



Bridging Brown County

Brown County Congress

Electrical Energy: Something old. Something new.

This County Congress will provide a platform for dialogue between elected and appointed officials and the producers, transmitters and the distributors of electrical power.

April 18, 2008

Guests

Pat Wrase, New Ulm Public Utilities Planning and Development Engineer

Wade Hensel, Brown County Rural Electric Association Manager

Mike Heidemann, BCREA Line Supervisor

Tim Carlsgaard, Communication Director, CapX 2020

Connie Hargest, Communication Consultant, Outland Renewable Energy (ORE)

Ingrid Bjorklund, VP Government Affairs & Associate General Counsel. ORE

Peter Samuelson, Comfrey Wind Farmer

Electricity – we need it for almost every facet of modern existence. How it is produced, transmitted and distributed has come under increasing surveillance. Consumers' demands can be at odds with themselves and the constraints of current technology. For example: High voltage transmission lines – which, in and of themselves, may seem unappealing – are necessary to get electrical power from the generation point to the distribution point. Can wind farms grow without them?

Highlights and Thoughts

Local wind & renewable resources projects

What are the impacts on landowner taxes?

What are the costs to landowners?

What projects impact Brown County?

How do regulations affect research & opportunities?

What legal/technical support is available for landowners?

Research – What is being done about “storage” for wind/electricity to fill in “gaps”?

Consumers want to be involved in process – especially concerning transmission lines.

Economic Development

How can we capitalize on production using renewable energy sources?

Manufacture parts

How do we provide **equity** for consumers, producers, those with “wind rights”

Transmission

How do we meet transmission needs (capacity of current lines, access to current lines)?

How do we encourage collaboration between producers?

How do we move forward?

Deal with the gap in production and transmission development.

Deal with discrepancies between consumer demand & expectations for consistent, cheap electricity provided with renewable sources and their tolerance for high power transmission lines.

Work on policy & regulation challenges

Update regulations

Consistent regulations from state to state

Reasonable time and process requirements

Contact legislators

Strengthening the Brown County community
by bridging relationships of understanding and communication