

Central Region CERTs Meeting Summary

Sibley Station Restaurant, Pequot Lakes, MN

May 4th, 2006

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Attendees: Bret Thomas, Jan Thomas, Dallas Flynn, Rin Porter, Shaun Anderson, Jay Idzorek, Jody Idzorek, Copper Harding, Sue Peterson, Linda Ulland, Joel Haskard

5:30 pm Introductions and pizza

Project Updates

Green Range Renewable Energy Update

Jay & Jody Idzorek and partner Ryan Hunt have been retailing B50 since January and now hope to make batches of biodiesel on-site. Green Range Renewable Energy hopes to make 500 gallon batches as needed. They have about 70 regular customers and are 10 cents cheaper than their nearest competitor; also their retail pump is powered by two small wind turbines. To learn more, visit: www.GreenRangeEnergy.com.

Meeting with Pequot Lakes Mayor

Linda Ulland and Joel Haskard just met with Mayor Cathy Malecha. Pequot Lakes is scheduled to have a large road construction project move through its community in 2007 and Mayor Malecha wants to evaluate the costs and benefits of energy efficient street lighting. Linda and Joel provided the mayor with Minnesota Power's Conservation Improvement Program manager Tim Gallagher's contact information to assist them with a lighting grant. CERT will also work to connect Sharon Thurlow from Pequot Lakes Housing Redevelopment Authority with RREAL to discuss solar thermal installations and Pequot Lake's fleet manager Mike Loven with the folks at Green Range to discuss biodiesel purchases.

Windy River & Cass County Fairs

Copper Harding and Sue Peterson updated the group about the Ecological Economics Fair at the Cass County Fair and the Windy River Fair at the Morrison County Fair. The Ecological Economics Fair at the Cass County Fair will focus on renewable energy on Thursday, July 27th, and the Windy River Fair at the Morrison County Fair will focus on renewable energy Friday, July 28th. This will allow vendors to participate in both fairs. For more information, please visit www.ecosquared.org and www.windyriver.us.

CERTs Request for Proposals

Joel outlined the CERTs' recently released \$5,200 request for proposal. All proposals are due June 1st. Other CERTs across the state are large enough to have a steering committee that will review grant proposals and narrow down the pool of grants the whole team will vote upon. The Central CERT is relatively small in size, but has a very active membership. When asked how they wished to judge the winning proposals

for the grant, the group decided that they could talk about it together and collectively decide which projects are funded, even though it is fairly certain that many of the team members will be in competition with each other for funding. The team felt that through open negotiations they could make decisions with out acrimony or bias. To receive a copy of the request for proposal, please visit <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/> and look under the “What’s New” section of the homepage.

Planning CERT meeting themes and locations for 2006-2007

Now that the CERT program has moved into the “project implementation” stage, we will be trying to focus meetings on specific places and the clean energy technologies available there. With this in mind the Central CERT proposed the following meeting places and their foci.

June: (no later than June 20th) tour the Perham Waste-To-Energy facility and then meet at Dallas Flynn’s green building. Note: If the Perham tour is not available, people were also interested in touring the Water Foundation outside of Brainerd. The last 45 minutes of the meeting will focus on voting on the proposals to receive the CERT funding for 2006.

October: Meet at the Central Lakes Ag Center in Staples and focus the meeting on corn burners, both industrial and residential sized. We’ll also get to see the new corn burner in action.

January: Visit and tour the Hunt Utility Group’s campus to see their new building that will house the Happy Dancing Turtle and the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL). Focus on green building technologies and solar thermal technologies.

The group also talked some about the Honda hybrid that the Thomas family owns and the construction that Dallas is doing on his green building.

7:00 pm Meeting adjourns