



# Economic Development Committee

215 S. East Street

Carlinville, IL 62626

<http://www.macoupincountyil.gov/>

## Regular Meeting

### ~ Minutes ~

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

5:00 PM

County Board Room

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Armour, Starr, Blank, Kilduff, Klausing, Payne, Rosentreter, Duncan, Garrison, Jurisk, Heuer, Goltz

ABSENT:

#### II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Motion to seat Payne at 5:12  
Motion by Klausing, seconded by Kilduff to seat Payne.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Holly Klausing, Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ryan Kilduff, Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Armour, Starr, Blank, Kilduff, Klausing, Rosentreter
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Payne

2. Potential Broadband Agreement with Frontier for Northwest Macoupin County  
Pat Pinkston from Greene County said there was federal funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act for broadband expansion. Greene County has been working on researching how to improve broadband in Greene County. They had engaged with multiple companies and had signed on with Frontier for them to write grants for broadband expansion. They had success in getting most of the county covered hopefully. There is one area that is currently not covered, Rockbridge, which is served by the Chesterfield area. Frontier has offered to file a grant with the Connect Illinois program for the Chesterfield area, which includes a portion of Macoupin. He is asking the County for any surveying or mapping data on current internet service, letters of support for the project, consideration of the utility permit document from Greene County, and financial support to show commitment for the project. Frontier would submit the grant on behalf of Greene and Macoupin. Frontier has committed to running fiber for the project. Frontier also has the easements since they have the phone service in the rural areas. The installation will be done within 2 years of the grant being approved and payment for it is not due until the project is completed. Klausing asked what the total commitment would be from Macoupin financially if they agreed to do the grant. That would be up to Frontier to negotiate with the two counties but he believed Greene would be willing to split the costs for this grant. Armour said he would reach out to Frontier to see what they could get started with.
3. Amendments to Macoupin County Ordinance No. O-2023.02: Wind Energy Conversion Systems Siting Ordinance For A Wind Energy Conversion System  
Jurisk discussed the update he would like to see the Board approve. This ordinance would bring forward to the most significant authority the county can have based on the state statute. These would only be prospective so it would not

effect the Lotus Wind project, it would only apply to any possible future applicants. This would also increase the amount the decommissioning He wanted to discuss it tonight for public comment and so would then like it to be adopted at the October meeting.

4. Resolution Authorizing And Approving the Execution of a Decommissioning and Site Reclamation, and a Decommissioning Bond to be Entered into by Macoupin County, Illinois and LOTUS WInd, LLC  
Jurisk said this was the decommissioning plan and bond from Lotus and this was his legal review comments. Lotus is not ready yet to select the turbine design. Depending on what model they go with will drive the project as well as the decommissioning plan. In 4 to 6 months, Lotus will make a final decision on the turbine design and that will change what the final dollar amounts in the decommissioning plan. There will still be a cap on it based on the state law based on the agricultural mitigation agreements. This again was for the committee to review, seek public comment, and adopt at a later date.
5. Commercial Solar Energy Facility Siting Ordinance  
Jurisk walked through the draft solar ordinance he had written for the county. It was based off of the Illinois Counties Association template and updated to reflect the recent statutory changes. It again was written trying to give the county the maximum authority to regulate as allowed under state law. There were questions about what the county could or could not regulate and if there was any real benefit to the county adopting one at all and instead letting state law regulate it. Jurisk said there were some things this ordinance would allow the county to regulate compared to state law, in particular the set back from a neighbors property could be regulated to at least 50 feet as opposed to state law which would not have that requirement. This was again for the county to review, seek public comment, and adopt at a later date.
6. Cummins Engineering Handling Agricultural Impact Mitigation instead of Soil Water Conservation  
Foundtain was present to say this topic had been asked about earlier this spring and having his firm handle this instead of the Soil and Conservation District as the Board felt they might overwork. Garrison asked if the SWCD had said they would be unable to do the work. They had not been asked. He was concerned since this was a first of its kind action in Illinois that it may increase the liability the county would have face. The committee decided to reach out to SWCD to see if they'd be able to handle the work.
7. Resolution Recognizing the October 12, 1898 Gun Battle in Virden, Illinois  
Goltz was present requesting this resolution be adopted to celebrate the event being held to recognize the Gun Battle in Virden Illinois 125th anniversary. This was a major event in labor history and led to there being significant union history in the county with Mother Jones.

Motion by Klausung, seconded by Kilduff to recommend the resolution.

**From:** [Terry Fountain](#)  
**To:** [Pete Duncan](#)  
**Cc:** [tmarmour2@gmail.com](mailto:tmarmour2@gmail.com); [Kim Cummins](#); [Michael Rapier](#); [Terry Fountain](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 2768.1 Macoupin County - Lotus Wind Farm - AIMA Inspection  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 9:43:06 AM

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**Clerk Duncan** – During the March 14, 2023 County Board meeting, there was discussion of the availability of the Macoupin County Soil & Water Conservation to oversee with the AIMA or if it would be better served with Cummins Engineering Corp (CEC). From what I recall Scott Jansen with Apex indicated, this cost would be covered by Apex.

Below is a general outline of CEC's envision of assisting the county and property owners to assure Apex (Lotus Wind) meets the requirements of the AIMA sent to Economic Development Chair Armour on March 15, 2023. The timeline will of course shift and if the County Board decides to have CEC perform this service additional details will be developed to put together an engineering agreement.

If you want to provide this to the committee members as a reference.

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**From:** Terry Fountain <thfountain@cumminsengineering.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 2:04 PM  
**To:** tmarmour2@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Kim Cummins <Kim@cumminsengineering.com>; Michael Rapier <mrapiere@cumminsengineering.com>; Terry Fountain <thfountain@cumminsengineering.com>  
**Subject:** 2768.1 Macoupin County - Lotus Wind Farm - AIMA Inspection

**Economic Development Chair Armour** – We have talked briefly internally on assisting Macoupin County and the property owners to make sure the requirements of the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) between Apex and the Illinois Department of Agriculture are met. We currently envision the following, subject to Apex's timeline and availability of needed documents:

- Work with Macoupin County to develop a clear and concise Scope of Services over the next few months.
- Provide an Engineering Agreement to the county in August / September 2023.
- Hold 3 to 4 public meetings with property owners, they only need to attend one. We see these meetings occurring in September / October after harvest is complete. The purpose is to introduce ourselves and to provide them what CEC's role will be in making sure the AIMA is met.
- Hold one on one meetings with property owners as requested to discuss concerns they have that are within CEC's role. We anticipate these meetings occurring in October / November / December, once the crops are harvested.
- Starting in October to start documenting existing conditions of drainage issues.
- Once construction starts provide inspectors for foundation excavation, placement of collection lines, and other activities which may impact farmland and as outlined in the AIMA.
- Once construction starts to have someone with CEC in which property owners can contact as issues arise that are within CEC's role.

- As construction is winding down provide further documentation of areas, that are acceptable or areas that need corrected.
- CEC hope to enter into an agreement with the Macoupin County Highway Department and the affected townships to provide construction inspection for the public roadway improvements.

Terrence H. Fountain, P.E.

**CEC**

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## **Recognizing the October 12, 1898, gun battle in Virden, Illinois**

**Whereas:** The members of the Macoupin County, Illinois, board, recognize October 12 marks the 125th anniversary of a gun battle between union mine workers and guards representing the Chicago/Virden mine company in 1898.

**Whereas:** That conflict sparked the effort for workers to obtain the 8-hour workday and contributes to this county's rich history.

**Whereas:** Mt. Olive-based, self-appointed UMWA organizer, "General" Alexander Bradley, who was present during the battle, became the most successful UMWA organizer in history.

**Whereas:** The legendary Irish firebrand Mother Jones is an international figure whom this board recognizes as an important figure to many around the world.

**Whereas:** This battle resulted in Mother Jones requesting that her remains be brought to Mt. Olive and interred in Union Miner's Cemetery with four of the eight miners who died in that battle. She declared she wished to "Sleep beneath the clay with those brave boys."

**Therefore, be it resolved:** This board thanks longtime Virden resident, bookstore owner, and historian John Alexander for his diligent research about the gun battle and for making it known to the wider public.

**Further:** This body supports and appreciates the efforts of Union Miner's Cemetery and Mt. Olive Friends of Mother Jones Museum, who will recognize the importance of these events with a program

that will be held in UMC, on October 8, 2023, at noon, which will feature John Alexander, AFL-CIO President Tim Drea, “General” Alexander Bradley, Mother Jones, and other labor leaders. Labor music will be part of the program and it is a family friendly event.

Submitted by JASE Media Service on behalf of UMC and FMJM.

James Goltz  
Bunker Hill, IL  
618 585 4400