



# The Kewaunee Trumpet

soundings of the Republican Party of Kewaunee County

Published -April 27, 2009

## Do You Believe in Grass Roots Politics?

Become a member of the Kewaunee County GOP. Need an application, contact any Exec Board Member.

### Party meets Monthly

Kewaunee County GOP April Meeting will be held at the Luxemburg Bank, Casco Branch at 6:00PM, Monday, May 10th.

### How do I get involved

We need volunteers to help with, Membership Drives, Representation at the County Fair, Organizing Parades, Candidate committees, Writing Articles for the Newsletter, etc. If you have time or the inclination to help out please call Ron Heuer 920-388-4501

### Opinion Matters

Your opinion matters, if you have suggestions for our newsletter, information for letters to the editor or information we should post to our GOP website, contact Ron Heuer 920-388-4501

### Upcoming Events

Kew Co. Monthly Meeting  
Mon, May 10, 6PM  
GOP State Convention, May 21-24, Milwaukee

### Kew Co. GOP Website

<http://kewaunee.wisgop.info>

### Need a good book

NEW Conservative Library  
Dave Quinlan 920-388-3629

## Wind Turbine Project by Ron Heuer

Kewaunee County is in the spotlight for a major “Renewable Energy” Project, the “Element Power Tisch Mills Project”. This wind turbine project is in the planning stages to place up to 111, 450 ft. tall wind turbines in the area bounded by Krok Road on the North, Hwy 42 on the East, County Trunk B, on the West and County Trunk V in the South into Manitowoc County. In the Kewaunee County Townships of West Kewaunee County and Carlton, there are plans to place between 40 and 50 turbines.

I live in West Kewaunee County Township and last October I was contacted by a representative of Element Power Wind Development, LLC concerning their plans to build this Wind Farm. In the initial conversation, it was clearly the intent of Element Power to talk to individual land owners and to get individuals signed up on their Renewable Energy Lease. To influence individual land owners to sign up, they put together very impressive revenue numbers that would entice land owners to sign. For example, if a person had one turbine on their land, they stood to gain estimated annual revenue of about \$13K. If a land owner had enough land and there was the potential of 2 or 3 turbines it would be two or three times that \$13K figure or \$26K or \$39K per year!

This enticement apparently was effective because in mid-January I spoke to the Element Power rep and he told me at that time they had already signed up about 9,000 acres of land. By the way, there is no guarantee to any of those people who signed the 50 year lease that there will be a turbine on their land. And what about the people who didn't sign? If this project does go forward and is constructed, those who didn't sign will, for little or no money, have to experience the majestic beauty of these 450 ft. wind turbines, experience the shadow flicker of the rotating blades, listen to the constant humming noise, perhaps experience effects of vibration and experience decreased land values. It should be noted here there were no public meetings held to inform the general population about this project. Was this on purpose? Was this to allow Element Power the time to get a percentage of people signed before they really could ferret out public sentiment?

Who is Element Power and why are they doing this project?

Element Power is a Portland Oregon based renewable energy developer that is largely funded by its parent company Hudson Clean Energy Partners, L.P., which is a fund that was established in late 2007 by a couple of Goldman Sachs

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alums Neil Auerbach and Joe Slamm. In Jan of 2009, Hudson appointed Ty Daul, Raimund Grube and Chris Taylor as Element Power's CEO, COO, and Chief Development Officer, respectively.

Three main reasons to launch a Kewaunee County wind turbine project, as stated by the Management of Element Power, are; access to the power grid that is in place as a result of the nuclear plant, 30% project cost funded by the Federal Government, and lastly, wind. I have had experience in running businesses and I found it odd there was no talk of the profitability for this venture. Typically there is a profit motivation in any project or business.

OK, let's dissect those reasons. Access to power grid makes good sense as transporting energy is expensive. The 30% from the Federal Government? Let me see now, last time I checked, we, the people, are the government. So we are funding Element Power so they can establish a wind turbine project in our own backyard that will have an everlasting dramatic impact on our landscape. With regard to wind, there are reports that the wind potential in Kewaunee County is fairly low, rating a 2 on a scale of 7. The last point, profitability... if that is not a main driver, where will this project be in 10 years? Will Element Power still be in business? If not, what about the decommissioning of these units? According to the Element Power Lease Terms, they are not required to post a bond, letter of credit or similar financial assurance for decommissioning but, after 15 years Element Power participates in the decommissioning costs up to the salvage value of the wind generator. Very loosely defined, and some estimates for a complete decommissioning and bringing the landscape back to original state is estimated to cost \$325K.

Another reason for Element Power to place a Wind Farm in Kewaunee County is our illustrious Governor Doyle and the Democrat controlled legislature who have mandated that 10% of Wisconsin's energy needs must come from "Renewable Energy Sources" by 2015. So, our State Government is greasing the skids and supporting companies like Element Power to be able to go into communities and get established and adversely impacting our environment.

I attended a meeting on the evening of Apr 26th at the Carlton Town Hall concerning this proposed Wind Farm. In attendance were representatives from Element Power as well as about 100 concerned citizens from the affected Townships. I learned a lot at this meeting. Going into the meeting I had not thought through all the issues surrounding the placement of a Wind Farm in my neighborhood. Those in attendance brought up the concerns I already alluded to in this article, impact on land values, shadow flicker, noise, health impact, TV reception interference, communications interference for both cell phones and emergency calls, affects on wildlife, setbacks and some of the economic impact on the townships and county (although these numbers are best guesstimates today).

An important question that went unanswered was the origin of the actual Wind Generators and where they were manufactured. Siemens, Vestas and General Electric are the largest manufacturers in this arena, all of whom manufacture most of their components abroad. Some components will be produced in the U.S., but decisions on exact equipment apparently have not been made yet.

What to do? It became obvious to me that the residents of this community need to do a lot more study on this topic prior to making any commitment one way or another. The contract Element Power has out there today is quite one-sided from my perspective and leaves the landlord with little control.

What is somewhat disconcerting is that assuming it only takes 1.5 - 2 acres per Wind Generator with 111 turbines, that translates to about 200 acres taken out of production. But, literally an area of 25,000 acres would be directly affected. That affects a lot of people, their children and their grandchildren. Clean energy always seems to be a universally accepted, wonderful idea until it ends up in your back yard. Then and only then do you see it as it really is.

## Representative Bies Announces Campaign for Re-Election

Sister Bay – State Representative Garey Bies has announced that he will be seeking re-election to the 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District.

“I am very pleased to be announcing my candidacy for re-election to the Wisconsin Assembly for another term,” said Bies. “I believe this is my most important re-election campaign to date. The Democrat-controlled legislature has taken the state in the wrong direction with billions of dollars in new taxes on the people of Wisconsin while those same taxpayers are losing their jobs.”

“There is a lot of work to get the affairs of state government back in order,” said Bies. “The state legislature should be working to create jobs and lower taxes to stimulate the economy. The current Democrat majority has done nothing to lower taxes and create jobs. This needs to be priority number one for the next legislature.”

“Too many Wisconsin companies have either closed their doors completely or they have picked up shop and moved to other states more favorable to conducting their business. This trend has to stop,” said Bies.

“I am pleased to report that some of my legislation was successfully passed this session, like my legislation to restrict the sale of fertilizer containing phosphorous and my state park buss pass legislation,” continued Bies. “But I am displeased to report that our efforts to stimulate the economy have fallen on deaf ears. This past session has seen almost all of the recent gains achieved to lower taxes erased. Wisconsin is now solidly back into the top-ten highest taxed states.”

“It has been an honor serving the people of the First Assembly District and I look forward to continuing to serve this great district as now there is more work than ever that needs to get done,” concluded Bies.

Prior to his time in the State Assembly, Garey Bies spent 30 years in the Door County Sheriffs Department serving as Chief Deputy for 11 years. Before working for Door County, Bies served in the United States Navy.

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### LAKESHORE REPUBLICAN WOMEN’S CLUB To Hold A “Meet and Greet the GOP Candidates” June 15th - 5:30-8:00 PM at Port’O’Call, Hwy 42, Kewaunee

The Lakeshore Republican Women’s Club met on Thurs. April 22 and completed plans to hold its second “MEET AND GREET” on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at **Port ‘O ‘ Call, 310 Milwaukee St. (Hwy 42), Kewaunee from 5:30-8PM**. No fee. Donations accepted though! Attendees encouraged to order a meal in the restaurant during their stay.

**Purpose of this event:** We will invite ALL Republican Candidates for the fall election to attend, bring their nomination papers and meet with Kewaunee county voters who attend. These signatures need to be collected during the month of June for candidates to file for the September primary. Signers need to live in the district represented by the candidates’ campaign, and ***only one candidate for each office can be nominated by the signers***. Congressional and State wide candidates can be nominated by all Kewaunee county residents.

**All Republican candidates** will be invited to attend (or send their representatives) with their nomination papers

**The public is invited to attend**, meet the candidates, and sign nomination papers for the candidates they would like to support in the primary election to be held in September, visit with other Republicans and order a meal off the menu during their visit if they wish. Republicans in Kewaunee County are urged to participate!! Randy Vandenaek, owner of Port’O’Call is delighted to host this event, and will have a new canopy on the

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<http://kewaunee.wisgop.info/>

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deck which overlooks Lake Michigan where we hope to hold the event unless it gets really cold, which may send us inside the restaurant. Publicizing for this event will be in the county GOP newsletter and website, the LRWC website, and in the local papers and will include the names of candidates who RSVP their intention to come if possible. Word of mouth by those receiving this newsletter would be very much appreciated!! Spread the word!

submitted by Bunny Burris, president of LRWC [smitbun@centurytel.net](mailto:smitbun@centurytel.net) or 845-5630.

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### **Kewaunee County Lincoln Day Dinner**

**by Ron Heuer**

The Kewaunee County Republican Parties Lincoln Day Dinner held at Northbrook Country Club was a big success. We apologize if the afternoon got a little long, however we had such a great lineup of candidate speakers. It was a great experience to meet all the talented Candidates we have lined up for the primaries. The Executive Committed wants to thank all those who attended.

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### **Upcoming Fall Election**

**by Dave Hutchison, Former State Representative**

This fall's election is shaping up to be one to remember for Republicans. I'm very confident we can take back all three branches of government in Wisconsin and we have an excellent chance of winning both houses of Congress.

All we need to do in Wisconsin is win three seats to take back the Senate. That assumes that we hold all of them that we currently control, including the 1<sup>st</sup> Senate District. Because it is an "open" seat both parties will pull out all stops to win it and win it, we must and will!

The State Assembly will come home to the GOP by capturing just 6 seats, or just a little over 6 per cent of them. After the "do nothing is better than what they had on the agenda" session that the legislature just completed, Republicans have tons of ammunition to take back both houses.

Gaining control of Congress may be a bit more difficult, but there's still a good chance that it could happen. It only involves winning a handful of Senate seats and less than 10 percent of the House (about 40 seats).

It seems that the Democrats are vastly underrating the angry mood of the country regarding the major issues such as health care, taxes, the economy, so called "global warming," etc.

The media and the Democrats are also playing down the impact of the Tea Party movement. The Tea Parties I've gone to were attended by ordinary people with an extraordinary love of their freedom and their country. They are going to play a major role in this election. And they're going to help Republicans take back America.

Then it's up to the GOP to act like Reagan Republicans and vote accordingly.