

Wind energy plan proposed at meeting

By Karen Krien
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Joining together with 18 counties to pursue wind energy in northwest Kansas was proposed to the Cheyenne County Commissioners when they met on Thursday.

Dan Hartman, representing the Logan County Development Corporation, said he was encouraging commissioners from the 18 counties in northwest Kansas to attend a Regional Wind Energy Group meeting at the Colonial Steakhouse Restaurant in Oakley. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on Aug. 13.

Mr. Hartman said that wind energy is coming again and he doesn't see it being stopped or slowed down. He said it was in the best interest of the counties in northwest Kansas to come together and have a collective voice.

We either grow or we die, he said. There is no option. He went on to say that wind energy is one of the first things that has come down the road that can put additional income in the hands of farmers and ranchers. This money, he said, translates into the communities. And, he said, we don't have to become a big city just to maintain it.

"We need to take the leadership realm and go with it," he said. "We live where there are the best and most consistent winds."

He said there will be several utility companies as well as Senator Sam Brownback.

The commissioners appeared to be interested in going to the meeting.

Farmer complains about prairie dogs

Vernon Schrader owns land north of Bird City. He was at the meeting to talk about prairie dogs on neighboring land owned by Irene Burkhalter and farmed by her son Kevin Burkhalter.

He said the Burkhalter ground

is "alive" with prairie dogs. They have ruined some of his wheat and he has talked to Mr. Burkhalter. However, he does not feel that Mr. Burkhalter is doing anything nor will he get rid of the dogs.

Dan Schlittenhardt, prairie dog manager, said prairie dogs will travel 8 to 9 miles. Untreated, they can gain 70 percent a year. He said at this time of year, treating prairie dogs is expensive and the chemical doesn't work very well.

He suggested that the county attorney sent both Mrs. Burkhalter and her son a letter explaining that Mr. Burkhalter is responsible for treating the dogs. If nothing is done, then the county will come in and treat the dogs and the Burkhalts will be billed for the costs.

Mr. Schlittenhardt said the damage is done and it probably won't hurt much if they wait until Oct. 1 to treat them properly.

Mr. Schrader will be kept informed.

Mr. Schlittenhardt gave his budget report and was given permission to attend a forum on Aug. 26 which concerns prairie dog treatment.

Budget goes up

Jack Eldridge, the county's auditor, discussed the budget. The commissioners found an excess of \$15,000 in the courthouse equipment reserve and it was transferred to the courthouse capital outlay fund.

There were some other adjustments made and the commissioners approved the budget to be published in this week's *Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*.

The budget increased 1.128 mills over that in 2008. Mr. Eldridge said a lot of the increase was due to the rising fuel prices.

A mill in 2008 was \$39,500; in 2009, the mill will be worth \$41,000.

Mr. Eldridge said that few counties he knew did not go down in valuation and others are going up in the double digits.

The budget hearing will be held

at 9 a.m. on Aug. 31 in the courthouse during the regular commissioners' meeting.

In other business

In other business:
• Dr. Brett Poling, who has gravel for county roads, said he and Chris Bracelin had come to an agreement about letting the county trucks cross a small portion of his land to get to the gravel. He said he will need help with the fence. No decision was made.

• Carol Gamblin, 911 dispatch director, said she had hired Tyler Howard to fill in for the night dispatch position. She was also given permission to purchase two hand-held radios for \$435 each. The money will be taken out of the 911 Funds.

• The commissioners accepted the resignation of Randy Sangster, appraiser.

• Carl Williams retired as full-time maintenance supervisor as of Aug. 31. Shelley Christiansen has been working part time in the position. The commissioners appointed her as the new maintenance supervisor. Mr. Williams will continue part-time.

• Cathy Domsch, Bird City Century II director, updated the commissioners on the progress of the organization. She said in the fall, the new housing project will begin going up. Commissioner Andy Beikman said she must have her ducks in a row because she was sure getting a lot done.

• Sheriff Craig Van Allen and his deputies were given approval to attend a legal update class in Colby. This is a free class and the deputies will learn about new Kansas Statutes. He also said officer Ted McCoy will begin the training academy on Aug. 18, finishing in November.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be at 8 a.m. on Monday when the commissioners will count the ballots.

The next regular meeting has been moved to 8 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 18, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



THRESHER QUEEN LUCILLE WRIGHT talks about life on the high plains of Kansas. Sitting with her is her husband of 69 years, Maynard. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Thresher Queen revealed

Some knew who the 2008 Thresher Queen was and there were some who were just plain confused.

But when the 2008 Thresher Queen was announced on opening day, everyone clapped because it was Lucille Query Wright.

Mrs. Wright and her husband, Maynard, have been active in the production of the Thresher Show since its beginnings in the 1950s.

Upon accepting the honor from last year's Queen, Millie Glasco, Mrs. Wright spoke about what it was like growing up in northwest Kansas.

She was just 6-months-old when her older brother, Elmer, and her mother moved from Stromsburg, Neb., to Bird City. Her father, Roy Query, had been a day off his calendar and failed to meet them at the depot. When they finally met up, he took them to their new home 14 miles southeast of Bird City and farmed with horses until 1925, when they got their first tractor, a new John Deere.

Her family raised chickens, turkeys, cattle, horses, hogs and a bountiful garden.

"It was a very labor-intensive environment," said Mrs. Wright.

She attended Center Country

School and rode with her brothers, Elmer, Lowell and Virgil 2 miles everyday on a pony.

"My brothers gave me the privilege of sitting on the part of the pony nearest the tail!" said Mrs. Wright.

She helped her mother, Ethel, with canning, churning butter, gardening and gathering eggs. She learned the basics of mending and embroidery from her mother.

After she passed the eighth grade exam, Mrs. Wright was admitted to Bird City High School. She said she felt very fortunate to get to attend high school and her grandmother, Martha Jane Deeds let her board and room in her home across the street from where she presently lives.

Mrs. Wright began teaching in the fall after spring graduation with no other education required, except for a curriculum called "Normal Training" in her last year. It qualified a student to teach country elementary school after graduation. Her three years of teaching at Mount Pleasant 29 and Center 17, had around a dozen students each year.

She and Maynard were married May 14, 1939, and moved to their first home about 8 miles south of town. They began farming with a new W-40 International tractor and it is one that is on display for the

Thresher Show.

They had a second-hand light plant and were able to have lights and a radio. She could iron and wash clothes from that power source. They had a pitcher pump at the sink and an outhouse!

Less than a year later, they moved to another farm and stayed until they moved to their home in Bird City. They raised three children, Gerald, Eileen and Donald on the farm.

The equipment that the family could not procure frequently was built by Maynard. He was innovative in welding, mechanical and carpentry skills. He and their sons made farm and home equipment they could not otherwise have. All of their children were integral members of their farm life. It was truly a family farm, she said.

"Over the years, Maynard and I have appreciated the neighborly support and caring spirit that has always radiated from our community. We are grateful for our church family and cherish all the many memories that we now share with our children, their spouses, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren," said Mrs. Wright.

Musicians attend camp

Sarah Whitmore and Logan Whitmore, St. Francis musicians, attended the High Plains Band Camp from July 20 through July 26 at Fort Hays State University.

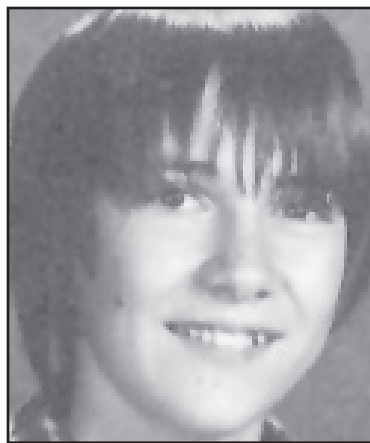
This camp is recognized as one of the major music camps in the United States for middle school and high school musicians. This was the 61st annual camp.

On Sunday afternoon, auditions were held to determine placement in the various bands and ensembles.

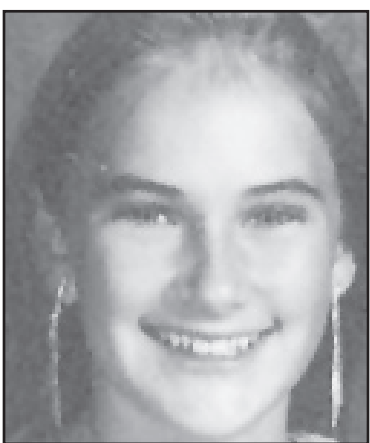
Sarah was selected to play second chair flute in the junior high Blue Band. She also played second chair in the flute ensemble.

Logan was selected to lay sixth chair trumpet in the high school Honor Band, which is the top band at the camp. He was also selected to play first chair trumpet in the Silver Jazz Band and was a featured soloist at the jazz concert on Friday evening.

The camp offers a week of stimulating and concentrated study in the art of music. In addition to participating in the bands and ensembles, students experience performances by internationally



Logan Whitmore



Sarah Whitmore

recognized musicians and conductors. They also have the opportunity to work with guest soloists and to take part in a number of workshops. Sarah participated in a flute musicianship course, while Logan improved his jazz playing skills in a jazz improvisation class.

Social activities during the week included dances, pizza parties, sporting events and a trip to the Hays Aquatic park. In the evenings the students attended a variety of concerts and recitals given by the students as well as the guest soloists,

faculty and staff.

The week culminated with the jazz ensemble concerts on Friday evening, and the small ensemble and concert band performances on Saturday.

Sarah will be in the eighth grade and Logan will be a freshman in the St. Francis schools where they study music under the direction of Debbie Fiala.

They also take private lessons from Neal Russell, a retired music director for the Oberlin school district.

Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact Casey McCormick at:

The Saint Francis Herald

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