



**Minutes
Citizens Advisory Panel
May 30, 2001**

Members present: Carolyn Lee, Jan Lundebrek, Brian McNeill, Lynette Hofland, Ray Millett, Allan Saunders, Renee Hayden, Leroy Noreen, Bruce Holgate
Members absent: Bill Lee, Barry Jungwirth, Steve Verhelst
Also present: Terry Walmsley, Greg Langmo, Dave Minot from ARI, City Manager Rob Wolfington, EDA Chair Rick Horecka, and Marge Scheffler

The City Manager informed the Panel about the following financing issues for the 50 MW power plant:

- Tax exemption status
- Bonding and debt service limits
There are two bills in the legislature that will hopefully be passed next week:
 - a. Would exempt the Fibrominn project from personal property taxes
 - b. Would exempt the Fibrominn project from being taxed for construction materials
- There will be real estate property taxes collected and divided among the three local entities.
- The City would collect the following:
 - a. Land lease payments
 - b. Backup power and generation fees
 - c. Sewer fee
 - d. Four kinds of water fees
- The revenues that the plant will generate and it was mentioned that Excel Energy is obligated to buy power over the next 21 years.
- The City has hired the law firm of Briggs and Morgan to look out for the City's best interest.
- Fibrominn will reimburse the City for 100% of expenditures once the City reaches expenditures of \$75,000.

The group was informed that union labor will be used to construct this plant.

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Dave Minott, of Alternative Resources Inc. of Boston talked about the air permitting requirements for the combined USEPA and MPCA permits. Mr. Minott felt very positive about their initial presentation of the air permit to the MPCA on May 29. He mentioned the following:

- A requirement of the air permit is that they need to demonstrate that they are putting in the best available controls for this type of power plant.
- They hope to have permits in place within 4 to 6 months.
- The impacts of the emissions from the smoke stack are determined at ground level. Fibrominn's impacts are not only within the EPA and MPCA guidelines but are much smaller, they are of an insignificant impact.
- Someone asked what height the smoke stack would be? He said that it is good engineering practice that the stack is based on the height of the building (2½.times the proposed building height would equal 350 feet for the stack).

Open discussion:

- Once the location and height of the stack is determined, the City will proceed with notifying the Office of Aeronautics and FAA. It has been determined that there will be impacts to the airport.
- The plant will impact 1.93 acres of on-site wetlands.
- Fibrominn may need additional on-site storage - this issue still remains.
- The plant has to burn 75% bio-mass within any given year based on the power agreement. They plan to use either gas or propane for start-up.
- Mr. Langmo talked about changes at Jennie-O (Jerome).
- The City Manager informed the group of tree planting efforts by local school children that will provide a natural barrier between the City and the plant.
- The City Manager briefed the group on proposed changes to traffic that is being proposed from the traffic study conducted by the Planning Commission. Mr. Walmsley talked about truck traffic and load restrictions.
- Mr. Langmo mentioned that he feels Minnesota will be up to two million tons of litter by the time the plant is up and running.

The City Manager mentioned that the Fibrowatt Development Team is expected in Benson the week of June 18. There was a consensus to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

It was moved by Member C. Lee, seconded by Member Noreen and carried unanimously to appoint Brian McNeill to be the Chair for the Citizens Advisory Panel.

Member Hayden brought up that the State Science Convention will be in Willmar next April and asked if it would be possible to have representatives from Fibrominn in attendance. Ms. Hayden will keep them informed.

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Some items for the next agenda:

Mission Statement

Talk about open or closed meetings

Member Lee brought up that she thought something should be done about setting up a website as well as providing links to Fibrominn on local web sites.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.