

LINN COUNTY RENEWABLE ENERGY REVIEW COMMITTEE

February 7, 2023

Good Neighbor Practices Meeting #2
Meeting Summary



Good Neighbor Practices Discussion

- The GNP committee had a general discussion regarding setbacks and screening (top two priority areas). A summary of those discussions is included below:
- All five members of the GNP committee were present for this meeting which took place in the Linn County Planning and Development Conference Room from 11:30am – 1:30pm.
- No industry experts were able to attend this meeting. Warren McKenna, former manager of the Farmers Electric Cooperative in Kalona, will be attending the GNP committee meeting on February 28.
- Future meetings dates of March 10 and March 22 were chosen.

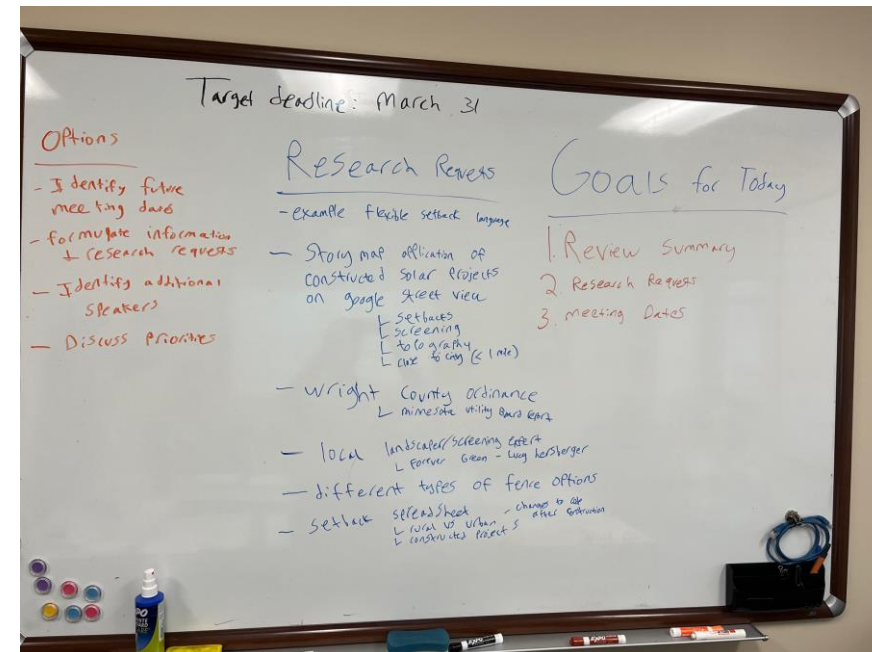


Good Neighbor Practices Discussion

- Committee members discussed the screening requirements. More specifically, the committee feels the code should have consistent baseline screening requirements. Currently the code states “*A landscape buffer may be required to be installed and maintained during the life of the operation.*” The committee felt this language does not give clear enough guidance to prospective developers and does not let the community know what to expect for project screening options.
- A discussion on the pros and cons of earthen berms as a screening strategy was had.
- A discussion on the pros and cons of setbacks from dwellings vs setbacks from property lines was had.
- A discussion of the viewshed assessment performed for the Duane Arnold projects was had. Committee members felt more observation points would’ve made the assessment stronger.
- Industry accepted setback distances. Members discussed whether a general “walk away” setback distance existed. Mr. Carberry shared information from industry experts he has spoken too, stating that every project is different, and a general industry-accepted setback distance does not exist.

Good Neighbor Practices

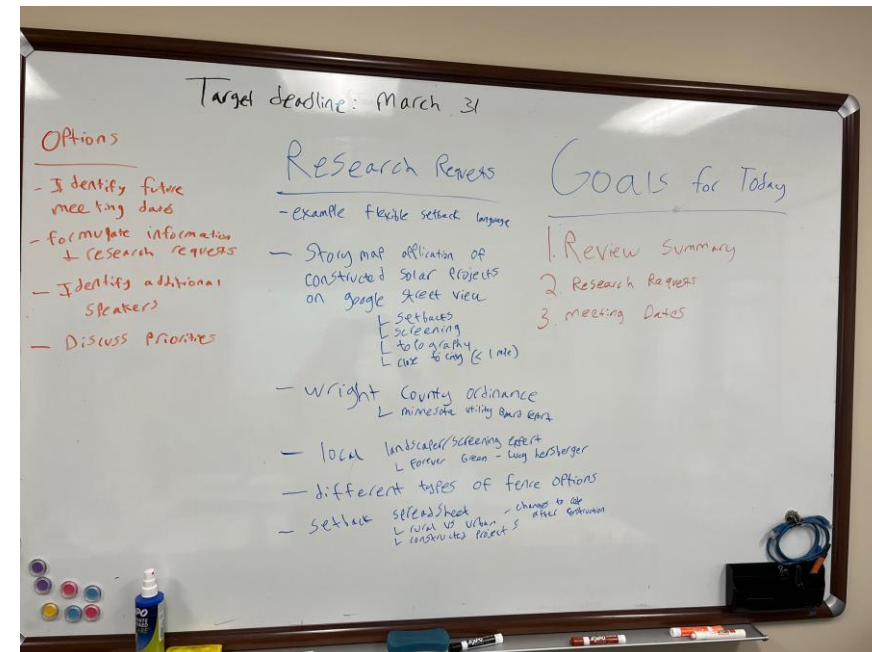
- The Good Neighbor Practices (GNP) committee made several requests for additional research/information:
 1. Flexible setback language. Examples or ordinances with flexible setback standards, where setbacks can be waived by appointed and/or elected officials or where setbacks can be waived if certain performance criteria are met.
 2. Database of completed solar projects viewable in Google Streets View as well descriptive information of the type of screening used and setback distances required.



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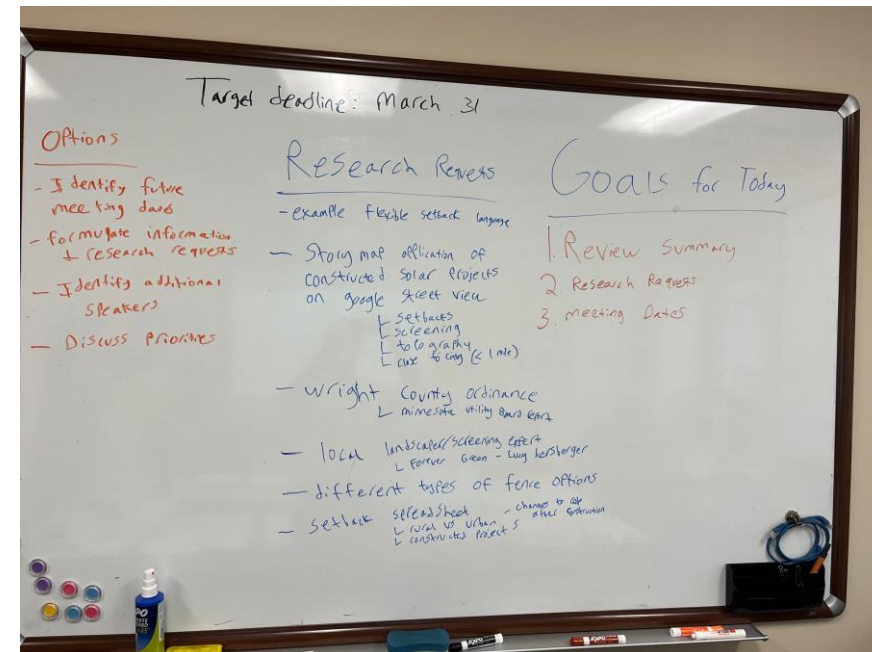
3. Wright County ordinance. Several committee members visited the Aurora solar project in Wright County, MN. These members liked the screening approach used for this project, and would like to review the county ordinance.
4. Committee members would like to speak with a local landscaping expert.
5. Examples of different fencing options for solar sites.



Good Neighbor Practices

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6. Committee members requested a comprehensive spreadsheet of setbacks in existing solar ordinances from other counties, with additional details on whether a solar project has been constructed in the county, what the population of the county is, and whether the ordinance has been updated following the construction of a solar project.



Meeting Dates

- Meeting #1 – January 26 (completed)
- Meeting #2 – February 7 (completed)
- Meeting #3 – February 28
- Meeting #4 – March 10
- Meeting #5 – March 22

Note: Staff will be updating the Board of Supervisors on committee progress at the February 21st Department Head Update meeting. All committee members are invited to attend.

Good Neighbor Practices

Documents reviewed by committee members ahead of the 2/7/23 Good Neighbor Practices Committee meeting included:

1. [Indiana Renewable Energy Community Survey and Ordinance Inventory Summary](#)
2. [Link to National Renewable Energy Laboratory database on utility-scale solar setbacks from across the US.](#)

Documents shared by committee members ahead at the 2/7/23 Good Neighbor Practices Committee meeting included:

1. [Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory \(U.S. Energy Information Administration\)](#)