County.

Chair Haberkorn introduced this zoning case where Scott Wentzell, a representative of the case, then began his presentation of the project.

Scott began his presentation by introducing himself and his company. Scott then proceeded to explain the process of developing a wind project as well as a general overview of the Livingston Wind Project relating to the overall participation, volume of turbines, and the general footprint of the project within the county.

Scott then proceeded to explain the overall land use of the project along with the economics that the project will provide for the county. Scott closed his presentation by detailing the timeline of the development of the project and emphasizing EDF's commitment to safety and being a good neighbor to the residents of Livingston County.

Mark Gershon, an attorney representing the applicant, then commenced his presentation by detailing how this special use application is consistent with all aspects of the county's comprehensive plan.

There was then a question about whether or not the jobs associated with the wind farm would remain local. Scott answered that some, not all, of the jobs would stay local with some of the work being outsourced to contractors.

There was then a question about how many megawatts each turbine would produce. Scott explained that each turbine would generate approximately 3-5 MW of power. Scott further explained that at this point they only really know the manufacturers of where they will be acquiring the turbines from and not the specific models since they will be acquired at a later date.

Next, a question was posed about whether or not supply chain constraints would be a factor in being able to construct this project. Scott stated that they are subject to supply chain issues like most other industries, but that he was confident that they would be able to procure the needed materials. However, Scott explained that what takes the most time is for entirety of the interconnection process with ComEd to be completed.

A commission member then wanted clarification on the number of jobs that would be created by the project. Scott explained that there would be an average of 33 full time employees that work on the site including contractors.

There was then a question about mitigation of birds and bats in the project area. Scott related that there are studies being done in the project area to identify which particular species of birds and bats are present in the project area and what can be done to mitigate issues relating to them. Scott also stated that they participate in a summer curtailment program that helps with addressing concerns relating to bats.

Next, there was a question about the amount of fossil fuels that are used by the turbines such as oil. Scott stated that there is a large quantity of petroleum-based lubricants that are used on the turbines.

There was then a comment from a commission member about his disappointment in the lack of local jobs that will be created from this project.

There was then a question about how many cubic yards of concrete are required to pour a base for the turbines. Scott was unsure of that number.

Lastly, there was a question about the townships involved and whether or not they all voted for reduced setbacks for wind turbines. Scott stated that the townships involved were Broughton, Sullivan, Union, and Round Grove and that they all voted for reduced setbacks.

With there being no further questions or comments from the planning commission and no public comment, Rudy Piskule moved, seconded by Scott Sand that this case be recommended for approval to the zoning board of appeals.

A roll call vote on the motion then took place:

Jerry Gaspardo –	Yes	Dean Wahls -	Yes
Michael Haberkorn –	Abstain	Dee Woodburn -	Yes
Shane Long –	Absent – No Vote	Scott Sand -	Yes
Ed Hoerner -	Absent – No Vote	Joel Barickman -	Yes
Verne Taylor -	Yes	Rudy Piskule -	Yes
Keith Bahler -	Absent – No Vote		

OTHER BUSINESS:

The assistant zoning administrator then informed planning commission members that the 2,000 acre utility solar farm is expected to file an application sometime this week.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Joel Barickman moved, seconded by Verne Taylor, that the meeting be adjourned. This motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

This meeting was then adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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