

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Saline Sustainability Circle**  
**Tuesday May 20, 2008**  
**Pittsfield Township Administration Building**

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Lirones called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Members and regular attendees present:

Lodi Township: Jan Godek, Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra

Pittsfield Township: Christina Lirones, Feliziana Meyer, James Walter

Saline Area Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling

Saline Area Schools: Thomas Wall

City of Saline: Todd Campbell, Gretchen Driskell, David Rhoads

Washtenaw County Planning: Terry Brinkman

York Township: Jane Kartje

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth: John Sarver

Twenty-eight members of the public also attended.

2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from April 15, 2008

Motion by Steeb, supported by Kartje, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

3. Wind Turbines – John Sarver, State of Michigan Wind Working Group

Mr. Sarver gave an extensive presentation on the state of wind energy systems in Michigan. Mr. Sarver's presentation may be accessed on the Saline Sustainability Circle website:

[www.salinesustainability.org/meetings/2008Meetings/sarver\\_05202008.pdf](http://www.salinesustainability.org/meetings/2008Meetings/sarver_05202008.pdf).

Some highlights of the presentation:

- Coal is currently the cheapest energy option
- Coal may not be the cheapest when carbon emission costs are considered
- Wind energy may be cost-competitive with coal if carbon emission costs are taken into consideration
- Michigan as 55.5 megawatts (MW) of wind energy capacity currently installed
- Michigan has an on-shore wind power potential of 16,564MW
- Michigan has an off-shore wind power potential of 44,876MW
- A typical coal power plant generates 500-1000MW
- Virtually all of Michigan's fuel or energy comes from out-of-state; \$20billion leaves the state each year
- There is a potential of 8,000-24,000 jobs manufacturing wind turbine components that current Michigan manufacturers have the capability to produce
- A typical 32 turbine wind farm requires 6-10 people to operate and maintain
- A 1.8KW home system costs approximately \$15,000

- The Michigan legislature is currently debating bills that would establish a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for energy generation
- Shadow flicker and electromagnetic interference are two issues that need to be considered in siting wind turbines
- USDA Rural Development has grants available for 25% of the cost to install renewable energy on a farm or rural business

Mr. Sarver's email address is [sarverj@michigan.gov](mailto:sarverj@michigan.gov). Contact him at this address if you wish to receive his newsletter.

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth Wind and Solar Energy web site is [www.michigan.gov/eorenew](http://www.michigan.gov/eorenew).

Additional resources:

- Susan Topp of Topp Law made a presentation to the Michigan Association of Planning Spring Institute. The presentation and handouts are at [www.topplaw.com/misc.htm](http://www.topplaw.com/misc.htm).
- The Michigan State University Land Policy Institute <http://www.landpolicy.msu.edu> has several articles on wind energy. One of interest is "Michigan Land Use Guidelines for Siting Wind Energy Systems" <http://www.emdc.msue.msu.edu/Bulletin/PDF/WO1053.pdf>

#### 4. Future Agenda Items

Downtown Saline plans (Art Trapp, Todd Campbell)

Review the Regional Planning Guidelines

Develop a strategy for Private Wastewater Treatment Plants within the SSC region

Transfer of Development Rights (Elizabeth Riggs)

#### 5. Next Meeting Dates and Locations

June 17, 2008 – Saline Area Schools (Liberty School or High School)

#### 6. Adjournment

Motion by Kartje, supported by Steeb, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Veenstra  
Secretary

*Visit the Saline Sustainability Circle website at [www.salinesustainability.org](http://www.salinesustainability.org).*