



Regional Integration for the Future: Renewable Energy and Land Use Planning

February 22 – 23, 2006
Jackpot Casino and Hotel
Morton, Minnesota

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**John L Biren, Lyon County Zoning Administrator, Lyon County Public Works
504 Fairgrounds Road, Marshall, MN 56258; Phone 507.532.8206; Fax 507.532.8216; email
johnbiren@co.lyon.mn.us**

John Biren received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Saint John's University, Collegeville Minnesota. For the past 13 years he has been working for local county government in land use.

Since 1997 Biren has held the positions of zoning administrator for Pipestone County, Minnesota and currently for Lyon County, Minnesota. While at these positions John has guided many wind developers through the zoning process. With the help of the South West Regional Development Commission, Pipestone County was one of the first counties in the State of Minnesota to address wind development with an ordinance. Biren has since served on a committee established by the Minnesota Association of County Planning and Zoning Administrators to draft a model wind tower ordinance, and scoping document. The model ordinance can be found at

<http://www.mncounties3.org/macpza/Dist%20D%20modelwindordinancefinal.pdf>

**Mike Bull, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198; Phone 651.282.5011; Fax 651.297.7891; email
Mike.Bull@state.mn.us**

Mike Bull is Minnesota's first commissioner-level appointee dedicated to the development of the state's renewable energy resources, appointed by Commerce Commissioner Glenn Wilson in the spring of 2005.

Prior to that appointment, Mike held several key policy positions in Minnesota state government, including, as a senior policy advisor for environment and natural resource issues for Governor Tim Pawlenty; an energy policy coordinator at the Minnesota Department of Commerce under Governor Jesse Ventura; a utility policy analyst & consumer advocate in the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch; senior policy analyst at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; and as a utility policy analyst in the non-partisan policy & research units of both bodies of the Minnesota Legislature in the Minnesota House Research Department and Office of Minnesota Senate Counsel and Research.

Mike has graduate degrees in Law and Public Policy from the University of Minnesota.

Eric J. Ciliberti, Deputy Assistant Secretary, United States Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585; Phone 202.586.4220; email Eric.Ciliberti@hq.doe.gov; website <http://www.energy.gov>

Eric Ciliberti is a Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Department of Energy's office of intergovernmental and external affairs.

Ciliberti received an MPA degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in June 2005. Prior to attending Harvard, he worked in The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs for several years serving as the direct liaison to county elected officials throughout the country. Ciliberti also worked for the Ministry of Interior in Baghdad, Iraq, helping to develop border security policies and has prior work experience in the non-profit sector as well as on Capitol Hill.

Eric holds a Master in International Affairs from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Maryland. Ciliberti serves as a Commissioned Officer in the United States Navy Reserves in the military intelligence sector.

Robert J Ferguson, County Commissioner and business owner, Jackson County and Lake Heron BioEnergy LLC, P. O. Box 198, Heron Lake MN 56137; Phone.507.793.0077 or 888.385.3835 (toll free); email bferg@centurytel.net

Robert Ferguson has served on the Prairieland Coop, Jackson County Planning and Zoning, Prairieland Economic Development and the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board's Citizen Advisory Committee for the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) on Animal Agriculture. Bob is a current Jackson County Commissioner, past member of the Executive Board of the Association of Minnesota Counties, member of the Chief Elected Officials Board for the Private Industry Council, President of Heron Lake Development Corporation, Director of Heron Lake State Bank and President of the Board of Governors for Heron Lake BioEnergy. He is a member of the Jackson County Corn and Soybean Associations and the Heron Lake/Okabena Community Club.

Bob graduated from Heron Lake High School, and Worthington Community College. A lifelong resident of the Heron Lake area, Bob is a Vietnam War Veteran. He and his wife Jean have two children Lincoln and Kathryn, and they have farmed near Heron Lake for over 30 years.

Rick Goodemann, Executive Director, SW Minnesota Housing Partnership, 2401 Broadway Ave. Suite 4, Slayton, MN, 56258; Phone.507.836.8673; Fax.507.836.8866; email rickg@swmhp.org

Biography not available

Ralph Groschen, Senior Marketing Specialist, Minnesota State Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55155-2538; Phone 651.201.6223; email Ralph.Groschen@state.mn.us

Ralph Groschen is a Senior Marketing Specialist with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture where he has served since 1986. He is an expert on ethanol and biodiesel issues and staffs the Biodiesel Task Force and Minnesota's Governors' Ethanol Coalition activities. Mr. Groschen was instrumental in the development and execution of the state's ethanol and biodiesel programs, and has a special interest in the development of new generation farmer cooperatives.

**Wayne Hansen, Ph.D., Project Specialist, Center for Producer Owned Energy/
Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI), 1501 State St, Marshall, MN 56258;
Phone 507.537.7440; Cell (preferred) 507.828.2097; email whansen@auri.org**

Wayne Hansen is a Project Specialist with the Center for Producer Owned Energy. The Center supports the creation and development of agricultural producer-owned value-added business related to the production of renewable energy and the utilization and marketing of related co-products and byproducts. Wayne has been with the Center since February 2005 and previously served as an extension educator with University of Minnesota Extension Service for 21 years.

Chuck Heins, Electrical Superintendent, Redwood Falls Public Utilities, 333 Washington Street South; P.O. Box 10 Redwood Falls, MN 56283; Phone 507.637.5755; Fax: 507.637.2417

Biography not available

Dan Juhl, DanMar and Associates, Inc., Woodstock Wind Farms L.L.C., 996 190th Avenue, Woodstock, MN 56186; Phone 507.777.4310; email djuhl@woodstocktel.net

Dan Juhl has pioneered conservation and renewable energy technologies, particularly wind power, in the Midwest for over 25 years. During his tenure in the wind industry, Juhl's activities have covered every aspect of the technology including R&D, design, manufacturing, development, installation, and O&M.

Dan has also been instrumental in helping to form public policy by working with legislators and regulators on the workings and benefits of utilizing renewables in the energy mix, and is considered to be one of the nations leading experts on locally owned renewable distributive generation. Juhl currently owns and manages two companies active in the renewable energy business, including a 10.2 Mw windfarm on the Buffalo Ridge in Southwest Minnesota.

Jim Kleinschmit, Director Rural Communities Program, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), 2105 1st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404; Phone 612.870.3430; Fax 612.870.4846; email jim@iatp.org; website <http://www.iatp.org>

Jim Kleinschmit's work at IATP focuses on promoting working landscapes and sustainable rural development – U.S. and abroad. Current projects include: working with farmers and stakeholders to establish sustainable crop production standards and markets in the Midwest; promoting and facilitating renewable energy and sustainable bioindustrial development projects; and helping increase understanding of the relationship of agriculture to surface and ground water management in the Great Lakes Basin.

Jim has a M.A. from the Jackson School of International Studies of the University of Washington, and a B.A. in European history and Russian studies from St. Olaf College, Minnesota. Kleinschmit was raised on and is still active in the operation of his family's farm in Nebraska. He worked on rural development in the Baltics and Russia and in 1995 began working as the coordinator for the IATP's International Fellows Program, which informed officials from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe about international trade and agriculture issues. In 1996, he joined the Environment and Agriculture Program, focusing on nutrient and watershed management.

Dick Maxwell, Home Farms Technologies Inc., 20 18th Street, Brandon, Manitoba R7A 5A3 Canada; Phone 204.725.0008; Fax: 204.725.0785; email dmaxwell@westman.wave.ca

Dick Maxwell's accomplishments are in domestic and international operations, regulatory agency compliance, budget planning, government relations, product licensing, materials handling and international trade. During his 20 years tenure with a Fortune 500 retailer's corporate headquarters in New York he held the position of President for two of the company's subsidiaries: Florence, Italy and Hong Kong.

Dick is also a past president and director of three national trade associations; U. S. Industry Advisor to the U. S. Department of Commerce and Geneva Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; Committee member with National Maritime Council, N. Y. Security Council, National Committee on International Trade Documentation; U. S. Department of Transportation – Cargo Security.

He was the third American to receive the Silver Medal and Citation from the Republic of China for trade relations and was appointed to rank of Commander in the Republic of Italy's "Order of Merit" for trade expansion between the U. S. and Italy.

Dick resides in Clearwater, Florida with his wife Jacqueline.

Marcie McLaughlin, Director, National Policy Programs, Rural Policy research Institute (RUPRI), 400 North Capitol St. NW, Suite 390, Washington, DC 20001; Phone 202.624.7843; Fax 202.624.8813; email mmclaughlin@rupri.org

Biography not available

Chuck Neece, Research Director, Farmers Union Marketing and Processing Association (FUMPA) Bio-Fuels, 590 West Park Road, Redwood Falls, MN 56283; Phone 507.637.2938

FUMPA Bio-Fuels is a division of the Farmers Union Marketing and Processing Association. They will produce 2.8 million gallons of alternative fuel annually. In partnership with the Minnesota Prairie Line Railroad, FUMPA bio-diesel is the first bio-diesel to be used in a diesel locomotive in the United States. Minnesota Soybean Processors (MnSP) was also honored. In the past year, they began constructing a refining plant that will produce 30 million gallons of bio-diesel per year. MnSP is a farmer owned, new generation, value-added, closed cooperative, which will take soybeans to the next level of value.

Kelly Novak, Research Manager and Rural Brownfields Awareness Program Manager, National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation, 400 N. Capitol St., NW Suite 390, Washington, DC 20001; phone 202/624-7809; fax 202/624-8813; email knovak@nado.org.

Kelly Novak is the Research Manager for the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation. Her responsibilities include management of the Rural Brownfields Awareness and Environmental Stewardship projects. She writes the community column for *Brownfields News* magazine and has authored four rural brownfields reports. Novak served on the negotiated rulemaking committee for the "all appropriate inquiry" rule in 2003.

Prior to joining NADO, Novak was a Community Coordinator with the California Economic Revitalization Team under the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative and Court Clerk for Malibu Judicial District and legal team member for Capitol Records EMI Latin

Division in Hollywood, California. Kelly also served as an interpretive resources ranger for Great Sand Dunes National Park in Mosca, Colorado for one year.

Novak received her master's of public administration from California State University, undergraduate degree from Northern Arizona University and a University of California, Los Angeles School of Law legal assistance certification. She is also currently pursuing a doctoral degree in public administration and public policy at Virginia Tech and volunteer teaches ESL.

Myron “Mickey” Peterson, Alternate Board Member, Granite Falls Energy, LLC, 15045 Hwy 23 SE, P.O. Box 216, Granite Falls, MN 56241; Phone 320.564.3100; Fax 320.564.3190

Mickey Peterson lives three miles west of Sacred Heart, MN since 1974 their home is across from the home farm where he farms with four brothers in a 32 year partnership raising corn, soybeans and selling seed for Monsanto Co.

Mickey has served on the Minnesota State Ag Task Force for Ag-land preservation, has served 8 ½ years on the Minnesota Corn Growers Board of Directors and is currently serving on the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council. Peterson is also a supervisor on the Hawk Creek Township board, secretary-treasurer for the Renville County Township Association and is serving as an alternate for the Granite Falls Energy Board of Governors.

Mickey and his wife Janice have two married children who live in Marshall, MN.

Julie Rath, Economic Development Specialist, Redwood Area Development Corporation, 200 S. Mill Street, Redwood Falls, MN 56283; Phone 507.637.4004; Fax 507.637.4082; email julie@redwoodfalls.org

Biography not available

Ron Rebenitsch, PE, Manager of Member Marketing, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, 1717 East Interstate Ave., Bismarck, ND 58503; Phone 701.255.5120; email ronreb@bepc.com

Ron Rebenitsch is the Manager of Member Marketing at Basin Electric. Ron manages the renewable and green resources for Basin Electric. In addition, he is responsible for Basin Electric's distributed generation program, as well as all marketing of the renewable energy credits (Green Tags) available from Basin Electric's renewable energy generation resources.

Ron also manages Basin Electric's power purchase agreements for three FPL Energy wind projects – two 40 MW wind projects near Edgeley, ND and Highmore, SD; and a new 49.5 MW Wind project just completed in January of 2006.

Rebenitsch has worked for Basin Electric for 29 years, starting as a construction management engineer, then working as design engineer and civil engineering manager before assuming his current position 10 years ago.

Ron has a civil engineering degree from North Dakota State University and an MBA from the University of North Dakota. He is licensed as a Professional Engineer in the states of North Dakota, Colorado and Wyoming.

Mel Stocks, CEO and President, MINAQUA Fisheries PO Box 659, Renville, MN 56284, Phone 320-329-3380

A group of soybean farmers built an indoor fish farm that produces a fast-growing tropical fish species called Tilapia. It is designed to use warm waste water from a neighboring sugar beet cooperative processing plant to heat the water in the fish tanks.

Jayme I. (Jay) Trusty, Executive Director, Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC), 2401 Broadway Avenue, Slayton, MN 56172-1142; Phone 507.836-8547 x106; Fax 507.836.8866; email: execdir@swrdc.org

Jay Trusty has served as the Executive Director of the SRDC since 2001. The SRDC is a nine-county Regional Development Commission covering the far southwest corner of Minnesota, bordering on both Iowa and South Dakota. The SRDC is a federally designated Economic Development District that provides community, physical and economic development services. Previously, Jay was Community Health Services Administrator for Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone Public Health Services, a four county joint powers agency in southwest Minnesota.

Trusty is also Secretary/Treasurer of the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership and a member of the Board of Directors of the Affiliated Community Health Foundation and the National Association of Development Organizations. Jay holds a Bachelor of Science degree in government from St. John's University and a Master of Science degree in special studies: public administration from St. Cloud State University. Jay served as a Chemical Operations Specialist in the US Army Reserve from 1981-1984 and a Combat Engineer Officer from 1984-1994.

Kevin Walli, Attorney/Shareholder, Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A., 332 Minnesota St., Ste W-1260, St. Paul, MN 55101; Phone 651.221.1044; email kevinwalli@integraonline.com

Kevin Walli is a native of Duluth, Minnesota and was admitted to the Minnesota Bar in 1987. Walli received a B.A. from Gustavus Adolphus College and earned credits toward his degree from Cambridge University, 1983, as part of a European learning experience. Walli received his J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law in 1985.

Walli's areas of Practice include governmental law; lobbying and administrative law. Along with the rest of the firm, Kevin represents more than a dozen different wind projects in various phases of development. Some are up and running and others are just sorting out how they intend to proceed. In total, these projects involve more than 200 megawatts of generation capacity. During the past two years, Walli has been part of the grant writing team that prepared 25 **successful** grant applications to the USDA Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grant Program for small scale wind projects. Each LLC received a grant of approximately \$250,000.

Walli also represents the Minnesota Milk Producers Association. In that capacity, he has been involved in negotiations with the Minnesota Department of Commerce regarding how to restructure state programs to more effectively respond to the financing issues/needs of dairy operators who propose to develop methane digestors.

Walli's Governmental Services Experience includes the following: Executive Director Arrowhead Regional Development Commission; Director of Government Affairs, Minnesota Association of Homes for the Aging; Lobbyist, St. Louis County, Minnesota; Committee Administrator, Minnesota House Regulated Industries Committee; Legal Assistant to Congressman James J. Oberstar

Mark Willers, CEO, Minwind Energy, LLC, 800 S. Kniss Avenue Suite 2, Luverne, MN, 56156; Phone: 507.283.9140; Fax 507.283.9170; email mkwill@minwind.com

Biography not available

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Biography not available