Economic Resilience in Murray County
Dennis Welgraven

- 1st Term County Commissioner
- Member of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB)
  - 18 county Joint Powers Board
  - Objective: Providing the greatest public service benefit possible in regards to policy, planning, management, and implementation of methods to deal with energy and transmission in rural Minnesota.
Today's Presentation

Murray County's Economy
Condition of Local Economy
Condition of Agricultural Economy

Impacts of Wind Development on Rural Economies & Strategies for Improvement
Wind Development & Land Leases
Wind Development & Property Values
Murray County's Economy

Data for Murray County and Region 8 (9 counties in SW MN)

Primary industries in Murray County/SW MN

Future industries
Condition of Local Economy

- Labor Force is Shrinking
- Unemployment Rate in Murray County is very low
- New Labor Exporter
- Agricultural Community impacts Local Economy
Condition of Agricultural Economy

- Murray County Ranked 19th in Minnesota for number of farms
- Increased specialization
- Effects of New Farming Techniques
- Highly Variable Agricultural Economy
- Impacts from Changes in Agriculture Jobs
Impacts of Wind Development on Rural Economies
Economic Benefits for Communities

- Wind Energy Tax impacts County Levy
- Increased Revenue from Minnesota’s Wind Energy Tax
- Wind Tax Revenue Split
- Wind Energy Job Creation
- Windfarm Nonprofit Foundations
- County Government Building Improvements from Wind Tax Revenue
Economic Drawbacks for Communities

- Road Damage
- Decommissioning
Ways to Maximize Benefits and Minimize Drawbacks for Communities

- Communication
- Financial Assurances
Wind Development and Land Leases

Specific Types of Agreements
What they contain
How they work
Impact on farmers/landowners
Wind Development and Property Values

Impact on property values

Impact do they have on neighboring properties without turbines

How wind turbines are taxed
Questions?

Thank you!