

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting

Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting provided by Video Live-Broadcast, Telephonically and In Person

Present: Chairman Jerome Delvin
Commissioner Shon Small
Commissioner Will McKay
County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Robert Heard, IT Manager; Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen; Greg Wendt, Director of Community Development and Michelle Cooke, Assistant Planning Manager.

Town Hall Meeting & Workshop on Scout Clean Energy's Horse Heaven Wind Farm Application to the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council to Construct and Operate a Renewable Energy Generation Facility Located in Unincorporated Benton County

Chairman Delvin stated the Board did not have any expertise to answer questions, but this meeting was to receive public comments before the EFSEC hearing. He reminded the public they would be allowed two minutes each to speak.

Introduction and Overview of Scout Clean Energy's Application

Greg Wendt reiterated the purpose of the meeting was to take public comment on Scout Clean Energy's application for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm. He said there were two possible paths in pursuing an application, either apply with Benton County or the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC). On February 8, 2021 Scout Clean Energy chose to pursue an application with EFSEC and the decision making was then put in the hands of the State of Washington. The EFSEC will make a recommendation to the State and the Governor will ultimately make the decision.

Michelle Cooke gave an overview of the project:

Proposed wind and solar energy generation facility located in unincorporated Benton County, which would begin near the Columbia River south of Finley and would stretch approximately 27 miles across the Horse Heaven Hills, ending halfway between Benton City and Prosser. The entire project area would encompass over 72,000 acres, boundary to boundary with 6,900 acres for the project footprint. The applicants were proposing an 1150 megawatt facility with up to 244

turbines, 6,570 acres of solar arrays, and two battery storage facilities to store and later deploy the energy created by the project. They were seeking approval for two solar sites and identified three possible locations. Additionally, they were proposing two possible wind turbine options (option 1 - 244 wind turbines with a maximum height of 499 feet; or option 2 - 50 wind turbines with a maximum height of 671 feet).

Mr. Wendt said they would utilize these comments to generate an official statement to submit to EFSEC at their hearing on March 30, 2021. He said it was a two-part hearing that included an open public comment section, and they would prepare documentation for both meetings. He said they were encouraging the public to comment at the March 30 meeting with EFSEC during the public comment section.

Additionally, the County had received over 200 written comments and phone calls to date in the last several weeks and 90% were opposed to the proposal in its current state.

Due to COVID, a sign-in sheet for speakers was not provided. Additionally, names were difficult to hear due to mask requirements and audio difficulties. Therefore, full names and correct spellings may not be provided.

Public Comments

Sherry Weld, Richland, opposed.

Dave Kobus, Richland, Project Manager for the Scout Energy project, spoke in favor.

Jim Adkins, Prosser, opposed.

Richard Yrjanson, Kennewick, opposed.

_____, Richland, said he was in favor but would be watching closely.

Kristen Shafen, West Richland, opposed.

Bill Jenkin, Prosser, expressed his concerns (but did not state support or opposition). However, said the community, by and large was opposed.

Brian Crumland, Kennewick, opposed.

Jean Cummins, Kennewick, opposed.

Doug Fearing, Kennewick, opposed.

Matt Malin, Kennewick, opposed.

Clark Stoley, Kennewick, opposed.

Barry Bush, Kennewick, opposed.

Charlotte Marshall, Kennewick, opposed.

Dana Morgan, Pasco (grew up in Benton City), Local 348, in favor.

Jason Shammer, West Richland, laborer, in favor.

Mike Bosse, Benton City, Representative for Local 302, in support.

Rilen Grimes, West Richland, IBW Local 112, local electricians, in favor.

_____ Siguera, Pasco, Business Manager for Local 348, in favor.

Stu Freeports, Pasco, opposed.

Janelle Alexander, Roosevelt, in favor.

Ben Griggs, Richland, opposed.

Chris Wright, West Richland, opposed.

Chris Cooperstein, Badger Canyon, expressed concern about his property value and light sensitivity issues (but did not state support or opposition).

Jason Walker, new to Benton County, south of Kennewick, opposed.

Justin Rogers, Kennewick, Ironworkers Local 14, in favor.

Logan Pomeranky, Benton County, in favor.

Greg Gales, Waitsburg, President of Ironworkers Local 14, in favor.

Harvey Farholt, Kennewick, opposed.

Vicky Farholt, Kennewick, opposed.

Mark C., West Richland but building a home in Badger Canyon, opposed.

Mitch Stole, Pasco, opposed.

Juan Swanson, opposed.

Jennifer Calgill, Kennewick, opposed.

Patsy Malare, Kennewick, opposed.

Steve Simmons, Pasco, opposed, member of Local IBW 112, and said that not all electricians were in favor.

Ms. Hendrickson, Kennewick, opposed.

Dana Morgan, Benton City, opposed.

Nicolas Van Slack, Pasco, Maintenance Technician for wind turbines, in favor.

Bjorn Hedges, Richland (via/WebEx), Engineer for wind sites, said he was not pro or against, just wanted to answer questions for the Board.

Gina (via/WebEx), 6 years old, in favor.

Richard Sargent, Richland, (via/WebEx), public utility power resource manager, opposed.

John Burke, (via/WebEx), opposed.

_____ Chow, Kennewick, (via/WebEx), opposed.

Roger Terry, Kennewick, (via/WebEx), sent a written email, opposed.

Joel Merns, South Kennewick, (via/WebEx), opposed.

Derek Kolar, Kennewick, (via/WebEx), opposed.

Brian Mitchell, Kennewick, (via/WebEx), sent a letter, opposed.

Mike Ogden, Badger Canyon, (via/WebEx), opposed.

Robert B., Richland, (via/WebEx), opposed.

The Board emphasized the importance of the public participating at the March 30, 2021 EFSEC hearing.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:54 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman