

IWEA NEWSLETTER

IOWA WIND ENERGY ASSOCIATION

The President's Corner

The Iowa Wind Energy Association continues a phenomenal growth pattern and I believe is the most vibrant state wind energy association in the nation.



Our membership continues to grow, the upcoming April 2 state conference is growing rapidly and will be an exciting event focusing on the wind industry in Iowa. Furthermore, all of our committees are working very diligently to continue to move our association forward and to continue our position as the state's foremost promoter of the wind industry. In addition, our legislative platform is getting serious consideration in the Iowa Statehouse and some of our initiatives appear to be moving forward.

Our current membership stands at almost 100 members. The renewal of existing memberships is going extremely well and we have been fortunate to attract almost 30 new members in the last three months. I continue to receive numerous calls almost weekly from a wide variety of individuals interested in either learning more about the wind industry or becoming a part of the Iowa Wind Energy Association. I believe the growth of our association is reflective of the growth of the industry and the importance of the industry in the economic climate that we see today.

Our lobbying platform is advancing in the Iowa Statehouse and many of the initiatives that the membership supported are moving forward. There are several bills that have been introduced that have been clearly influenced by our legislative platform. Next year, however, we will need more membership input in the development of our legislative platform.

Our legislative chairman, Randy VanDyke, and all the members of the legislative committee have done a wonderful job, along with our lobbyist, Jim Obradovich, in pulling these issues together. But as a comprehensive association we certainly need membership input to make sure that we have majority support of our positions.

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Iowa Alliance for Wind Innovation And Novel Development Project

The Iowa Alliance for Wind Innovation and Novel Development (IAWIND) has proposed a 12-state comprehensive study of industries who are currently or who would like to become suppliers to the wind industry. In consultation with the board members of the association, IWEA decided to contribute \$5,000 of our funds towards this over \$200,000 study effort. The other partners in this study effort are the American Wind Energy Association, Iowa Department of Economic Development, IAWIND participating colleges and Iowa Workforce Development.

This project will survey over 200,000 firms in a 12-state Midwestern area to determine their current status as a producer of wind industry supplies and components as well as other industries who may have an interest in becoming suppliers of wind industry supplies and components. The entire industry contact mailing list will be made available to the funding participants of the study and should have great benefit to the association in terms of a potential membership list.

Currently, we are only asking the Iowa Power Fund for about 6 percent of the total project budget. When completed, this study should be an invaluable resource to determine the job creation and economic development potential of the wind industry in this, upper Midwest region.

*Submitted by Harold Prior, Ph.D.
President, Iowa Wind Energy Association*

Nomination's Committee Report

As per the Iowa Wind Energy Association bylaws, the IWEA membership will be electing five new members to the Board of Directors at our annual conference and meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2009.

The nomination committee is now accepting names for consideration for these openings.

The nominees should show an interest in furthering wind and renewable energy in the State of Iowa but do not have to reside in the

state. The nominees should also be willing to attend, either in person or by teleconference, the quarterly BOD meetings (currently held on the first Wednesday).

The newly elected members will serve a three-year term.

Please submit names for consideration along with contact info to the Nominations Committee Chair, Tom Ellenbecker, via email - tellenbecker@charter.net.

IWEA Proposals Considered In House

On March 9 the House Environmental Protection Committee will consider three IWEA legislative priorities. The three priorities are expected to be combined into one major wind policy bill.

The components of the priorities are:

~Adding private colleges, community colleges,

institutions under the control of the state board of regents, or public hospitals to the definition of a "qualified facility" for eligibility for wind production tax credits offered under Iowa code section 476B.

~Shifting 300 megawatts of wind energy production tax credits in Code chapter 476B, to the

renewable energy tax credit in Code chapter 476C.

~Providing recipients of tax credits under code chapter 476C an additional 12-months (for a total of 24 months) of time between receiving the credit and beginning operation if necessary equipment is unavailable.

IWEA To Participate In Model Wind Ordinance Development

As part of the legislative effort to foster the development of residential scale wind production, House File 339 will be amended to include direction for the development of a model wind ordinance for cities to adopt.

IWEA, the Iowa League of Cities, Iowa State Association of Counties, Iowa Environmental Council and representatives of the utility industry are legislatively tasked with developing a model wind power ordinance for use by cities and counties.

Once completed, the model ordinance will be available for distribution through the entities involved in its development. Bills of Interest:

SF 238 NET METERING

This bill relates to the sale of energy by specified alternate energy production facilities and the rates applicable to such sales.

SF 169 - GREEN POWER PURCHASES

This bill requires electric public utilities to offer to customers an alternate power purchase program. The program would offer customers the option of designating that a specified percentage of their energy usage be derived from alternate and renewable energy sources. Subcommittee - Warnstadt, Bolckom, Ward.

SF 79 MEDIUM WIND PROJECT TAX CREDITS

This bill modifies eligibility requirements applicable to the wind energy production tax credit established in Code chapter 476B by allowing successful applicants to receive property tax, sales tax and the state production tax credit. Approved by Energy and Environment Committee. Referred to Ways and Means Committee.

SF 24 - ELEVATOR MECHANICS

A bill for the licensure of elevator contractors and elevator mechanics and providing penalties. Subcommittee - Dearden, Dotzler, Houser.

SSB 1281 (also HSB 524)

TRANSMISSION FRANCHISES

This bill establishes an energy independence transmission franchise with an optional and streamlined electric transmission franchise

approval process for eligible applicants. Subcommittee - Dandekar, Heckroth, Wieck.

SSB 1264 STATE

TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY

This bill creates a renewable energy transmission authority to promote the establishment of electric transmission and interconnected storage facilities and related structures and infrastructure with at least 30 percent of the facility's electric energy originating from renewable energy sources. Subcommittee - Rielly, Hancock, Ward.

SSB 1263 DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

The bill requires electric utilities to produce or purchase increasing, specified percentages of their total annual Iowa retail electric sales from alternate energy production facilities or small hydro facilities engaged in distributed renewable generation, by specified dates. The maximum percentage shall be one percent on and after 2016. Subcommittee - Rielly, Hancock, Ward.

SSB 1262 OEI OPERATIONS

This bill transfers authority over specified energy-related measures and programs from the department of natural resources to the office of energy independence. Subcommittee - Hancock, Rielly, Ward.

SSB 1250 TRANSMISSION FRANCHISE FAST TRACK

This bill establishes an expedited or abbreviated electric transmission franchise approval process for line upgrades. On Senate debate calendar.

SSB 1020 - CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT INDEMNITY PROVISIONS

The bill prohibits the use of a provision in a construction contract that requires one party of the contract to indemnify or hold harmless the other party to the contract for damages arising out of the negligence, act, or omission of the indemnitee or the officers, employees, or agents of the indemnitee as void and unenforceable as against public policy. Subcommittee - Warnstadt, Courtney, Behn.

HF 412 GREEN ENERGY ZONE PROGRAM

This bill directs the Iowa power fund board to establish and administer a green energy zone program with the objective of identifying areas of the state with maximum alternate and renewable energy generation potential and applying specialized regulatory requirements intended to promote alternate and renewable energy production, transmission, and distribution. No subcommittee assigned as of yet.

HF 367 UTILITY BOARD EXPANSION

This bill changes the composition of the utilities board within the utilities division of the department of commerce from the current membership of three appointed members to a membership of five elected members. Subcommittee not yet assigned.

HF 340 STATE TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY

This bill creates a renewable energy transmission authority to promote the establishment of electric transmission and interconnected storage facilities and related structures and infrastructure with at least 30 percent of the facility's electric energy originating from renewable energy sources. Subcommittee not assigned as of yet.

HF 339 WIND INNOVATION ZONES

This bill establishes a small wind innovation zone program, to be administered by the utilities division of the department of commerce, with the objective to optimize local, regional, and state benefits from wind energy and to facilitate and expedite interconnection of small wind energy systems with electric utilities throughout this state.

HF 304 - WIND COOPERATIVES

The bill creates a rural wind cooperative program within the utilities division of the department of commerce, with the goal of optimizing local, regional, and state benefits from wind energy and facilitating the development of rural wind cooperatives throughout the state.

Upcoming Annual Meeting & Conference Plans Are Well Under Way

The Conference Planning Committee wanted to relate that the upcoming 2nd Annual IWEA Meeting and Conference plans are well under way.

IWEA's reputation is growing and we're working to ensure this year's conference will deliver meaningful information and useful relationships to all the stakeholders IWEA represents.

The program and speakers are confirmed, save one. The Committee is energized with the expertise of our speakers and how their message will support the theme of Wind Energy in Iowa: Issues and Emerging Solutions. A copy of the agenda is provided below.

We have been successful in securing seven corporate sponsors for the event: ITC, Hartwig, The Green Business & Sustainability Law Group at Dickinson, Mackaman Tyler & Hagen, P.C., Alliant Energy, SOS Staffing, Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation, and Mid-West Tech, Inc. These sponsors are providing us with \$3500 additional funding to underwrite the Conference.

Jane Campbell, Iowa Lakes Community College Executive Director of Marketing, has put together an aggressive media plan announcing the Conference. Jane and the Marketing Staff have done a great job updating the Web Site, preparing our communication tools,

and searching for entertaining media to be used during the conference.

IWEA President Harold Prior predicts we can double last year's attendance, judging from the communications he's received and activity at our Web Site.

If you have any suggestions or recommendations for the conference, please make your comments known to Jan Bowles, Strategic Account Manager, Alliant Energy, at 712-336-6015.

*Submitted by Jan Bowles,
Alliant Energy*

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA (4/2/09)

Registration & Networking (9:30 - 10:00 AM)

Business Meeting (10:00 - 11:00 AM)

Welcome & Opening Comments: IWEA President Harold Prior

Treasurer's Report: Rob Hach

Committee Reports

Marketing Chair: Mark Nolte

Legislative Chair: Randy VanDyke

Membership Chair: Bob Lloyd

Safety Chair: Mike Kelley

Nomination Chair: Tom Ellenbecker

Election of Directors: Tom Ellenbecker

Break (11:00 - 11:15 AM)

CONFERENCE AGENDA (4/2/09)

Panel I - Deployment & Development (11:15 AM - 12:15 PM)

Contracts, Wind Rights, Tile Damage & Decommissioning Development, Siting, Representation Landowner

Wind Research

Iowa Stored Energy Park

Lunch (12:30 - 1:30 PM)

Keynote Speaker: Insights on Wind Energy from a National Perspective

Panel II - System Integration (1:45 - 2:45 PM)

Transmission of Wind Energy

Wind Power Forecasting and Decision Support

Manufacturing

Development of Wind Industry in Iowa

Workforce Growth

Open Forum (2:45 - 3:15 PM)

Closing Remarks: IWEA President Harold Prior

HF 47 - UTILITY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

This bill expands the number of members of the utilities board within the utilities division of the department of commerce from the current three members to five members. The bill specifies that one of the two additional members shall represent an electric public utility having fewer than 10,000 customers or a rural electric cooperative or association. The other member shall represent a mutual telephone company in which at least 50 percent of the users are owners, a cooperative telephone corporation or association, or a telephone company having less than 15,000 customers and less than 15,000 access lines.

HSB 165 - SMALL WIND AGREEMENT EXTENSIONS

Current law provides that an eligible renewable energy facility, that is not operational within 30 months after receiving approval shall cease to be eligible for the 476C credit. An exception is provided, however, if the facility is a wind energy conversion facility which was not operational

within 18 months due to the unavailability of necessary equipment. In such cases an additional 12-month period shall be granted. The bill extends this additional period to wind energy conversion facilities which were not operational because of a delay in receiving federal transmission approval from the federal energy regulatory commission. Subcommittee - Lensing, Kressig, Soderberg

HSB 109 - INNOVATION / COMMERCIALIZATION FUND

The bill creates an innovation and commercialization development fund under the control of the department of economic development. The fund is designed to facilitate agreements and enhance commercialization in the targeted industries and for increasing the availability of skilled workers within those targeted industries. The targeted industries are advanced manufacturing, biosciences, and information technology. Subcommittee - Heckroth, Beall, Houser.

HSB 61 - ELEVATOR REGULATION

A study bill pertaining to the duties and regulations under the purview of the labor commissioner, including elevators. Subcommittee - Abdul-Samad, Anderson, Kearns.

HSB 57 - WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDITS

A study bill for modifying the maximum amount of nameplate generating capacity for all facilities qualifying for wind energy production and renewable energy tax credits. Subcommittee - Lensing, Reichert, Soderberg.

HSB 56 - 476B TAX CREDIT ACCESS

A study bill for providing for qualification for the wind energy production tax credit by specified educational institutions and public hospitals. Subcommittee - Lensing, Reichert, Schultz.

*Submitted by IWEA Lobbyist
Jim Obradovich*

The President's Corner

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I know the legislative committee sincerely appreciates active membership responses when they send out their annual legislative survey.

Finally, please remember that the Iowa Wind Energy Association is a vibrant association because of your membership and your participation.

In addition, due to our mission of representing all aspects of the industry from the utility scale to the individual producer it will become more and more challenging for us as an association to provide the forum for many competing interests related to the growth of the wind industry in Iowa.

It is our intent however, to not take sides but continue to be the enabler of a forum of discussion that will represent all interests in the growth of the wind industry in Iowa and allow all interested parties to voice their support, concerns and desires about the wind industry in the great state of Iowa.

As always, it is a great pleasure for me to serve as your president and to clearly see the difference that you are making in state policy and as a contact point for businesses and industries that wish to become involved in the wind industry in the future.

This appears to be the one bright spot in an otherwise dismal economy and may signal the change from the information age to the energy age.

Sincerely

Harold D. Prior, Ph.D.

President, Iowa Wind

Energy Association

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A complete list of the
Iowa Wind Energy Association
members can be found on
our Web Site:

www.IowaWindEnergy.org

Safety Committee Update: Financial Markets Are Struggling But Good Things Are Happening On The Wind Front

The New Year is flying by and things are changing all around us. Financial markets are struggling but good things are happening on the Wind front. The PTC has been extended for 3 years....what a boost to our industry.

With all of this change we should expect change with OSHA, as the new administration settles into Washington.

Enforcement will become a higher priority.

Several items have come to the forefront that will be low hanging fruit should an OSHA Enforcement office decide to audit.

Site Records for the past 3 years on site (should not be an issue, OSHA requires 5 years of records) and written hazard assessments for all PPE (Personal Protection Equipment).

The American Society of Safety Engineers announced a new standard project to protect workers in wind generation construction operations.

The ASSE recently announced a new A10

Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) standard project to protect the safety and health of workers involved in construction and demolition operations for wind generation/turbine facilities, the "American National Standard for Safe Construction and Demolition of Wind Generation/Turbine Facilities" (A10.21-20xx).

The HSB 61 Elevator Regulation is moving forward, I and the IWEA Safety Committee will be providing subject matter experts as needed to the committee.

This will allow the committee to make informed decisions based on the experience of wind & elevator experts.

These are only a few of the safety related issues that are being worked on at this time, should you have questions or concerns or even ideas send them our way or come join us -we could use the help.

*Submitted by Mike Kelley,
UpWind Solutions, Inc.*

Membership Committee Update

The Membership Committee has developed a form letter for membership networking purposes. This letter will be presented at the March Board meeting for approval.

The concept is to make an official IWEA introductory letter format available to all current members so that it could be sent by members to their key business or personal contacts.

The IWEA letter would bear the member's name and contact information at the bottom in an attempt to build membership through grassroots networking.

Joe Jongewaard from the IDED has expressed interest in having a brochure to advertise the fact that the state has a formal wind organization in the form of IWEA.

It is our understanding that the Marketing Committee may be working on such a brochure.

Jongewaard believes that such an effort helps demonstrate the state's commitment to the wind industry to potential organizations looking to move into the state.

Likewise this would help introduce IWEA to prospective new members.

Committee members will make contacts to the following to attempt to address a broader

base of prospective members; Farm Bureau, John Deere Wind Energy, Iowa Renew, and IAWIND.

Also, a discussion was held on the possibility of periodic regional IWEA network meetings to pull in interested parties.

If done in conjunction with a plant tour, wind farm tour, or a wind energy presentation, it might produce interest among individuals or organizations that would find interest in IWEA membership. The key to this strategy is successfully getting the word out to interested parties.

The suggestion was made that the new IAWIND organization may already have a network base that might be tapped into. Once again this will be a topic for discussion at the Board meeting in March.

John Dunlop reported that AWEA is still contemplating how their organization should deal with the various state wind associations that are starting up. It is an interesting issue that could provide a win-win proposition for both the state and nation wind associations.

*Submitted by Bob Loyd,
Clipper Turbine Works*