



Economic Development Committee

215 S. East Street

Carlinville, IL 62626

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

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

5:00 PM

County Board Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Armour, Starr, Blank, Kilduff (Remote), Klausing (Remote), Rosentreter, Duncan, Garrison, Wiggins, Heuer, Barr, Ibberson, Adden

ABSENT: Payne

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Solar Panel Ordinance

Michael Jurusik updated the Board on a the changes he had made to the draft ordinance from last month. He found some language regarding vegetation screening, outdoor storage, fencing height ranges, and update the fees schedule. The permit schedule was based on kilowatt hours which he recommended instead of just a flat fee schedule. He also discussed that the county could not enact an acreage limitation on solar farms based on his reading of the state statute. There was a discussion about if the county could put those limitations in regarding not total acreage but in terms of how much each landowner's acreage could be included in a project. There would be the potential that the county could lose if there was a challenge in court as we are not a home rule county. Jurusik also thought that potentially seeing if other counties would be willing to see if the state would adopt clean up language which might help handle some of these issues. Jurusik did say there was one law firm that had reached out to him about potentially 2 applicants, one which is hoping to file in 2023 and the other in 2024. The committee decided to discuss the topic again next month.

2. Cummins Engineering Handling Agricultural Impact Mitigation instead of Soil Water Conservation

Terry Fountain from Cummins Engineering discussed that back in March the Board had asked if they could handle the agricultural impact mitigation instead of the Soil & Water Conservation District. He said they would be able to but that he wasn't sure if the county wanted to get into doing that since it would be dealing with personal property owners. He walked through the 21 items that would be considered for the mitigation that they would handle if they were hired to do it.

Garrison said he had discussed with Soil and Water Conservation and they felt they would be able to handle the work so the topic did not need to be address tonight.

3. Illinois Alluvial representative Marty Reynolds Presentation

Marty Reynolds from Illinois Alluvial came to discuss getting quality water to the Carlinville area through this company. The Illinois Alluvial Regional Water Company is trying to run a water line from Fieldton, Illinois to Carlinville, about 50 miles, to get this ground water source to Carlinville. It will require

multiple easements throughout the county. They have received about 62% of the easements in place and are getting closer to having the project complete. He was not asking for any financial support from the County, just wanted to introduce the project to the County government. Starr pointed out that there was another option from Litchfield water that wouldn't have easement issues and would be surface water from the Litchfield area.

4. Discussion of Letter of Support fo Frontier Broadband Project
Armour said that he had talked with a representative from Frontier about the grant application the folks from Greene County had presented on last month. The deadline had probably been missed for this application period, but the application would hopefully be submitted at the next submission period. He was requesting having the power to sign a letter for support for that application for that application. They were also discussing other potential areas in the county a grant application could be submitted.

Motion by Blank, seconded by Rosentreter to recommend granting Chairman Schmidt or Economic Development Chair Armour the ability to sign a letter of support at a future date for the Greene County joint application for the Chesterfield Station.

RESULT:	MOTION TO RECOMMEND [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Blank, Member
SECONDER:	Molly Rosentreter, Member
AYES:	Armour, Starr, Blank, Kilduff, Klausing, Rosentreter
ABSENT:	Payne

From: [Terry Fountain](#)
To: [Pete Duncan](#)
Cc: 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

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.

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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