

## MAY 2010

### WHO WE ARE:

Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition committed to stopping the Scandia Wind Aegir Project in its present form. We represent a cross section of year-round and summer residents, local business owners, and long-time visitors. P.O.W.E.R. stands for Protect Our Water, Economy and Resources.

### WHAT WE BELIEVE:

We fully support efforts to develop renewable energy, but not at the cost of our lakeshore, our community, our environment, and our quality of life.

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## News From the Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition

### Legislative Update

In March, April and May, the Great Lakes Wind Council (GLOW) has held public meetings in Bay City, Escanaba and Muskegon to gauge the public's opinions on offshore wind development before making final recommendations to the Michigan legislature regarding a regulatory process for offshore wind. Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition was able to send representatives to both Bay City and Muskegon, and hopes GLOW will take concerns raised on offshore wind into consideration when making their final recommendations.

The coalition is anticipating the final recommendations in the coming months, and has been engaging with the relevant lawmakers to stay involved in the process and drafting of state legislation. Although GLOW will make recommendations, state lawmakers will have the final say on the regulations, which is why the coalition continues to stress the importance of contacting your state legislator and expressing your concerns on offshore wind development. For contact information for legislators in Northern Michigan and West Michigan, please see the *Stay Involved* section of this newsletter.

### Recent News

P.O.W.E.R. supporters were in full force on Tuesday, May 4 in Muskegon at the final GLOW meeting, expressing the need for various provisions to be included in GLOW's final recommendations to Gov. Granholm and legislators. Continued support at these public meetings is making a large difference in the fight against irresponsible offshore wind development.

The Mason County Board of Commissioners held a public meeting on Thursday, May 6 at Ludington High School where Harald Dirdal of Havgul Energy was asked to present Scandia Wind's revised proposal for Mason and Oceana counties. Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition was also given the opportunity to present the opposing side of the issue during this meeting. Jeff Hodges, Pentwater business owner and Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition board member presented the coalition's concerns with Scandia/Havgul's plans for Lake Michigan including company experience and impact of offshore wind development on area jobs, tourism and the environment.

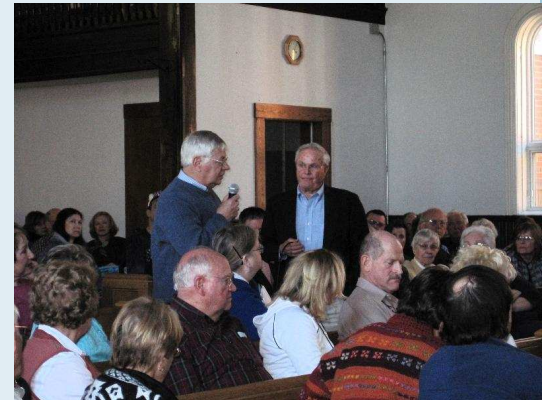
Harald Dirdal gave his presentation, crediting the Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition's efforts for reducing the size of Scandia's original plans for Lake Michigan near Pentwater/Ludington. During his presentation and questions thereafter, Dirdal did admit that any jobs that 'might be created' would be in Muskegon, not Oceana and Mason as originally proposed. Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition is skeptical that Scandia/Havgul would influence a wind manufacturer to relocate to West Michigan. Dirdal also was questioned about floating turbine technology and claimed it was much more expensive than the technology he is currently proposing, which P.O.W.E.R. disagrees with.

All the recent events were extremely successful and we encourage coalition supporters to keep up the great work... we are taking steps to saving our shoreline.

Recently, Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition held two events in the Ludington/Pentwater area to engage coalition supporters in the fight against offshore wind development.

On Sunday, April 18, more than 40 P.O.W.E.R volunteers participated in a beach-cleaning activity at Charles Mears State Park in Pentwater. Participants gathered at 12 noon and worked until 2 p.m., removing litter and debris so that the beach was cleaned before DNRE staff pushed back sand moved by winter weather.

Data recorded by volunteers will be provided to the Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-A Beach program, which monitors litter accumulation. P.O.W.E.R. volunteers are continually dedicated to protecting our shoreline and showed that Earth Day means the Lake too. Please check "Events" at [www.protectwithpower.org](http://www.protectwithpower.org) for information on other upcoming activities and join us.



**Bob Neal, P.O.W.E.R. volunteer moderator, takes a question from a Pentwater resident at the Town Hall Meeting on April 26.**

## In The News

Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition continues to gain significant news coverage in the fight against irresponsible offshore wind development including stories in the *Ludington Daily News*, *Oceana Herald Journal*, *Muskegon Chronicle*, *Grand Rapids Press* and *Kalamazoo Gazette*. The coalition was also recently featured on WZZM-TV in Grand Rapids, WWTV-9&10 News, WTCM-AM, WOOD-AM, WKLA-AM and WJR-AM with Frank Beckmann.

Here are a few recent significant media stories featuring the coalition:

**Mason County Commissioners hear from both sides on wind farm debate-** *Muskegon Chronicle*  
<http://tinyurl.com/296of6c>

**Residents, businesses speak out against wind farm plan for Lake Michigan-** WZZM-TV  
<http://tinyurl.com/2bqofu4>

**Opposing Views Share Stage at Wind Farm Meeting-** 9&10 News <http://tinyurl.com/24cuguz>

Muskegon Chronicle- Feb. 26, 2010: [Wind farm debate continues in Oceana, Mason counties](#)

WTCM-AM- March 4, 2010: [Interview with Peter O'Neil](#)

## Upcoming Events

Bring your friends and neighbors to a P.O.W.E.R. Rally at Pentwater's historic Antler Bar (upstairs) on Sunday, May 30 from 4 - 8 p.m. T-shirts, signs and information will be available, as well as an opportunity to learn what you can do to help fight irresponsible wind energy power plants in Lake Michigan. A \$10 donation at the door includes appetizers.

For more information visit <http://protectwithpower.org>

## Stay Involved

**For more information on the coalition, our position, and current messaging:**

**Our website:** [Protectwithpower.org](http://Protectwithpower.org)

**Our Twitter:** [Twitter.com/LakeMIPOWER](https://twitter.com/LakeMIPOWER)

**Phone:** 231-709-9231 (someone will return your call within 24 hours)

**Contact State Legislators and express your opposition:**

**Rep. Dan Scripps (D-Northport)-** [danscripps@house.mi.gov](mailto:danscripps@house.mi.gov)

**Rep. Goeff Hansen (R-Hart)-** [goeffhansen@house.mi.gov](mailto:goeffhansen@house.mi.gov)

**Sen. Gerry VanWoerkom (R-Muskegon)-**

[sengvanwoerkom@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengvanwoerkom@senate.michigan.gov)

**Sen. Mark Jansen (R- Grand Rapids)-**

[senMJansen@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senMJansen@senate.michigan.gov)

**Sen. Wayne Kuipers (R-Holland)-**

[senwkuipers@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senwkuipers@senate.michigan.gov)

**Rep. Mary Valentine- (D-Muskegon)-**

[maryvalentine@house.mi.gov](mailto:maryvalentine@house.mi.gov)

**Rep. Arlan Meekhof (R- West Olive)-**

[arlanbmeekhof@house.mi.gov](mailto:arlanbmeekhof@house.mi.gov)

**Rep. Doug Bennett (D-Muskegon)-**

[dougbennett@house.mi.gov](mailto:dougbennett@house.mi.gov)

**Rep. Robert Dean (D- Grand Rapids)-**

[robertdean@house.mi.gov](mailto:robertdean@house.mi.gov)

**Contact local officials:**

[Ludington City Council](#)

[Mason Board of Commissioners](#)

[Oceana Board of Commissioners](#)

[Pentwater Township Officials](#)

[Ottawa County Board of Commissioners](#)

[Muskegon County Board of Commissioners](#)

**Write letters to the editor to your local paper:**

*Ludington Daily News:* [sbegnoche@ludingtondailynews.com](mailto:sbegnoche@ludingtondailynews.com)

*Oceana Herald-Journal:* [editor@oceanaheraldjournal.com](mailto:editor@oceanaheraldjournal.com)

*Muskegon Chronicle:* [pholmes@muskegonchronicle.com](mailto:pholmes@muskegonchronicle.com)

*Grand Rapids Press:* [egolder@grpress.com](mailto:egolder@grpress.com)

*Manistee News Advocate:* [kgrabowski@pioneergroup.com](mailto:kgrabowski@pioneergroup.com)

*Traverse City Record Eagle:* [dmiller@record-eagle.com](mailto:dmiller@record-eagle.com)

*Grand Haven Tribune:* [lpainter@grandhaventribune.com](mailto:lpainter@grandhaventribune.com)

*Holland Sentinel:* <http://extra.hollandsentinel.com/submitletter.shtml>