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### **October 7, 2024 meeting.**

Attendees: Harry Redford, Bill Conner, Tony and Linda Homolka, Dave Harvey, Ralph Luft, Gherin Johnston, Ed Weaver, Henry Hinojosa, Tom Cooper, Steve Marshall and Dave Krawetzke,

Greetings to all,

The 50/50 raffle was won today by Tony Homolka (honestly).

The treasurer's report is \$87.50.

Our treasurer, Tony, continues to heal from his motorcycle accident. He thanks everyone for the good wishes and prayers.

I took the liberty of copying some information from the Consumers Energy website to share. This is actually from last year:

#### **Consumers Energy Continues Clean Energy Transition with Plans for Solar Project at Former Coal Plant Location**

We are taking another step toward our aggressive clean energy goals, with plans for an 85-megawatt solar array at the [former Karn coal facilities, which closed earlier this year](#).

“Consumers Energy put years of thoughtful work into closing the Karn facilities, and chief among those considerations was how we wanted the site to operate and function after the closure,” said David Hicks, vice president of clean energy development.

“Based on future use studies and input from local stakeholders, solar emerged as the best option to ensure we continue to be good stewards of the land and to provide valuable tax dollars for the community while still pushing us further toward our sustainability goals.”

The solar array project is in its early stages, and we continue to work closely with community members, neighbors, and local leaders to design a responsible project that fits with the community and continues the path toward renewable generation. The project could provide enough power for approximately 20,000 homes and will pay local, county and school district taxes, totaling millions of dollars over its 30-plus-year lifetime.

The project, which aims to be operational by 2026, will reflect two foundational Consumers Energy goals: the significant scaling-up of renewable projects — specifically solar energy — throughout the state as part of our [Clean Energy Plan](#), and the commitment to making a just transition for employees as part of the shift away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy sources.

The closure of [Karn 1 and 2 in June](#) marked continued progress toward our goal of closing all coal plants by 2025 — 15 years ahead of the original schedule. The ongoing transition balances the responsibility to provide safe, reliable energy to power Michigan homes and businesses with the need to protect the state’s natural resources.

Over the next two decades, the [Clean Energy Plan](#) should:

- Reduce Consumers Energy CO2 emissions by more than 73 million tons — the equivalent of taking 12.4 million passenger vehicles off the road for one year.
- Dramatically reduce emissions by criteria pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides (NOx), mercury and particulate matter.
- Generate over half our electric capacity with renewable resources — wind and solar energy — by 2040.

### **Battery Storage Agreement Brings Us Closer to Achieving Clean Energy Goals**

We recently announced an agreement that will add 100 megawatts of battery storage to our clean energy arsenal through a partnership with Jupiter Power. The agreement represents a significant milestone toward our goal of reaching 550 megawatts of storage capacity by 2040.

“Battery storage is a critical part of our [Clean Energy Plan](#), improving efficiency and boosting reliability during the transition away from coal to renewable fuel sources such as solar and wind,” said David Hicks, vice president of clean energy development. “We look forward to partnering with Jupiter to meet this need as we continue the journey to achieve our ambitious clean energy goals.”

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) store and distribute energy harnessed from



renewable sources like wind and solar, allowing for more energy capture and reducing the overall cost of electricity. When used in concert with energy efficiency improvements, demand response and grid modernization work, BESS will accelerate the renewable energy transition without sacrificing affordability or a reliable grid.

“As an early investor in the development of battery energy storage projects in Michigan, Jupiter is thrilled to provide Consumers with cost-competitive energy storage solutions that help Consumers meet its storage and clean energy goals,” said Sam Malin, Jupiter’s Vice President of Origination. “Jupiter’s long-term 100MW power purchase agreement with Consumers represents our investment in dispatchable battery energy storage in Michigan, complimenting the State’s wind, solar, and traditional resources to deliver reliable power.”

While we have plans to develop 75 megawatts of our own storage by 2027, the facility built in partnership with Jupiter Power will add to a growing number of storage systems already operational across the state, including ones in Kalamazoo, Cadillac, Grand Rapids and Standish.

Another article that hits home for some of us. It was written by Tom Lambert:

### [Powering the Lost Peninsula, Tow Truck Required](#)

Whether you live in one of Michigan’s [smallest communities](#), like Henry Vender, or one of our most populated cities, our pledge is to provide reliable service you can count on. When Vender moved to Michigan’s Lost Peninsula about 40 years ago, he wasn’t quite sure what to expect. How would he give directions to get there? What recreational opportunities would be offered? Where would he get his groceries? Who would be his energy provider?

Vender said the latter has thankfully been a smooth transition from the first day he moved into his home. And he said Consumers Energy continues to provide him and his



neighbors with the reliable and safe service they need every single day.

He learned about the community's rich, unique history as he packed his belongings and made the journey for a job transfer to Toledo. Today, he claims buying a house in Michigan and working in Ohio was one of the best decisions he's ever made.

"It's a unique area, in that we aren't attached physically to the rest of the state of Michigan unless you come in by air or water," said Vender outside of his Erie, Mich., home – a stone's throw from the Ottawa River and the Ohio border. "I've grown to love it here because of the water and all the boating opportunities."

### **Border Dispute**

The Lost Peninsula was created after the Toledo War boundary dispute in the 1830s. After the war, the state border was established just north of the Maumee River. The agreement gave the river and the city of Toledo to Ohio. But the state line continued across the smaller Ottawa River and divided the peninsula on the far side of the river.

The land just north of the state line on the far side of the river remained in Michigan, but it no longer was connected by land to the rest of the state. All this led to it getting the nickname of The Lost Peninsula, located in the southeast corner of Michigan. It consists of about 350 acres and is home to a marina, a restaurant and homes.

The 140-some Michigan residents who live on the peninsula must travel south into Lucas County, Ohio before going north to go back into Michigan. And the area's public school students are bussed through Ohio to reach their schools in Michigan.

As is the case with our crews throughout the state, the crew in South Monroe prepares throughout the year to be ready for any type of storm at a moment's notice.

But unlike other crews, this one sometimes has to travel through Ohio. And doing so isn't simple.

The company's bucket trucks must be towed into Ohio back into Michigan so it can be used for maintenance work during non-storm days.

"We're in a unique situation for the different areas that we cover in South Monroe, including the Lost Peninsula," said Michael MacBlain Jr., supervisor of electric operations, who oversees 16 employees in South Monroe that make up six-line crews. There are also two electric service workers, who also reside at the headquarters but report to a different supervisor.

Other areas the crew serves include an unnamed peninsula on the west bank of the Ottawa River, a large commercial business, one half of a manufactured home community and two residences off Graham Road in Ottawa Lake.

### **Strong Safety Record**

MacBlain said the South Monroe crew is extremely proud of their safety record – going more than 10 years without an incident.

"To the public, it might sometimes look like we are working slower than they would like us to," he said. "But that's because we're taking the time to get our work done safely under extreme conditions. We want every one of us to go home to our families after our shifts."

Vender said he understands our crews have an important job to do. He's had nothing but positive experiences with crews who have come to The Lost Peninsula over the years, including a recent humid, sunny August Day with orders to improve reliability in the neighborhood.

They fixed fusing, upgraded a transformer and converted streetlights to LEDs.

### **An "A" for Reliability**

"The reliability here has been excellent, the crews have done wonderful things," Vender



said. "The power almost never goes off, unless during a catastrophic storm."

almost never goes off,

He added he'd give Consumers Energy an "A" when it comes to delivering reliable power.

“I’ve been here so long that you were called Consumers Power when I first moved here,” he said with a laugh. “But you’ve done great things and really stay on top of your reliability efforts, I’m very complimentary of the outage map....It’s convenient to use.”

### **Every Customer Matters**

Local crews take pride in providing reliable service to every last customer – including Vender – in the South Monroe area.

Dustin James, a line worker in charge who grew up in the area, said while it’s a challenge to get to the Lost Peninsula, they’ll go to any lengths to safely deliver and improve the area’s power.

“The way we look at it is a customer is a customer no matter who they are, where they live or whether they root for the Wolverines or Buckeyes,” said James, an avid Michigan Wolverine football fan. “And we’ll continue to provide every single customer with the safe, reliable energy they deserve. Even if we have to go through Ohio to do so.”

**Our next meeting will be Monday, November 4th at the Monroe Grill. See you then.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Homolka