

Waterville Valley Community Power Program Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 2.15.2024 4:00PM

Location: Teleconference

1. Call meeting to Order by Kim Rawson @ 4:01pm
2. Attendance
 - a. Members Present: Alan Berko, Kelly Cannon, Linda Coleman, Dave McCabe, Terry Roper
 - b. Standard Power: Bob Hayden
3. Approve Draft Meeting Minutes 1.11.2024
 - a. Terry Moved to approve the meeting minute from last month. Alan seconds. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
4. Privilege of the Floor - None
5. Community Power Program Committee Work
 - a. Plan Process Update - Status of Launch
 - i. Bob: The natural gas prices crashed across the country due to a mild winter. The results are that there is a glut of natural gas. This is important as electricity is expected to follow. Electricity has gone down a little bit, but not caught up to natural gas. The suppliers expect the electricity price to go down as long, but it is based on weather.
 - ii. Alan: Community Power Coalition has a program selling electricity at 8.1 cents. Bob: They collected 4 cents per kilowatt hour from the reserve fund. The reserve fund is being used to offset the electrical cost. The 8.1 cents is subsidized. The question is how long can they sustain it. The lowest rate utility is Eversource is 8.2 cents. They overcharged so they had to refund a penny and half per kWh. Suppliers expect the buy price to go down further. The rate adjustment feature is interesting but the Coalition really hasn't brought the retained earnings up high enough to endure for a long time. It's rate stabilization.
 - iii. Bob received an email from Alan with wind data. Wind is much more financially beneficial than solar.
 - iv. Dave: Concerns with how small the amount of energy wind turbines produce. What are we trying to accomplish with the wind turbine, because practical energy may not be viable. Bob: The experiment represents a residential opportunity that could justify the concept that if a wind project is cited in a less than perfect place and it produces more electricity per dollar than a solar project, wind becomes a more interesting opportunity.
 - v. Terry: If we did have wind, it would have to be in a place that was not connected to the NHEC? Bob: In NHEC, if you want to net meter, you cannot be on third party supply. If, in November, the Town assigned a meter to this project, it would not be in the Town

third party supply contract.

- vi. Terry: Is there power to the recycling building where the attendant is? That could be another opportunity for wind. Bob: Mark is looking at another building, the DPW garage.
- vii. Kim: To sum up, if a flower turbine can produce between 5-10 kWh of energy, how many turbines would be needed on the DPW garage to offset the entire electricity bill? Bob: One. Though, the net metering option is the least expensive. Demand response uses its batteries to offset the load during peak hours or peak times (times of day where the cost is higher for electricity). These are not available at the residential level. With better data things like this could be easier to do.
- viii. Bob: We are waiting on Liberty data. Kim: Where do we stand? Bob: Will start giving numbers as soon as we get it.
- ix. Terry: Any thought of when the price of natural gas will affect the electricity prices? Bob: We are at a 5 year low for natural gas. The market is waiting for the electricity price to catch up with the five year low of the natural gas price. Almost daily the prices of electricity go down.
- x. Kim: To sum up, right now because our data is already submitted, it's straightforward and the rates can be generated. Bob will continue to monitor. Because natural gas prices are low, it is impacted by the mixture of pricing including the renewable energy pricing. Right now, we are near the 9 cents mark and we are hoping for the 8 cents in the next couple of weeks.

6. Other Committee Work

a. Micro wind turbine

- i. Bob Hayden: Flower turbines look interesting. Suggests someone contact the Coop to let them know our intentions of an micro wind turbine experiment, to find out how supportive they are and do they have suggestions about where to put it in our community. (Linda will contact account rep) Mark relays the contract for third party supply for the municipality is up in November, so the Town is available to do it in November.
- ii. Bob: It's important to let the engineering company and NHEC know we're talking about micro wind 10kW. 1,500 square feet would be a similarly sized solar project (not bigger) And that we want to do this as an experiment in the community.

b. Community Committee Proposal

- i. Request CPC attend a meeting with the engineers of Black & Veatch to discuss plans & designs for wind turbines/ renewable energy sources to be incorporated in the design of our WWTF.
 - 1. Kim: The next step will be to put a proposal forward to form a community committee to work with the town and new engineering firm to develop the next iteration of renewable

energy use.

- c. Annual Report
 - i. Report was submitted to the Town. Kim thanks committee members for their contributions to it.
7. Communication: Kim will speak at the March 7 SelectBoard meeting to ask for a no cost community group to partner with the engineering firm that would work under to keep a lens on renewable energy. She will be giving a committee update at the March 7, 2024 SelectBoard meeting.
 - a. Dave: Is renewable energy within the scope or an add on to the contract?
Kim to follow up with Mark.
8. Next Meeting Date March March 21 @ 4pm
9. Adjournment at 4:49pm