

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## Brown County



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### HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Patrick Evans, Chair  
Carole Andrews, Vice Chair  
Steve Fewell, Pat Moynihan Jr., Pat La Violette, Jesse Brunette

### HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 23, 2010

5:30 p.m.

Room 200, Northern Building  
305 E. Walnut Street

**\*\* REVISED \*\***

- I. Call Meeting to Order.
- II. Approve/Modify Agenda.
- III. Approve/Modify Minutes of May 25, 2010.

### Comments from Public

### Report from Human Services Chair, Patrick Evans

1. Review Minutes of:
  - a. Aging & Disability Resource Center of Brown County Board (May 27, 2010).
  - b. Human Services Board (May 13, 2010 & June 10, 2010).
  - c. Joint Board of Health & Human Services Committee (May 25, 2010).

### Communications

2. Communication from Supervisor Scray re: Review Brown County requirements of ID when applying for any Social Services from the County. Discuss the possibility of making Brown County requirements of ID stricter to prevent fraud. *Held for one month.*
3. Communication from Supervisor Evans re: To address concerns with the Brown County Sheriff's Department and local Law Enforcement Agencies on the EM-1 placement of patients as it relates to the Crisis Center and the Community Treatment Center. Additionally to develop a county-wide plan for all Law Enforcement Agencies to abide by with accordance to enhanced safety and efficiency procedures. *Held for one month.*
4. Communication from Supervisor Evans - Request a report from the Brown County Health Department regarding health issues relating to wind turbines as they may affect citizens of Brown County. *Held for one month.*

### Health Dept.

5. Review and Action re: Report and recommendation of Board of Health related to wind turbines and health and safety issues.

**Human Services Dept.**

6. Director's Report.
7. Maintenance Issues.
8. Audit Committee Update.
9. Family Care / Introduction of Rolf Hanson, Planning Director.
10. Budget Transfer from Facilities to Human Services.
11. Family Care Update.
12. Community Treatment Center Update.
13. Community Treatment Center Statistics.
14. Bellin Psychiatric Monthly Report.
15. Approval for New Non-Continuous Vendor.
16. Request for New Vendor Contract.
17. Monthly Contract Update.
18. Financial Report for Community Treatment Center and Community Programs.
19. Review of replacement for an Economic Specialist position in the ES Unit.

**Ageing & Disability Resource Center** – No Agenda Items.

**Syble Hopp** - No Agenda Items.

**Veterans Dept.** – No Agenda Items.

**Other**

20. Audit of Bills.
21. Such other Matters as Authorized by Law.

Patrick Evans, Chair

Notice is hereby given that action by Committee may be taken on any of the items which are described or listed in this agenda.

Please take notice that it is possible additional members of the Board of Supervisors may attend this meeting, resulting in a majority or quorum of the Board of Supervisors. This may constitute a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
*Brown County*

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**JUDY FRIEDERICHS, R.N., B.S.N.**  
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June 18, 2010

To: Patrick Evans, Chairperson  
Brown County Health and Human Services Committee  
Brown County Board of Supervisors

From: Audrey Murphy, Chairperson  
Brown County Board of Health Members

Re: Requested Written Report on Health and Safety Issues related to Wind Turbines

**The Brown County Board of Health has extensively reviewed the following:**

1. Invenergy:  
Statement on health and safety of existing installations.
2. Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
A review of available literature was presented to the Board of Health by the WI Department of Health Services. The department's conclusion was that "evidence does not support the conclusion that wind turbines cause or are associated with adverse health outcomes." They further stated that "gaps remain in our knowledge of the impact that wind energy may have on human health." At this point, they have declined to take a position.
3. Wind Siting Rules given before the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (5/17/10 text of proposed rule).
4. Various studies from Europe (including Great Britain and Scandinavia), Canada, U.S., Australia, New Zealand; and guidelines from the World Health Organization.
5. Testimony from the Brown County Citizens for Responsible Wind Energy.
6. Presentation from Bill Hafs, Director of the Brown County Land Conservation Department; and Kristin Morehouse, P.E. for Brown County Citizens for Responsible Wind Energy.
7. The Wisconsin Air Medical Council position statement regarding Wind Turbines and Safe Landing Zones, March 2010; and Eagle III Emergency Air and Ground Life Express policy statement.
8. The Board of Health received legal opinions from John Leutscher and Fred Mohr. John Leutscher was present at the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**The Board of Health has identified the following issues of concern:**

1. Sound / Noise / Shadow Flicker

Studies reviewed recommend that wind turbines be placed such that sound measurements do not exceed 30 db outside of any occupied structure in order to prevent sleep deprivation and other noise-related health issues. This is based on general World Health Organization guidelines for nighttime noise.

Literature reviews suggest that there should be a minimum setback of 2,640-3,168 feet (.5-.6 mile) between a wind turbine and an occupied structure. This is consistent with existing ordinances in some of the municipalities in the area. This is in contrast to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC), Chapter 128 proposal which recommended a setback of 1,290 feet from occupied structures; the Board of Health disagrees with the PSC recommendation.

2. Ground Water Contamination

We reviewed presentations by Kristin Morehouse, P.E. of the Brown County Citizens for Responsible Wind Energy; and Bill Hafs, Director of the Brown County Land Conservation Department. Both reports indicate that Southern Brown County's unique topography presents considerable difficulties in safely installing wind turbines or any construction which would disrupt the ground in this area. The density of these Karst features is not replicated anywhere else in the state.

Information presented indicated that from 2005 to 2010, areas of southern Brown County with Karst features characterized by sink holes, fractured bedrock, exposed bedrock and shallow soils over bedrock, have been conduits of serious groundwater contamination caused by runoff from land application of waste near these Karst features, and resulting in pollution of groundwater and contamination of over 100 wells by bacteria, E-coli and nitrates.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

Wind turbines should be placed such that sound outside of any occupied structure be measured at no greater than 30dB at night.

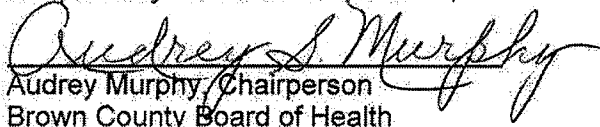
Required setback placements should be a minimum of 2,640 to 3,168 feet (.5-.6 mile) between a wind turbine and an occupied structure.

Wind farms should not be installed in areas of Southern Brown County with Karst features.

The historical record of groundwater contamination in the southern Brown County area and the fragile geological formations, when coupled with other potential health concerns deem this area unsafe for installation of a wind farm.

The Board of Health also recommends a moratorium on wind turbine construction in southern Brown County until P.S.C.W. Chapter 128 (Wind Energy Systems) becomes a valid section of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Respectfully Submitted on June 18, 2010

  
Audrey Murphy, Chairperson  
Brown County Board of Health