

**MINUTES OF THE TENTH
OREGON WIND WORKING GROUP (OWWG) MEETING
Rockaway Beach, October 19, 2005**

By
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Oregon Department of Energy

Note: These minutes are brief. If you need more information, please contact Carel DeWinkel, phone: 800-221-8035 (in state) or 503-378-6099; carel.dewinkel@state.or.us. or contact the speaker.

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The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) organized this workshop in close cooperation with Tillamook and Clatsop county officials. It was held in the Rockaway Beach City Hall, 276 Highway 101 South. The goals of this workshop were (1) to transfer the knowledge gained with the work to develop *small community wind energy projects* in North-central Oregon to the northern Oregon coastal area, and (2) to encourage discussion on how to locate small wind farms without unduly affecting the aesthetic quality of the coastal region.

The approximately 80 attendees represented a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including local citizens interested in renewables, public officials, utility personnel and wind farm developers. Numerous questions were raised and comments made during and after the presentations.

The Agenda of the workshop is shown on the last page of these minutes.

Tim Josi, Tillamook County Commissioner, and **Patrick Wingard**, Clatsop County's Community Development Supervisor welcomed the attendees and described the counties' interest in the development of renewable resources to assist in the economic development of the region. Biomass, solar, wind and wave energy are all renewable energy sources of interest to the region.

The following presentations (in PowerPoint format) can be found on the **OWWG web site** <http://egov.oregon.gov/ENERGY/RENEW/Wind/OWWG/OWWG.shtml> :

- Renewable Energy and Community Wind Farms – a brief introduction, **Carel DeWinkel**, Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE)
- Small Wind Farm Development: Typical Project Steps, Public/private Partnerships, **Paul Woodin**, Western Wind Power
- Local Economic Benefits of Community Wind Projects, **Stephen Grover**, ECONorthwest
- Loans, Tax Credits, Project Ownership and Financing of Renewables, **Jeff Keto**, ODOE
- Incentives for Renewables and Energy Efficiency, **Alan Cowan**, Energy Trust of Oregon
- The Coastal Wind Resource, **Phil Barbour**, OSU
- The Fish and Wildlife Service's Siting Guidelines and Perspective on Wind Energy Development, **Michael Green**, USFWS, Pacific Region

The following speakers did not have power point presentations and a brief summary is presented here.

Bruce Lovelin, Engineering Manager of the Tillamook PUD, (brucel@tpud.org or 503-815-8610) described his PUD's perspective on the use of renewable resources. Tillamook PUD works with one biogas project in its territory. No other renewable energy generating facility is currently operating in its service area. Bruce mentioned that the current avoided cost is largely based on the BPA rate, but he envisions that the PUD will most likely be exposed to market rates after 2011 when contracts with BPA will change. This could mean a significant increase in the avoided cost rate and Tillamook PUD is therefore interested in new renewables in its service area.

During lunch, **Ms. Shirley Kalkhoven, Mayor of Nehalem**, (shirleyk@nehalem.net or 503-368-6770) explained her view on wind energy development in this region of the Oregon coast. She described the experience with a proposed commercial wind energy development in the region some 3 years ago. Renewable Generation Inc., a Texas company, proposed to install a row of about 70 to 90 large wind turbines on the first ridge on Green Diamond Resource property (formerly Simpson Timber). Mayor Kalkhoven was one of the founding members of the "Alliance to Protect Oregon's Coast" which successfully fought this proposal. While most of the Alliance members believe that wind power is a good idea, they don't think that the North Oregon coast is an appropriate place. Currently, there are no active proposals for wind farms in this region. She questioned whether there really is a local economic benefit from wind farms and stated that a lot of owners of new, second homes do not want to look at large wind turbines. She is also concerned about conflicts with small planes, noise, and that wind turbines in forested areas could cause fires (particularly in an earthquake event) that could reach the coastal area in a very short time with easterly winds.

Don Bain, Principal of Aeropower Services Inc., _____ described the many wind energy activities in the past, primarily in the 1980's. Many wind turbines were installed, including the first wind farm of 1.25 MW in the Bandon area and a large 500 kW vertical axis Darrieus rotor wind turbine manufactured by Alcoa. However, the technology was not yet mature. Consequently, many of the machines failed because of poor design, particularly a lot of corrosion. Several utility wind studies were also made during the 1980's. They showed the value of wind farms when they are spread out over large geographical areas such as those along the coast combined with those in North and Northeastern Oregon. Don further discussed the many issues related to the development of a wind farm along the Oregon coast, such as the relatively complicated terrain, transmission limitations, sensitive species, aesthetics, corrosion of wind turbine parts and occasional high winds.

Finally, he listed the many benefits of the development of wind farms to landowners and local communities, including upgrading farm roads, correcting past mistakes in surveys, better weed control and security.

Paul Engelmeyer (tmnas@harborside.com) or 541-547-4097), a member of the Audubon Society, discussed siting of wind turbines and its impact on birds. His presentation was largely based on documentation from the National Wind Coordinating Committee. See <http://www.nationalwind.org> for general information, and <http://www.nationalwind.org/publications/avian.htm> for information on avian/wildlife/wind turbine interactions.

Tom Bender, Architect, Nehalem, (tom@tombender.org or 503-368-6294) spoke against the installation of large wind turbines in this area of our state. Among other things, he lamented the loss of darkness with the row of industrial-sized wind turbine on the first ridge, some of which would have blinking lights as required by the FAA. In stead, he argued in favor of a more efficient lifestyle and of putting emphasis and technology development efforts on more elegant technologies that leapfrog the “nineteenth century” wind technology. Tom further expressed an interest in a comprehensive evaluation of energy needs in the community and finding ways to meet that need without industrial scale technologies such as large wind turbines.

Bill Campbell, Director of the Community Development Department of Tillamook County (bcampbel@co.tillamook.or.us or 503-842-3408), presented excerpts of policies that have some influence on the decision process for siting utility facilities within the county. Bill mentioned in some detail the Land Use Plan’s policy to “meet conservation and development needs,” where “need” is defined to be “public wants and preferences.” The need in this sense is “an aggregate of wants and not the want of any specific individual to use any specific parcel of land. Findings of need are based on data such as population estimates and projections, employment estimates and projections, community surveys and opinions, and market studies.” He also stated that Tillamook County’s Energy Conservation goal includes the promotion and facilitation of both energy efficiency and renewables. Tillamook County has not yet completed the state’s Goal 5 planning yet.

Discussion

A lively discussion took place during the final hour of the workshop as well as during several of the presentations during the workshop. Among other things, in contrast to some speakers who described the modern large wind turbines as ugly, two attendees described them as *majestic* and *hopeful* making it clear that there is diversity in local attitudes towards wind turbines.

Next steps

One of the outcomes was the request to have ODOE assist in the organization of a similar workshop in the Astoria area. ODOE was asked to contact Clatsop County officials to initiate such planning. The need for comprehensive energy planning in Tillamook County was also expressed. ODOE offered assistance to such an effort as well, if requested.

Oregon Wind Working Group (OWWG)¹
Tenth Meeting, North Oregon Coast, October 19, 2005

When: Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Where: Rockaway Beach City Hall, 276 Highway 101 South. (near the Fire Station)

This workshop will be held in close cooperation with county and rural economic development officials. The goals of this workshop are (1) to transfer the knowledge gained with the work to develop *small community wind energy projects* in North-central Oregon to the northern Oregon coastal area, and (2) to encourage discussion on how to locate small wind farms without unduly affecting the aesthetic quality of the coastal region.

******Agenda******

- 09:00 Welcome – Tillamook County Commissioner Tim Josi and Patrick Wingard, Clatsop County’s Community Development Supervisor
- 09:15 Renewable Energy and Community Wind Farms – a brief introduction, Carel DeWinkel, Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE)
- 09:30 Small Wind Farm Development: Typical Project Steps, Public/private Partnerships, Paul Woodin, Western Wind Power
- 10:15 Local Economic Benefits of Community Wind Projects, Stephen Grover, ECONorthwest
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Loans, Tax Credits, Project Ownership and Financing of Renewables, Jeff Keto, ODOE
- 11:30 Incentives for Renewables and Energy Efficiency, Alan Cowan , Energy Trust of Oregon
- 11:50 Consumer-owned Utility Perspective, Bruce Lovelin, Tillamook PUD

- 12:15 *Working lunch*, speaker Ms. Shirley Kalkhoven, Mayor of Nehalem: “A Balancing Act”

- 01:30 The Coastal Wind Resource, Don Bain, AeroPower Services Inc, and Phil Barbour, OSU
- 02:00 The Aesthetics of Large Wind Turbines Along the Coast, Tom Bender, Nehalem
- 02:30 Siting Wind Turbines and Avian Issues, Paul Engelmeyer, Audubon Society
- 02:50 The Fish and Wildlife Service’s Siting Guidelines and Perspective on Wind Energy Development, Michael Green, USFWS, Pacific Region
- 03:10 Break
- 03:30 The Use of an “Energy Overlay Zone” as a Zoning Tool, Bill Campbell, Tillamook Co
- 04:00 Discussion
- 05:00 Concluding Remarks

¹ As part of its *Wind Powering America* program, the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) is partially funding the Oregon Wind Working Group’s (OWWG) activities over a four-year period, beginning June 1, 2002. The Oregon Department of Energy is the lead organization. The group includes representatives of utilities, government agencies, environmental groups, farming and rural interests, and developers.