**BEAVER ISLAND WIND AND ENERGY EMERGENCY**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2022 TO NOVEMBER 8, 2022**

**Wind and Energy Emergency****:** Due to damage from long-term/active gale force winds and the absence of workers from the Island’s power provider, Great Lakes Energy (GLE), Beaver Island was without power Island-wide beginning 7:50 pm on Saturday, November 5. As of 11:00 am on Monday, November 7, just under 12% of the island is still without power. At 2:00 pm on November 7, GLE reported that all the Island will have power by the end of the day, with some pockets still without power.

**Power Outage Update:** At 6:30 pm on November 7, two areas of the Island remained without power, approximately 322 properties at Sand Bay and near the municipal airport. Just after 7:00 pm, both areas regained power. As of 9:00 am, Tuesday, November 8, the GLE Outage Map show two customers along East Side Dr near Lake G reporting an outage. At 1:30 pm on November 8, the GLE Outage Map shows all Island power restored.

**GLE is currently focused on restoring power.** Later this week their leadership team will consider issues associated with this weekend’s event including their coverage policy, condition of the generators, etc. Please note that my communication off the island is with the County’s Emergency Management Coordinator who is in contact with the GLE Communication and Marketing Director, as well as state officials. If you know of people who want to call GLE, their contact number is 888-485-2537.

Note: Sometime this morning (November 7) the Island’s power outage information was somehow moved to Cross Village, the source of our power from the mainland, so our outage data is confusing and merged with this community. Update: This situation was corrected by 6:30 pm on November 7.

**Election Day:** Both Township Halls have power, St James due to their working connection to the generator and Peaine due to their back-up generator, though their power was restored earlier today (November 7). These two facilities are a required focus of GLE restoration work.

**Telecommunication:** The Island-based cell towers apparently lost AT&T coverage during the power outage whereas Verizon service continued. Emergency responders did have radio coverage with the mainland. The homes that still have a landline for the most part would lose their coverage given the electrical portion of their phone. Old non-electrical or rotary-based phones may be a source of continued service.

**St James Township Sewer:** This sewer system, serving the downtown area has a wet well pump that pushes the sewage into and through the forcemain along Main Street and Donegal Bay Road out to the septic field/tanks. This pump, located at Marina South, stopped running during the power outage. The sewer was nearly compromised such that if the outage continued for some amount of time, the sewer may have backed up into the service area’s businesses and homes. With the generator serving power to town Sunday morning, this wet well pump resumed service. An emergency generator is not needed once the GLE Generator is properly fixed/upgraded.

**St James Township Marina North:** The high winds and wave action damaged the floating docks at this marina. The dock removal equipment has been on standby for several weeks awaiting calmer weather. The dock removal will occur as soon as practical followed by an assessment of the damage. The township will consider future schedules that may include closing down the transient docks earlier than prior years and moving seasonal boats (those owned by Islanders) to the transient dock. This will allow better weather periods to perform the floating dock removal and maintain the local use during nice fall days.

**Weather Information and Emergency Evacuations:** As of 11:00 am today (November 7), power has still not been restored to the Island’s municipal airport which is the source of the Island’s official weather reporting and back-up emergency air evacuations. The pilots of the evacuation flights need to understand the Island weather if Instrument Flight Rules apply (such as during bad weather) before they are able to make an emergency flight off the Island when a patient is onboard. The weather reporting system, AWOS, is run of a battery system during power outages, however, this outage lasted longer than the battery power. The Airport Commission will consider their power needs for the AWOS, runway lights, and maintenance hangar door operation. The CCSD reported that this airport has an operational 800 mH radio for emergencies.

**Emergency Management:** During this storm, on the evening of November 6, a home chimney fire in town was successfully brought under control by the volunteer fire department. The call to 911 had a short delay due to the caller not knowing (not seeing) the street number of the home, therefore, the caller went to the nearby home of the fire chief to report the fire. Many firefighters mobilized for this call. An after-action meeting will be held to discuss this operation and the protocols needed to protect drivers from running into downed wires. Also, the role for those responsible for removing downed trees (not involving power lines) from the roadways needs discussion. The county road commission drove the roads on Saturday night (it was too dangerous to do any work at the height of the storm) and worked Sunday to remove major debris and mark roads with downed lines and Monday to clear the remaining and newly fallen debris.

**Line Workers Coverage:** At 8:00 am Sunday morning (November 6) two-line workers were flown to the Island to begin reenergizing the power. At 11:00 am on Sunday, some 16 hours (extra hour due to time change) since the start of the power outage, the generator was operational but only servicing the town (only via the east side of King’s Highway) due to ongoing issues with the generator and with power lines down throughout the Island. Over time, the power was being reenergized starting with the areas south of town (and continuing south) and later to the area west of town (and continuing west) as well as along the west side of King’s Hwy toward town. The Island-based line worker returned to the Island mid-day on Monday.

**Energy Reliability:** As we know, periodic (and sometimes frequent) energy outages on the Island are not just annoying but are costly in terms of human health (medical device needs, heating, and cooking needs), medical aid disaster response, business interruptions (in-the-moment as well as the re-booting of technology), refrigerated food and medicine loss, classroom education interruption, tourism impact, etc. The Island’s master plan is currently being updated and energy needs will be addressed, including considering having a long-term goal of burying power lines.

**Report By:** B. Welke, St James Township Supervisor

**Amendment #1 (11/7/22 at 5:20 pm):** Added in the section on St James’ Township Sewer discussion.

**Amendment #2 (11/8/22 at 9:00 am):** Added in various power outage updates

**Amendment #3 (11/8/22 at 1:30 pm):** Updated the power outage to share all power was restored.

**Amendment #4 (11/9/22 at 9:00 am):** Updated the work of the Cvx Co Road Commission during this event and clarified the airport power issues.

**Amendment #5 (11/9/22 at 6:00 pm):** Added in the St James Township Marina North damage and removed the self-sufficient portion of this report to another document.