

ATTACHMENT NO. IX-A: Information Gathered from Wind Farm Research

Potential motion:               None

Recommended action:        Informational item

As requested at the June 2011 Board meeting, I contacted a number of other districts about their wind farm projects and asked the following three questions:

1. Are the actual revenues what were projected during the development phase?  
More, less, right on?
2. Have you had any problems getting the tax dollars?
3. Any educational issues or health issues from wind farm syndrome, etc. that you have seen in your district?

I also posted the questions to the Illinois superintendents' listserv. Unfortunately, I received few responses, mostly due to the time of year as many superintendents take vacation in late June and early July. Also as some superintendents changed on July 1, some of the new superintendents were not able to respond except in the most general of ways. What I was able to gather is below.

**Are the actual revenues what were projected during the development phase?**

The windmills have been very helpful in maintaining our district's budget. The revenues at this time is just a little over what we had expected and of course our GSA is cut. When we first came on line we ended up with about \$500,000 extra since GSA is a year behind, but we have maintained dollar amounts equal to or even more than the GSA we have lost (and arrives on time!!). Of course, the windmills do depreciate but the EAV for our district has tripled in the last 5 years. The motors on the windmills have a 25 year life span and our wind companies have all said that with the profits they are making here, they will just replace the motors as needed and they will continue after that time.

The projected revenues have been pretty spot on for us.

Ridgeview CUSD #19 has had no difficulty in receiving the property tax disbursements due them from the wind farms.

**Have you had any problems getting the tax dollars?**

The only problem we had with the taxes was on the first ones in Bureau County. The assessor taxed at 100% of value. It led to State Legislation that has reduced that amount, we did have to pay some back, but we had the help of a great attorney who was at the table with the State legislators so we really only lost about 30% of that money instead of the 60% we could have lost back to them. Faircom, a group of public governmental bodies, has done some great lobbying that has helped tremendously with the tax dollars. It is a group that meets quarterly in Coal City under Pete Hughes and the Coal City Supt.

So, no problems since with the tax dollars.

This is the first year we are suppose to get revenue from the Wind farm company and have yet to see any of it.

We will not get our money until next summer to answer your questions.

We should have received a partial payment this summer and received a little from Bureau County but the Lee County Clerk thought the entire project had to be completed before she could tax. I went to a hearing and Lee County agreed I was correct in expecting the partial payment, and I will get the full payment and what was owed for the partial with next summer's payment.

As you can see, projects can get delayed due to a variety of things, so plan accordingly. You can anticipate the possibility of revenue but do not spend it until the event actually occurs. The Black Prairie Wind Farm was originally scheduled to be completed by now. It will not be completed, at this point, until 2014. There are numerous factors including the current price of energy; especially since natural gas is low.

The McLean County Tax Assessor is great to work with. His assistant has developed a spread sheet that contains very detailed information on each of the 240 wind turbines in the Twin Groves Wind Farm (Ridgeview, Tri-Valley and GCMS). The property tax revenue for the wind farm is distributed just like all the rest of the property tax revenue; there just is more of it.

This is true even if there is an annual depreciation factor of up to 4%. It has never been that much since there is also a trending factor that is used as part of that process. This is attempted to be addressed in part of the PowerPoint, but if you need more explanation, please contact me.

**Any educational issues or health issues from wind farm syndrome, etc. that you have seen in your district?**

We have not seen or heard of any problems with health issues. If you are in the right spot and the right time of the day, there is a flicker effect and also a slight "whish" sound, but very slight. Only TV interference and then the wind companies pay for satellite service for those affected. We have a few not happy that they can see then outside their front door, but no major protests as you are seeing in Bureau Valley District - Bureau County.

We have not witnessed any negatives yet.

No health issues that I am aware of.

I am not aware of any of the ill effects that you mention. Only Mrs. Shertz, a perennial anti-wind farm testifier at all public hearings, seems to know about these problems. I have stood below the wind turbine and it is not noisy.

**Other Comments**

We have farmers here just waiting for more. The additional revenues for them is \$10,000 and up, depending on the company. Some of ours actually have a profit sharing agreement with the companies. This is wonderful for the small farmers who struggle with high farming costs. One farmer south of town is bringing in close to \$60,000 a year!

On the educational side, it has given an opportunity for a more intense study of alternative energy. We have even looked at building a windmill on our site.

I cannot answer the questions about the wind farms since ours are not yet built.

Unfortunately, several of the projects are still in the construction or just constructed phase and I can't obtain long-term information at this point.

In reviewing the health aspects of wind farms, there are no peer-reviewed articles in *JAMA*, *Lancet* or the *NEJM* that speak to wind farm syndrome or anything similar. *Lancet* has published two editorial type articles that speak to the need for clean renewable energy due to the health impact of traditional fossil fuels on the population. The physicians I spoke to were entirely unaware of such a syndrome. I was unable to find anything speaking to the negative effects that wasn't self-published with the exception of one paper by Alex Salt and Timothy Hullar (2010). Responses of the ear to low frequency sounds, infrasound and wind turbines *Hearing Research* 268 (1). The article raises the possibility that exposure to the infrasound component of wind turbine noise could influence the physiology of the ear. It doesn't provide conclusive findings, but it does raise questions about low frequency sounds. The research itself was done using lab animals and not human subjects. It appears to raise the issue with specific abnormal physiologies and not for those with normal hearing. It is based on the research that one of the speakers at the June Board Meeting spoke to.

The engineer I spoke with stated that a fossil fuel plant would most likely bring in more long term revenue, as current wind technology is an expensive method of producing electricity and that its best use is to be used a supplemental power source during peak use periods. However, he felt that wind does have long term possibilities as the technology improves.

I have also included the summary of funding from the Bradford District and the presentation by Dr. Dodds, who was previously with Ridgeview District 19.

## **BRADFORD COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #1**

Junior High  
115 High Street  
Bradford, IL 61421  
Phone: (309) 897-2801  
Fax (309) 897-4451



Grade School  
345 Silver Street  
Bradford, IL 61421  
Phone: (309) 897-4441  
Fax: (309) 897-8361

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From the Office of Dr. Ellin Lotspeich, Superintendent

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- Last High School graduating class May 2001 – 1st year of deactivation 2001-2002
- High School numbers: 63 students August 2002 - Currently 116 high school students
- 141 windmills within the district – 1<sup>st</sup> on tax rolls in 2006 Levy, all on line in 2010. Have 33 open approved sites that at this time are not developed and open for windmill developers.
- Tax levy has remained the same since the windmills came online about 4.65% total
- Tax levy in FY01 for Education \$919,000 O&M \$170,396 Trans. \$68,158 Total levy \$1,316,905
- Tax levy in FY11 for Education \$2,130,00 O&M \$337,000 Trans. \$145,000 Total levy \$2,966,000
- EAV in 2000 through 2010 increase over \$15 million with increased revenues about at \$1.5 million. Revenues per windmill has varied on size of windmills.
- General State Aid has decreased as levy collection has increased, also we had hold harmless until 2006. FY01 GSA was \$505,845 with \$288,000 of it hold harmless. Currently with increased student numbers we are receiving \$540,000 this year, a decrease of FY08 of \$867,000 with about the same number of students as FY08. FY11 General State Aid has reflected the entire increase of revenues from increased EAV

Potential Wind Farm Revenue v. GSA Reductions

Tax Year	EAV per Megawatt	Total Megawatts	Total EAV Gain	NB CUSD Tax Rate	Taxes Gained	GSA	GSA Lost (PMA Estimates)	Net Revenue Gain
2014	130,347.00	200	26,069,400.00	5.36%	\$1,396,441.30	\$5,084,042.00	0	\$1,396,441.30
2015	128,261.45	200	25,652,289.60	5.36%	\$1,374,098.24	\$4,284,042.00	\$800,000.00	\$574,098.24
2016	126,209.26	200	25,241,852.97	5.36%	\$1,352,112.67	\$4,284,042.00	\$800,000.00	\$552,112.67
2017	124,189.92	200	24,837,983.32	5.36%	\$1,330,478.87	\$4,284,042.00	\$800,000.00	\$530,478.87
2018	122,202.88	200	24,440,575.59	5.36%	\$1,309,191.20	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$529,191.20
2019	120,247.63	200	24,049,526.38	5.36%	\$1,288,244.14	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$508,244.14
2020	118,323.67	200	23,664,733.95	5.36%	\$1,267,632.24	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$487,632.24
2021	116,430.49	200	23,286,098.21	5.36%	\$1,247,350.12	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$467,350.12
2022	114,567.60	200	22,913,520.64	5.36%	\$1,227,392.52	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$447,392.52
2023	112,734.52	200	22,546,904.31	5.36%	\$1,207,754.24	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$427,754.24
2024	110,930.77	200	22,186,153.84	5.36%	\$1,188,430.17	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$408,430.17
2025	109,155.88	200	21,831,175.38	5.36%	\$1,169,415.29	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$389,415.29
2026	107,409.38	200	21,481,876.57	5.36%	\$1,150,704.65	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$370,704.65
2027	105,690.83	200	21,138,166.55	5.36%	\$1,132,293.37	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$352,293.37
2028	103,999.78	200	20,799,955.88	5.36%	\$1,114,176.68	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$334,176.68
2029	102,335.78	200	20,467,156.59	5.36%	\$1,096,349.85	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$316,349.85
2030	100,698.41	200	20,139,682.08	5.36%	\$1,078,808.25	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$298,808.25
2031	99,087.24	200	19,817,447.17	5.36%	\$1,061,547.32	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$281,547.32
2032	97,501.84	200	19,500,368.02	5.36%	\$1,044,562.56	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$264,562.56
2033	95,941.81	200	19,188,362.13	5.36%	\$1,027,849.56	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$247,849.56
2034	94,406.74	200	18,881,348.33	5.36%	\$1,011,403.97	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$231,403.97
2035	92,896.23	200	18,579,246.76	5.36%	\$995,221.51	\$4,304,042.00	\$780,000.00	\$215,221.51
			<b>Total New Revenue</b>		<b>\$26,071,458.72</b>		<b>Net New Revenue</b>	<b>\$9,631,458.72</b>

These projections do not take into account any other new growth besides that included in PMA's 5 year projections and the GSA calculations assume current GSA levels and a stable student population through 2035. Increasing either the GSA support or the student population would decrease the GSA loss figures. PMA would like to state that these are only the most preliminary rough estimates based on assumptions remaining stable through 2035. Similarly, they assume a flat tax rate.

Mr. Don Ward, President

North Boone School District

NBCUSD #200

6248 North Boone School Rd, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

North Boone School Board Members,

I would like to inform you that I am in full support of Mainstream RP Wind Farm Project. I have been a long-standing farmer in this community. My children, grandchildren and myself have all attended the North Boone School District. My family and I believe the income raised from tax revenues would be a great asset for our school district. We can always use improvements throughout our system. I feel, preserving as much farmland as possible, while controlling residential growth, would allow for future farmers in our community to prosper. The project would also generate employment in our community.

My experience on wind turbine farms, I feel they are safe for our environment and will reduce CO2 emissions and the use of fossil fuels. Pollution will some day change our climate, creating difficulties in raising our crops. We must start using renewable energy to sustain our environment for future generations of our community.

Best Regards,

  
William F Randall Jr.

*The following is a typed copy of Mr. & Mrs. Wally's letter dated June 30, 2011 (please see attached).*

June 30, 2011

Dear Mr. Ward,

We are writing to say that we support the proposed Mainstream R P Farm Project.

We are in favor of turning wind into electricity; the wind is an everlasting source of power.

When we were children on the farm, we used wind mills to pump water to fill water tanks for the cattle to drink. (and horses) We used the windmills to pump our drinking water, and for doing the laundry.

Some neighbors even used wind to generate DC current for lighting their homes.

Boone County, Leroy and Manchester townships, and North Boone School districts will benefit from additional taxes and help keep North Boone agricultural.

Norris's has lived on this farm for 73 years, as I have lived here for 62 years. We want to keep our neighborhood the same pleasant caring community it has always been. We wouldn't want to support anything that would change that for us.

Yours truly,

Norris & Marge Wally  
22183 Beaverton  
Capron, IL 61012

June 30, 2011

Dear Mr. Hard

We are writing to say that we support the proposed Transition R.P. Farm Project.

We are in favor of turning wind into electricity, & the wind is an everlasting source of power.

When we were children on the farm, we used wind mills to pump water to the water tanks for the cattle to drink. (and later) We used the windmills to pump our drinking water, and for drying the laundry.

Some neighbors even used wind to generate DC current for lighting their homes.

From County, Perry and Moultrie Counties, and Neal Home School Districts from additional letters, and to help keep the Boone Agriculture.

Name has had on the farm for 23 years, and I am kind to for over 62 years. He wants to keep our neighborhood the same pleasant, caring, & community it has always been. He wants 4



want to support anything that would  
change that for us.

Yamostudy

John - Range Valley

22183 Beaumont

Capron, DE 61012

7-12-11

Atten : Don Ward

We are writing this letter in support of the North Boone Wind Farm Project. We are hearing concerns about cochlear implants and wind turbines. Our nephew Troy Doetch has cochlear implants and lives in Candlewick. My brother <sup>Dr.</sup>Troy Doetch sr. and Troy Doetch Jr. have no concerns about any impact from the windmills on his cochlear implants. They too, are in favor of the Wind Farm project.

Thank you,  
Ben + Deb Doetch

July 21, 2011

Don Ward  
President  
North Boone School Board  
North Boone Unit School District #200  
6248 North Boone School Road  
Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Dear Mr. Ward:

I am writing this letter to encourage the North Boone School Board and its members to support the proposed Mainstream Wind Farm Project.

As a lifelong member of the North Boone Community and having three children who have benefited from the education of the North Boone School System, I would submit to having standing to address this project.

The long term benefits for School District #200 are the most important factors when weighing the merits of this project. As a landowner of a 140 acre farm, I understand that many farmers are stretched beyond capacity. This Wind Farm Project would, I believe, bring relief because of the increased assessed valuation of the individual wind turbines. I also see a positive financial benefit for our School District. With several grandchildren about to enter our educational system, I know this project will produce a financial money stream that will benefit many students. It also is important to support the concept of renewable energy. School districts statewide are trending to support this concept as a prime example to the community.

Lastly, please do not underestimate the community's wide support for this project. As School Board Members, I ask you to be responsive to the "will of the people" and to support a resolution in favor of the Mainstream Wind Farm Project.

Sincerely,

Jan W. Noble

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTH BOONE WIND FARM PROJECT TO  
BE DEVELOPED BY U.S. MAINSTREAM RENEWABLE POWER, INC. ON  
PROPERTY LOCATED IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Education (“Board”) of North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200 (“District”) has been informed of proposed plans to construct a wind farm (“Project”) by U.S. Mainstream Renewable Power, Inc. (“Developer”) titled North Boone Wind Farm to be located in Boone County, Illinois (“County”); and,

**WHEREAS**, the majority of the property upon which Developer proposes to construct the Project is located within the boundaries of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, it is proposed that the Project would contain approximately 200 megawatts of power, the majority of which would be located within the taxing jurisdiction of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Developer has created an Illinois corporation, GSG 5 LLC, which is in the process of entering into leases with landowners who own land within the taxing jurisdiction of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, for the reasons set forth herein, the District wishes to express its support for the Project, including support for any application filed on behalf of the North Boone Wind Farm Project for a conditional use permit or any other permit or authorization in the County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
NORTH BOONE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 200 AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Recitals Incorporated.** The above recitals are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.

**Section 2. Property Tax Revenues Generated by the Project for the District.** The estimated total property tax revenue generated by the Project on a yearly basis solely for the District is approximately \$1,396,000.00

**Section 3. Property Tax Revenues Generated by the Project for Boone County.** The estimated total property tax revenue generated by the Project for Boone County is \$26 million.

**Section 4. Support for Conditional Use.** Due to the property tax revenues which may be generated by this Project for the District and other taxing districts in Boone County, the District Administration is authorized to support the Developer, including support for any application filed on behalf of the North Boone Wind Project for a conditional use permit or any other permit or authorization in the County.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption and approval.

PASSED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSENT:

APPROVED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011.

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Donald Ward, President, Board of Education

ATTEST

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Thomas Kinser, Secretary, Board of Education