# Nebraska 2011 Wind Power Conference

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Chairman

Landowner Associations Recruitment Strategies

## There Are Several Reasons to Form a Landowner Association:

- 1. A wind developer has expressed an interest in your area
- 2. A few landowners are wanting to pursue wind development
- 3. County Officials/ Economic Organization are encouraging development
- 4. Control the development of wind energy in your area

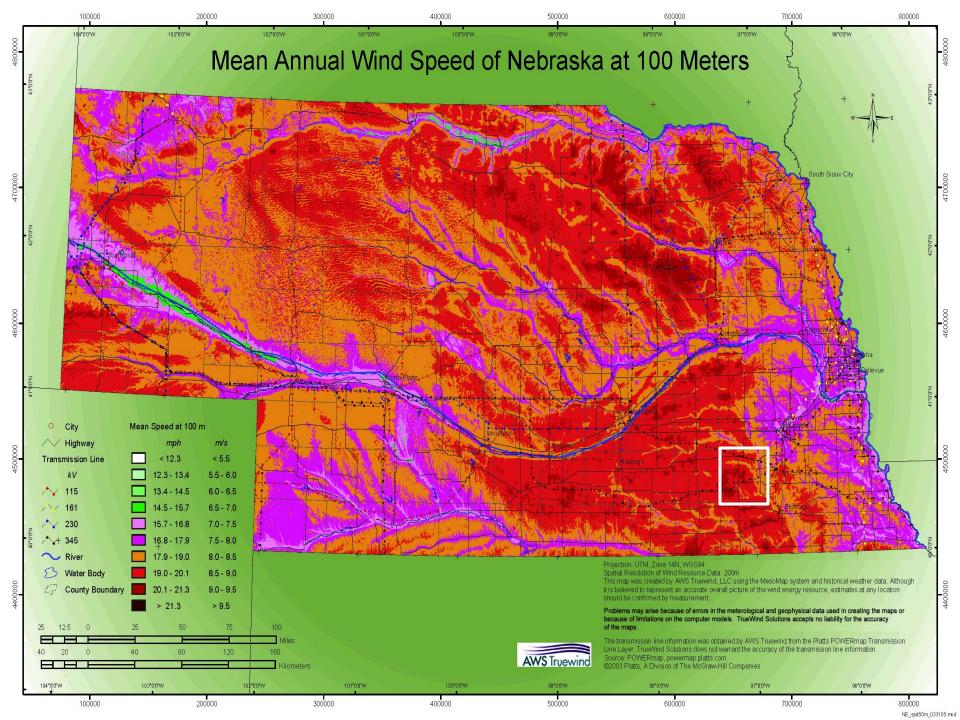
Who do you want to join your proposed wind association????

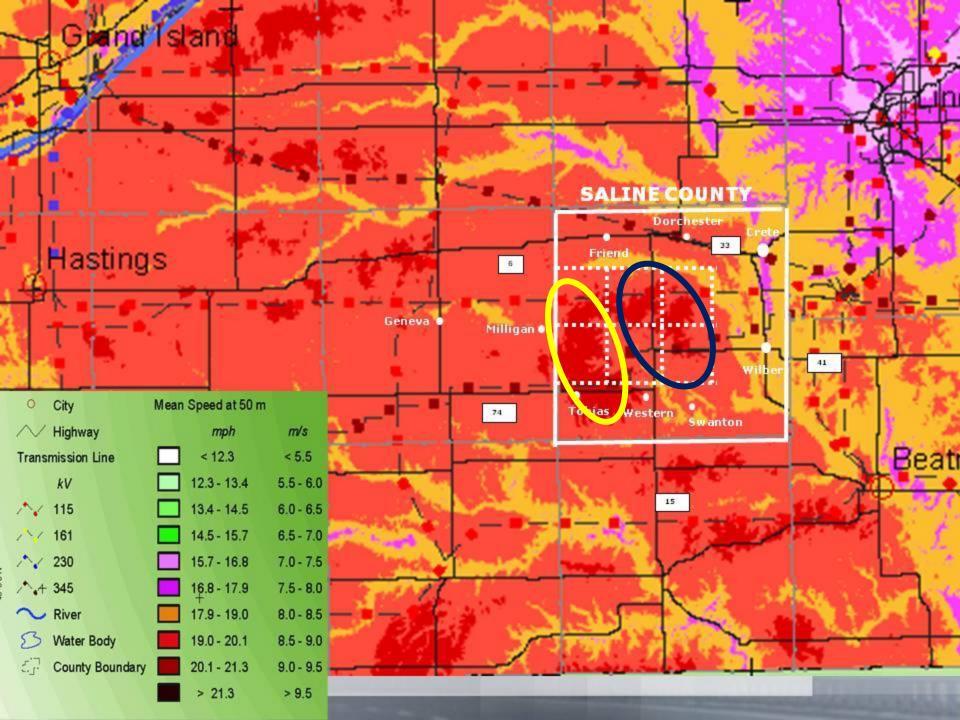
### **EVERYBODY**

That will be in the affected area

And then some....

# Saline County Wind Association (SCWA) A brief History





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This will help keep the organization focused till your true objectives are defined.

The time frame for this will be determined by the urgency of the need for wind development in your area



#### **What Is The Process**

#### **5 Phases of Wind Development**

- -Land Owner Education
- Negotiation
- -Option Period (2 to 9 yrs)
- -Construction (1 to 2 yrs)
- -Operation (20 yrs with automatic 20 yr renewal)

Something to consider when signing a wind lease:

If you are a young landowner and you sign a wind lease today, your unborn child's grandchild could be 10 years old when that lease terminates.

If your older, well, you get the idea...

- You can raise funds to hire an experienced WIND attorney.
- As an association you can negotiate from a position of strength.
- Can prevent 'Cherry Picking' by developer(s)
- Can prevent pitting neighbor against neighbor
- Get the jump on many issues that need to be dealt with during lease negotiations

It is my recommendation that a Wind Association's primary objective is to protect the landowner and the County's assets.

In Saline County's Case our 1st order of business was to educate the interim board members, the Landowners, and the County Officials.

#### Saline County Wind Association Informational Meetings

The Saline County Wind Association will be hosting two informational meetings regarding Wind Farm development in Saline County. Area landowners are encouraged to attend one of the two meetings. The same information will be presented at each meeting.

# Saline Center Wednesday, November 19, 2008 and Thursday, November 20, 2008 7:00 PM

While the meetings are open to all residents and landowners of Saline County, the main targeted audience are the landowners in the following Townships:

> > Presenters and topics of discussion include:

√ Wind Association History and Introduction of Interim Wind Board and Alternates Dave Vavra, Chairman-Saline County Wind Association

√ Wind Energy Development in Nebraska John Hansen, President-Nebraska Farmer's Union

√ Legal Aspects of Wind Energy That All Landowners Need to Hear

John Hay, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

√ Saline County Commissioners' View on the Project Willis Luedke, Saline County Commissioner

√ View From the State Senator Russ Karpisek

√ Wind Association's Call to Action of Landowners Dave Vavra - "We Need To Work Together"

#### Landowners - This could mean additional INCOME for you!

Call your neighbors, pool rides, choose one of the meetings, don't miss this opportunity.

For additional information, please contact:

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Part of the educational process was to organize a field trip to a operating wind farm near Concordia, Kansas.







- Once the initial objectives are met, determine the next set of objectives
- For SCWA it was to elect a permanent board and then purse wind development for the area
  - The board interviewed several wind developers
  - Then in separate meetings the most promising developers presented their proposals to the entire membership
  - Hired an experienced wind attorney

- Negotiate an equitable wind lease agreement with the chosen wind developer
- Hold educational meetings with the general membership to explain the negotiated contract
  - No member was bound to sign any lease agreement.
    - Our job in protecting the landowner was to educate, negotiate, and explain the strong points and short comings of the negotiated Lease Agreement

- You will be forming a volunteer organization. You have to look for ways to involve as many people as possible.
  - You will always have your core leaders
    - Some of these will step forward
    - Some you will need to recruit
    - You look for people that have a strong interest in putting the project before their own agenda(s)
    - Look for those who think outside the box, even if they may be contrarian from time to time.

- SCWA divided the targeted area into 6 voting areas base on township boundaries.
  - Leaders from each area were elected by the landowners to represent that area.
  - Members from the surrounding communities where asked to be liaisons to the board for their respected community.

- Hold yearly membership meetings.
- Keep meetings on time/track by reviewing the meeting's agenda at the beginning of every meeting
- While we all would like 100% membership, 'It ain't gonna happen'

If your goals or objectives are less than clear-cut, nobody will follow you, much less join and stay with you.

You have to be looking at this for the long term, enthusiasm deteriorates quickly if you don't set and keep the long term vision in place.

#### In closing:

- Determine your initial objectives
- Educate potential members
- Involve local government officials
- Based on feedback from the members either proceed with or terminate the process
- Elect permanent leaders (Board with set terms)
- Determine a new set of objectives if needed
- Engage and further educate the membership and local officials



If successful, this could be your Western Horizon

10/04/2010