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**Reno County Landowners attend
RENO COUNTY WIND ENERGY TASKFORCE UPDATE**

Nearly 200 Reno County land owners attended the Reno County Wind Energy Taskforce Update on Monday, August 11th at Nickerson High School.

Landowners from across Reno County came to hear fourth generation rancher Pete Ferrell discuss commercial wind farm development in Reno County. Aaron Fall, County Executive Director at the Reno County Farm Service Agency was on hand to answer questions about wind turbines on CRP land as well.

For more than a year, the Reno County Wind Energy Taskforce (RCWET), appointed by the Reno County Commission, has been working to explore the wind energy potential in Reno County. The Task force members have completed extensive research, attended numerous meetings and talked with officials at the state and national level about wind energy in Reno County.

“This meeting was an opportunity for landowners to share their concerns and have their questions answered during breakout sessions facilitated by RCWET members. We really wanted to find out how local landowners feel about bringing a commercial wind farm to Reno County” Ken Baker, RCWET co-chair said.

According to Reno County 2020 Growth Coalition Coordinator, Dorothy Barnett, “the landowners had great questions about leasing their land for wind energy development and the Taskforce members were outstanding facilitators”. At the end of the meeting landowners were asked to complete a “Landowner Interest Form” to indicate their willingness to be contacted by a recommended wind developer.

As in previous Reno County Wind Energy Taskforce forums, landowners were receptive to the idea of commercial wind energy developments in Reno County. To date, more than 600 Reno County residents have been engaged in wind energy meetings hosted by the taskforce.

Jim Davis, RCWET co-chair, encouraged landowners to be cautious of lease agents who might try to negotiate with landowners individually. “We are trying to encourage landowners to work together, for the purpose of developing a commercial wind farm in Reno County with lease terms that are favorable to our landowners”.

Landowners who were unable to attend Monday night’s meeting can stop by the Growth Coalition office at 111 North Walnut, Suite C in Hutchinson or visit www.renocountygrowth.com to access the information distributed at the meeting. Landowners may also contact Dorothy at 620-664-8656 to share concerns or ask questions.