Council Process & Member Survey Results

Bill Rustem
Executive Order Charge

Provide to the Governor a report by September 1, 2009 that:

- Identifies criteria to review offshore wind applications
- Identifies criteria for identifying areas most and least desirable for offshore wind development

Council’s report shall also include:

- A recommended process for public engagement in permitting process
- A summary of lessons learned from American and international offshore experience
- Options for how to compensate the public for bottomland leasing and wind rights
- Recommendations for legislation and changes in administrative rules and policies related to the siting and development of offshore wind energy systems
- A recommendation on whether Michigan should support a federal programmatic environmental impact statement for permitting offshore wind development in the Great Lakes basin
- An estimate of the costs and description of the benefits of continuing the work of the Council, if the Council deems it advisable
Council Process

- **Grounding** (Meeting 1 in March)
  - Review council protocol
  - Expert presentations
    - Learning from Europe and the East Coast
    - Risk assessment and decision making
    - Recent example of spatial analysis for wind resource planning in Ontario
  - Background materials (e.g., briefing report and survey results)
  - Discussion

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Council Process (cont.)

- **Grounding & Visioning** (Meeting 2 in April)
  - Expert presentations
    - Public acceptance
    - Environmental monitoring
    - Michigan mapping efforts
    - Bottomland leasing and compensation
  - Discussion
- **Review & approve report outline**
- **Assign issue/task groups** (as needed)
  - Criteria for mapping and application review
  - Bottomland leasing
  - Public engagement related to permitting
Council Process (con’t)

- **Initial recommendations** (Meeting 3 in June)
  - Review and discuss staff and task group draft recommendations
- **Review full draft report and provide written comments prior to Meeting 4**
- **Final recommendations** (Meeting 4 in July)
  - Review and adopt final recommendations and report
Summary of Member Survey Results
Top issues related to offshore wind energy in the Great Lakes by category

- 18 out of 33 issues identified by respondents classified under technical/economic challenges

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Issue: Technical & Economic Challenges

- Issues identified
  - Transmission efficiency (grid infrastructure, transmission costs, etc.)
  - Site locations
  - Costs compared to other sources of energy
  - Construction of structures in deep water
  - Transportation of wind turbine equipment
Action: Technical & Economic Challenges

- Possible actions
  - Form an engineering and economics working group
  - Conduct feasibility studies
  - Map suitable/unsuitable zones
  - Use lessons learned in Europe
  - Conduct cost-benefit analysis
  - Use stimulus monies for infrastructure if appropriate
  - Leverage Michigan’s wind energy manufacturing capacity
Issue: Social Considerations

- Issues identified
  - Global attention to renewable energy industry in Michigan
  - Public acceptance of wind farms
  - Aesthetics
  - Recreational and commercial fishery issues
  - Legal issues pertaining to wind development
  - Ease of permitting process
Action: Social Considerations

- Possible actions
  - Gather public input through hearing process
  - Ensure that wind farms are not visible from shoreline
  - Get input from all state agencies
  - Have one-stop process for applications
  - Determine wind rights and payment schemes
Issue: Environment

- Issues identified
  - Fisheries impacts
  - Climate change
  - Bird and bat collisions
Action: Environment

- Possible actions
  - Protect sensitive bottomlands
  - Promote clean renewable energy
  - Bury transmission cables in nearshore waters
  - Set up conservation funding from royalties
  - Balance fisheries and wildlife impacts with potential resource gains
Three Most Important Elements of Successful Council Deliberations

- Council decisions based on the best available information, including presentations by state and national experts: 92%
- Open and frank dialogue on options and recommendations: 67%
- Focused deliberation by the council on the issues specifically identified in the executive order: 58%
- A clear process for reaching recommendations and handling any minority positions: 42%
- Communications and activities (e.g. work groups, reading) outside of the regular full council meetings to meet deadlines and prepare for future meetings: 33%
Expectations concerning outcome of council’s report and recommendations

- Responses
  - Identification of sites that are most cost-effective and least intrusive
  - Specific action steps that are realistic
  - Usable product for the legislature and governor
  - Clear assessment of benefits and costs in Michigan
  - Create a working document
Initial thoughts or recommendations on **criteria for evaluation of applications**

- Use Part 325, Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act, of PA 451 to address offshore wind sites
- Develop clear criteria for evaluating impacts
- Wind resource suitability
- Public acceptance of the project
- Benefits and costs
- Consider creating public entity in charge of all wind energy projects
Familiarity with bottomland leasing issue

- Very familiar: 25%
- Somewhat familiar: 67%
- Not at all familiar: 8%
Suggestions to engage the public in permitting process

- Use local public hearing procedures
- Examine other case studies (e.g., Europe)
- Conduct focus group discussions
- Use media for training and education
THANK YOU!

- ANY QUESTIONS?