

**TOWARD WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY WIND POWER:  
A FOCUS ON THE GREAT LAKES BASIN**  
Hilton Toledo and Dana Conference Center, Toledo, Ohio  
Lucas Auditorium  
June 27-29, 2006

**Suggestions for moving forward and next steps**

- Suggest a mechanism to collaborate (Great Lakes water quality agreement under review: window of opportunity): Bring states together and make the Great Lakes the leader in addressing climate change through development of renewable energy. Engage with the current coordinating bodies in Great Lakes region. (several suggestions, including EPA R5 tribal office). Chicago Wilderness is a possible model. Look at Western Governors Association as an example of interstate collaboration. See if Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association can help with advocacy. Get more of industry involved.
- Coordinate funding too. "Broaden the pot." Look at examples:
  - CA wind research based on user tax;
  - timber industry's wildlife research;
  - donors (example: Bat Conservation International);
  - NY research fund (system benefit charge; money goes to many different uses, including renewables research);
  - OH Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (funded by system benefit charge, ~\$1/person/yr); state funding in general;
  - WI fund
- New dialogue. Governors, etc. need advice from those who work with this issue every day.
- NREL training programs: consider way to integrate. See what their staff might be able to do to help.

- Think about wind from perspective of risk management. How much risk are we willing to take? This determines how quickly we allow projects to move ahead.
- Recognize Whole Foods as an example for others to follow, especially in terms of collaborative research effort (access to turbines, etc.)
- Consider impacts to the grid. Bring FERC and utilities to the table.
- Basic information needs: each state should conduct census of existing turbines (location, capacity, etc.). This info should be available from NREL, DOT, etc.
- Centralize data to provide access to what we do know. Follow examples from other sectors of the energy industry.
- Continue the discussion: recognize that there are many alternatives on the table. Study now? Mitigate later?
- Suggest putting what we do know now into draft guidance. Try to guide development as much as we can.
- Great Lakes states have great opportunity: (1) no baggage, (2) existing infrastructure of interstate/international collaboration. Use this opportunity to put together task force of states, Ontario, and federal interests to continue the dialogue.
- Recognize that many wind power efforts are taking place at the local community level. Consider how this affects our ability to evaluate cumulative impacts, etc.
- Make a tentative plan. Share data.

- Talk with state and federal agencies that are encouraging wind development. See if we can attach standard post-construction monitoring requirements to some of these grants.
- Recognize the role of USDA rural development grants in encouraging wind power. [www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/regs/doc/4280b.doc](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/regs/doc/4280b.doc)
- Work with industry associations. Public education is critical when it comes to wildlife issues, etc.
- Set up an e-mail string/chat board/blog to continue the dialogue.
- Develop funding source if this group is to meet again. See if this can be arranged under the proposed Great Lakes collaborative group.
- Bats and Wind Energy Cooperative has assembled experts and a bibliography. For info contact Ed Arnett at [earnett@batcon.org](mailto:earnett@batcon.org)
- Send research priorities around by e-mail.

### DEVELOPING A PLAN:

- respond to Congresswoman Kaptur within a month (by July 29<sup>th</sup>).
- Ask Congresswoman Kaptur to help:
  - (1) funding
  - (2) work to extend wind development tax credits
- OH DNR is willing to work on demonstration projects and implement recommendations from scientists
- select members of the group that will continue this effort

- states (work through their Great Lakes liaisons, etc.)
  - industry
  - NGOs
  - EPA Green Power Partnership
  - Midwest Renewable Energy Association
  - brokers: Renewable Choice Energy, Native Energy, etc.
  - Canadian representatives
  - AWEA and CanWEA
  - citizens' groups
  - tribal groups
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- suggest getting Great Lakes Commission or IJC to jump-start this group
  - suggest having a broad group and also a core steering group that meets more frequently
  - coordinate with Larry Flowers's office at NREL (he ran previous conference)
  - consider the current Great Lakes oil/gas drilling ban. How does this relate to offshore turbines? Could there be a legislation change?
  - all attendees can go back to their agencies and ask if they'd be willing to participate in this group
  - suggest starting with informal roundtables—way to begin brainstorming, etc.
  - in future work, be mindful of protecting international treasures (migratory birds, bats) as they cross boundaries. Key: level playing field.
  - suggest amending MBTA to include raptors in Canada
  - make the proceedings of this conference available