

Results of a Survey of the Monhegan Community by the Monhegan Energy Task Force – July 2016

Prior METF Surveys #1 and #2

In March 2014, the Monhegan Energy Task Force (METF) conducted a survey (Survey #1) to gauge the greater community's sentiment toward the Maine Aqua Ventus (MAV) project. The survey was mailed to approximately 200 electric ratepayers and tax payers. METF received 108 surveys back.

Survey #1 asked the following: *"We would like to gain a better understanding of the sentiment of the community in regards to the project in general. Based on your current understanding of the project, are you: very supportive, supportive, undecided, opposed, very opposed?"*

Overall, 58.3 percent of respondents were supportive or very supportive the project, 29.6 percent of respondents were opposed or very opposed to the project, and 11 percent were undecided. The results from Survey #1 were not seen as a definitive vote about the project, but they did help to inform METF on how to focus their energies. Based on these results METF continued to engage with MAV and work to negotiate the best possible outcome for Monhegan.

METF conducted a second survey in March 2016 (Survey #2) of Monhegan year-round and summer residents in order to determine the community's opinion regarding the two community benefit options being discussed with MAV. In total, an estimated 204 people received either a hard copy or link to the survey.

A total of 56 people responded to the METF Survey #2. There were 5 additional comments received via e-mail. In total, 61 people provided input. Two options for community benefits were described in the survey – *Cable with Fiber Optics* and *Payment in Lieu of Cable*. Survey respondents were asked to rate each option with 1 = not beneficial, 2 = partially beneficial, 3 = neutral, 4 = beneficial, and 5 = very beneficial.

Survey #2 Response	Number
Both Beneficial	8
Cable Preferred	14
Payment Preferred	11
Neutral	6
Neither Option Beneficial	16
No Cable	3
No Payment	1

On April 5, 2016 a community meeting was held to discuss the results of the survey and determine what further questions the community had about the MAV pilot project. Many members of the community had several unanswered questions and wanted to include more input from seasonal residents. Some community members also wanted to leave open the option to accept neither the cable nor payment and/or work toward relocation of the project away from Monhegan through legal action.

On June 23 and 24, MAV sent experts in several fields (avian, marine science, sound, cable, engineering, etc.) to address the community's questions and another community meeting was held to discuss community benefit options. (see www.MonheganEnergy.info for meeting notes and audio recording)

Summary of Results

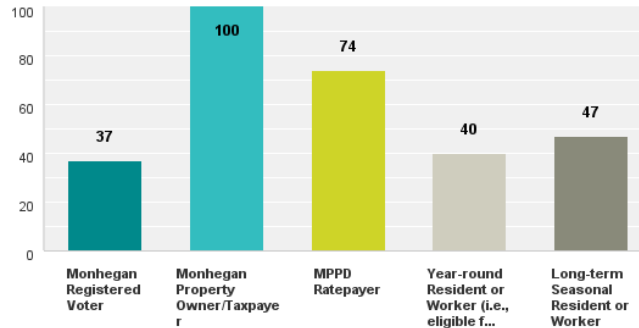
- **There was a 50% response rate for all survey respondents. 37 out of 74 (50%) of Monhegan Registered Voters responded to the survey.**
- **Among All Respondents, slightly more are supportive than opposed to the MAV project with a large percentage of “undecided” community members. However, among Monhegan Registered Voters, there is greater support of the MAV project (55.6%) than opposition (33.3%).**
- **Both the Monhegan community as a whole and the subset of Registered Voters are less inclined to support the Cable Option, but more respondents are “very supportive” of the cable versus “very opposed” in both groups.**
- **The Payment Option received more positive support from both the Monhegan community and the subset of Registered Voters, though there is a large portion of “undecided” respondents in both groups.**
- **A large majority of the Monhegan community, including nearly 80% of Registered Voters, believe that Monhegan should engage with MAV to get some type of Community Benefit Agreement.**
- **There was a notable difference between All Respondents and the subset of Registered Voters in response to the level of support or opposition to actively work to move the MAV project. Among Registered Voters there is less supportive of the idea (38.9%) than opposition (47.2%).**

Results for METF Survey #3

METF's Survey #3 was sent via e-mail and regular mail on June 24 to approximately 230 people. The Survey was also made available on www.MonheganEnergy.info and METF's Facebook page. Survey responses were validated and duplicates removed. There were 116 validated survey respondents who indicated the following relationship with Monhegan:

Q2 Please check all the boxes below that characterize your relationship with Monhegan (you may check more than one):

Answered: 116 Skipped: 0



There was a 50% response rate for all survey respondents. 37 out of 74 (50%) of Monhegan Registered Voters responded to the survey. The survey results are presented in the following charts. “All Respondents” includes the entire population of people who responded to the survey. “Monhegan Registered Voters” are a subset of this population.

Q3: Based on your current understanding of the MAV Project, are you (please circle one):							
ALL RESPONDENTS				MONHEGAN REGISTERED VOTERS			
answered: 112 skipped: 4				answered: 36 skipped: 1			
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined
very supportive	23.2%	26	43.7%	very supportive	27.8%	10	55.6%
supportive	20.5%	23		supportive	27.8%	10	
undecided	16.1%	18	16.1%	undecided	11.1%	4	11.1%
opposed	12.5%	14	40.2%	opposed	8.3%	3	33.3%
very opposed	27.7%	31		very opposed	25.0%	9	

All Respondents are slightly more supportive than opposed to the MAV project with a large percentage of “undecided” community members. However, among Monhegan Registered Voters, there is greater support of the MAV project than opposition.

- The Monhegan community as a whole is slightly more supportive of the MAV project (43.7% very supportive or supportive) versus opposed to the MAV project (40.2% opposed or very opposed).
- However, it should be noted that a large percentage of respondents are undecided (16.1%) and there are more people who indicated they are “very opposed” (27.7%) versus “very supportive” (23.3%).
- The support is stronger among Monhegan Registered Voters. 55.6% indicated they are supportive or very supportive of the MAV project, while only 33.3% indicated they are opposed or strongly opposed. There were 4 Registered Voters (11.1%) who indicated they are undecided.

Q4: If the MAV project moves forward, what is your sentiment about the Cable Option:							
ALL RESPONDENTS				MONHEGAN REGISTERED VOTERS			
answered: 112 skipped: 4				answered: 36 skipped: 1			
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined
very supportive	29.0%	33	41.2%	very supportive	36.1%	13	41.7%
supportive	12.3%	14		supportive	5.6%	2	
undecided	13.2%	15	13.2%	undecided	8.3%	3	8.3%
opposed	21.1%	24	45.6%	opposed	25.0%	9	50.0%
very opposed	24.6%	28		very opposed	25.0%	9	

Both the Monhegan community as a whole and the subset of Registered Voters are less inclined to support the Cable Option, but more respondents are “very supportive” of the cable versus “very opposed” in both groups.

- When asked about their support or opposition to the Cable Option, 45.6% of All Respondents and 50% of Registered Voters oppose or strongly oppose the cable while 41.7% of overall and Registered Voters are supportive or very supportive.
- 13.2% of All Respondents are undecided and 8.3% of Registered Voters are undecided.
- 36.1% of Registered Voters are “very supportive” of the Cable Option while only 25% are “very opposed”.

Q5: If the MAV project moves forward, what is your sentiment about the Payment Option:							
ALL RESPONDENTS				MONHEGAN REGISTERED VOTERS			
answered: 112 skipped: 4				answered: 36 skipped: 1			
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined
very supportive	22.1%	25	43.4%	very supportive	33.3%	12	52.8%
supportive	21.2%	24		supportive	19.4%	7	
undecided	19.5%	22	19.5%	undecided	16.7%	6	16.7%
opposed	16.8%	19	37.2%	opposed	11.1%	4	30.6%
very opposed	20.4%	23		very opposed	19.4%	7	

The Payment Option received more positive support from both the Monhegan community and the subset of Registered Voters, though there is a large portion of “undecided” respondents in both groups.

- 43.4% of All Respondents and 52.8% of Registered Voters support or strongly support the Payment Option while 37.2% and 30.6% respectively either oppose or strongly oppose.
- There are a larger percentage of respondents who are “undecided” about the Payment Option (19.5% All Respondents and 16.7% Registered Voters).

Q6: Do you believe the Monhegan Plantation should pursue neither the Cable Option nor the Payment Option (i.e. cease to engage with MAV in the Community Benefits Agreement)?:							
ALL RESPONDENTS				MONHEGAN REGISTERED VOTERS			
answered: 110 skipped: 6				answered: 34 skipped: 3			
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined
strongly support	14.6%	16	22.7%	strongly support	8.8%	3	14.7%
support	8.2%	9		support	5.9%	2	
undecided	13.6%	15	13.6%	undecided	5.9%	2	5.9%
oppose	24.6%	27	63.6%	oppose	23.5%	8	79.4%
strongly oppose	39.1%	43		strongly oppose	55.9%	19	

A large majority of the Monhegan community, including nearly 80% of Registered Voters, believe that Monhegan should engage with MAV to get some type of Community Benefit Agreement.

- Of all the respondents, 63.6% were opposed or strongly opposed to pursuing neither the Cable nor the Payment option and 79.4% of the Registered Voters were opposed or strongly opposed.
- [Note: This question was a bit confusing for some people given the way it was worded as noted in their comments.]

Q7: What is your sentiment about the Monhegan Plantation actively working to move the MAV project away from Monhegan:							
ALL RESPONDENTS				MONHEGAN REGISTERED VOTERS			
answered: 114 skipped: 2				answered: 30 skipped: 1			
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined
very supportive	40.4%	46	50.0%	very supportive	30.6%	11	38.9%
supportive	9.7%	11		supportive	8.3%	3	
undecided	14.0%	16	14.0%	undecided	13.9%	5	13.9%
opposed	14.0%	16	36.0%	opposed	13.9%	5	47.2%
very opposed	21.9%	25		very opposed	33.3%	12	

There was a notable difference between All Respondents and the subset of Registered Voters in response to the level of support or opposition to actively work to move the MAV project. Among Registered Voters there is less supportive of the idea (38.9%) than opposition (47.2%).

- Exactly 50% of the Monhegan community support or strongly support the idea that Monhegan should actively work toward moving the MAV project away from Monhegan with 40.4% indicating they “strongly support” this idea.
- 36% of the Monhegan community as whole is either opposed or very opposed to the idea of actively working toward moving the MAV project and 14% are undecided.
- In contrast, only 38.9% of Registered Voters indicated they are supportive or very supportive of actively working to move the MAV project while 47.2% of Registered Voters opposed or very opposed to this idea. 13.9% of Registered Voters are still “undecided” about this issue.

Comments from Monhegan Registered Voters:

- *There was one comment in support and one comment against the Cable Option.*

I believe this project will be a boon to Monhegan in its fight to remain a year round sustainable community. I strongly support the cable option as a community benefit as the option that will supply Monhegan with the most valuable benefit.
I see two potentially serious problems with a cable to the Island: 1. At some point - sooner, if MAV were to go bankrupt - later, if the turbines operate for twenty years or more - Monhegan will be left in the lurch - suddenly without lower cost electricity and without the option of high-speed internet over fiber-optic cable. 2. lower cost electricity from a cable will almost certainly increase demand for power - perhaps beyond the amount MAV is contracted to supply. Question 6 - should we have nothing to do with MAV? A bit late for that now. We trusted MAV's initial, confident assertion that this would be a small project of limited duration. Had we not trusted them then... if we had been able to foresee the future size of the project... I would have answered the question differently.

- *Other ideas for community benefits included pursuing an option to get Monhegan the best phone service possible, using the payment option to establish high-speed Internet, and giving Monhegan residents preferred selection for support service jobs.*

Make sure we have the best phone service. I voted against the windmills originally, only because of the loss of fishing bottom, or "taking", which is quite substantial. I now understand that the "taking" was passed by the legislature. Because my greatest concern is to further forms of energy which do not compromise the marine environment, or ocean acidification, the legislative action frees me to support the windmills.
Make sure we have the best phone service available.
How about the payment option with the funds solely dedicated to establishing a high-speed internet system.
I think the \$200,000 a year is not enough. We need to weigh the cost that MAV will save by not running the cable to the Island and to the power station and also the cost of electric they would provide every year to the power company at no cost.
I would like to see some provision that would guarantee Monheganers first crack at support services on island for this project.
While I don't agree with the placement of the test site I have an understanding that at this point it has been put into legislation and there is not much we can do about it. If that is the case I would rather receive money for the town to help our community than put up a fight.

- *There were a few general comments supporting pursuing a community benefit agreement (versus doing nothing or fighting the project).*

It looks like at this point the project cannot be moved so I think we should work with them so our community can benefit
Re: Question 6 - I don't think rejecting both options on the table (cable or payment) means engagement with MAV for some sort of community benefit should cease - so I'm confused by this question. If the MAV project moves forward, then I support continuing to engage with MAV for a community benefits agreement, though that may ultimately be something different or something more than what's been proposed already.

- *Several people raised concerns about the lack of information and inconsistent information from MAV that makes it difficult to choose between either of the two options presented in the survey and also brings into question the idea of holding a special town meeting on July 26.*

<p>You know how I feel. We, as members of the Monhegan Plantation, were never given the chance to vote on any part of this project. And I think it is unfair...even invalid...for us to be voting on a payment option when there has not been a formal offer...we have no idea what it could be...and we have no idea what it would be buying. You might as well have asked if we want to pursue the option for them to give us all new trucks. Jake thru out the figure...he also said the windfarm would be selling to MA. And Habib says differently. So...if that last meeting proved anything...it is that there are even more unknowns that we didn't know that we didn't know! Monhegan is not the place for this experiment. Habib told me after the meeting, If he could do it all over again, they would choose a different site.</p>
<p>I am supportive of wind energy. I am opposed to the location of this project. Monhegan is a very special place with a diminishing year round population. It simply doesn't make sense to put our island in the path of potential unknowns or unintended consequences. We do not have sufficient information to form an opinion on your survey questions...where would the cable be, who pays for complete installation and maintenance etc, how much are they actually offering as cash and has that exact option been approved by the puc? Is it \$200,000/20 years based on four miles or would it be lowered based on engineer statement at last meeting that Monhegan would involve only one mile of cable? Whatever the figure is would it be the same every year or would the figure change based on inflation etcetcetc? There is not enough information to even complete this basic simple survey. And that leads to the logical conclusion that there is no responsible way to hold a vote of commitment by the voting members of our community until these and many other questions are answered. Monhegan must proceed in a fully informed way that works for our community rather than be rushed by the deadlines of the companies intending to move forward with this test/financial endeavor.</p>
<p>There isn't enough solid information to answer these questions at this time. For example, the "Questions from the Mohegan Community" document contains too many unknowns.....There is not enough information to make an informed decision.</p>
<p>I am quoting Fred Faller's last line in What's the Deal essay as I agree with him and want to express my sentiments..'it is unfair to ask Monhegan voters to vote on a deal that is not written out in detail, on which they can make an informed decision about the cost benefit to them and the island that will affect the island far into the future.</p>
<p>There is not enough information for this survey to be filled out accurately. MAV has been inconsistent with their answers for 6 years. What makes you think the inconsistencies will disappear? Inconsistent research and communication equal big problems for Monhegan. We will NEVER get any benefits from this project. Nor should we be voting on this July 26th. Our lawyer thinks this survey is ridiculous.</p>
<p>It is IMPOSSIBLE to answer which "option" I am in favour of pursuing. MAV has consistently changed the few answers they have given. The most common answer is "we don't know". If they don't know, how can we know enough to make a decision? The July 26th date is for their convenience and their timeline. It has nothing to do with Monhegan Plantation making an informed decision that is best for us. I find it a highly bullying tactic to force our community to vote on an issue that has unanswered questions surrounding the project. I want the Assessor's to tell MAV that we will not meet their schedule. We will only respond when they answer our questions with firm answers and facts that are backed by legal documentation. I'm SO tired of the "That's Jake's area-we'll get back to you" followed at the next meeting by "That's Damien's area-we'll get back to you." Are Jake and Damien the same person? They never seem to be at a meeting together. Great diversion tactic by MAV but it just increases the distrust so many of us have for this project and those involved. I believe MAV cares not one whit for our community and will do and say anything to get what they want. The July 26th has to be rescheduled for a later date when questions have been answered.</p>
<p>Should it come down to a cable or payment, I would like to see far more clarification about details of the cable option and details about payment in leu of cable BEFORE the registered voters are asked to vote to go in one direction or the other. I really wonder if a cable AND a payment option should be negotiated BEFORE the Plantation decides which to take assuming we go forward with pursuing benefits. Then we'd have 2 solid options to consider or we'd discover that one or the other option isn't what we thought. What is the tentative plan for who leads the negotiations? Would a negotiator be hired to represent us who has experience with the sorts of negotiations? It seems like we should look into the cost of negotiation and who would be willing to do this work. I can see the need for a vote soon on whether to pursue community benefit of some sort or not to pursue any, but it feels like there are too many unanswered (but answerable) questions to decide anything else right now. Fred Faller came up with a good list of questions in his "What's the Deal" article that seem very helpful. Is there effort afoot</p>

to answer these?

- *General comments in opposition to the MAV project.*

<p>This whole process of collecting "community input" has been a "smoke and mirrors" effort to collect enough equivocal or "possibly positive", or "undecided" opinions to defuse the rational opposition, in a count. Corporations do what they want!</p>
<p>I fully support UMaine and alternative energy. 1) Monhegan was chosen without referendum or representation; 2) A high speed wind turbine will slaughter birds by the thousands, in the name of science; 3) Power will be generated in the winter when there is little demand but lots of wind. This is a well funded, well organized consortium who's sole purpose is the receipt of \$40M of free government funding, in the name of science.</p>
<p>This potential partnership(supposed partnership) poses too many risks to the balance and health of the community. It is far too out-sized for us / our voice will be drowned out by big money and corporate bullying whether intentional or unintentional. I mistrust any of the offers, and I see the blasting and moving of earth and rocks to bury a line as a kind of unnecessary desecration. I feel there is a better way to reduce our use of fossil fuel and carbon footprint, and it must be our own design.</p>

- *General comments in support of the MAV project or outreach process.*

<p>Thanks for assembling the panel of experts- This has been the most satisfying and educational interaction I have yet attended.</p>
<p>I would feel proud of Monhegan for doing its part against global warming. I do not believe it would affect tourism - might enhance it!</p>

Comments from All Other Respondents:

- *General comments about the payment option and use of funds.*

<p>I would rather not have to wind turbines 3 miles from Monhegan, but I believe it is pretty much a done deal, so I am looking at our best option given that. I would prefer some (maybe a lot) of solar panels and possibly a small wind turbine on the island, with the micro-turbines as back ups. The reason for getting the money from MAV is to support research on how to best power Monhegan in sustainable ways on into the future.</p>
<p>What does METF want. If there is so much built in old debt, would money reduce it, and would there be some left to maintain the current plant and provide for expansion and growth? What does Chris Smith want? Who knows better than him? I am not too concerned with the ecological questions, I think they are not being ignored, and will sort themselves out. It is the state of our own financial freedom and stability that concerns me. Reduction or payment of debt would be a long term boon, and might offer as much of a rate reduction as twenty years of free power.</p>
<p>If it's inevitable - we prefer payment option to support Monhegan being more energy independent in future. If possible, we would lean toward re-location further from island, but we would get not compensation making self-sufficiency more difficult.</p>
<p>If our community benefit were to be a yearly payment, I would strongly advocate that this money be used to pursue our own alternative energy plan.</p>
<p>I would be in favor of Monhegan spending any and all funds that might be gained through negotiations on developing it's own island electric service with green, and renewable systems, like photovoltaics and, yes, potentially wind power.</p>

- *Comments in support of the Cable Option.*

I support the fiber optic/cable option mostly because of the incentive it would give to persons who can work on the internet to become year-round residents.
I already filled out this survey, but in case my comments weren't captured, I strongly support the cable option for 2 reasons: first, it immediately stops the burning of diesel fuel by MPPD and second, it enables MPPD to have an extended period of 20 years to prepare for a long term sustainable power (local wind and solar) solution. The cash payment option could be used to do this as well, but I think there is a higher risk that the funds will not be used for that purpose and MPPD will continue burning 25,000+ gallons of diesel fuel.
Is there any way (thru cable) to provide very reliable cell phone service to the island? It is a NECESSITY for SAFETY as the island is so rugged and remote in places for people. I prefer not to have MAV, but if we must, I believe CABLE is the best option.

- *Don't make this an either/or decision.*

I don't think it should be an either/or decision. I think we should get the cable as well as getting the money from MAV. What happens (just supposing) in 10 or 15 yrs when something goes wrong? At least then, there will be money to try and fix the situation. Don't settle for one OR the other!!
After a lot of discussion, it seems that we've been too conservative with our benefit "requests". Why is it EITHER the cable or the payment? I think that we actually have considerable leverage with AquaVentis. We could mount a very powerful media strategy if they decided to provide the bare minimum to the Island. Monhegan, with all of its historic artistic roots and role in the birding world is willing to support this energy experiment... what is this worth? I think that the most critical commitment that must be made by the Monhegan community is to hold the DEP and other participants in the permitting review process accountable for REAL answers. We were asleep at the switch when the legislature was being drawn up... never again.
Monhegan needs to ask for MORE. The cable option AND the payment option with upside based on the projects success (fixed downside) AND an option for what happens after the 20 year period. We are short changing ourselves taking Cable OR Payment.
Cable option is preferable, we should also ask for money too. The two positions are not mutually exclusive.

- *Suggestions about the process.*

Presuming that substantive community benefits are received by Monhegan, this project can be provide material resources to both; a) enhance the short/intermediate term affordability of being a community resident and; b) provide the means to help Monhegan realize whatever sustainable, long term energy future it determines is best. Ultimately I feel that the Payment option better positions Monhegan to accomplish item b) above, which is why I have supported that option more strongly in my comments. If positive, the upcoming community vote should be prefaced as a (preliminary?) expression of intent that is subject to both an acceptable community benefits package plus MAV's agreement to make all reasonable efforts to mitigate community concerns about project impacts regarding noise, view corridors, loss of fishing grounds, and bird migration.
Hire a professional negotiator to be sure we receive the best possible deal. Should be in writing before the vote.
I think having the choice between only two options presumes that survey takers are supportive of the project, when many may not. Conducting a vote of the registered voters isn't representative of the population affected by any decision on the turbine project. A vote of property owners or rate payers would still fall short of being representative of the affected parties, but would be better than only registered voters. Why does a decision need to be made hastily? I think more community discussion and exchange would be helpful to the process.

- *Request for more information before making a decision.*

I think that the alternative benefits option needs a LOT more specificity than what is stated in the term sheet before Monhegan voters should vote on it. see - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E6husRch88-7UuQ-7FwGdGFSLxoskGTVPQUeQHriQ0/pub
Answers to critical questions have not been forthcoming from MAV. For example, if a cable is laid for Monhegan and it breaks, who pays for the repair!? Monhegan can't afford that! There have been too many unanswered questions for my support to be given at this time. The "unanswered questions" are in critical areas of project development, unintended consequences, effects on "birds" and "fishing" do not seem thoroughly researched also. Monhegan is a "jewel" to be cherished. I am a steward for "her". So I cannot support this project at this time.
there is not enough information to make an informed decision. the proposals keep changing. I am against the location of this proposal.
I desire specific information about this project that is honest. Please, no hidden agendas.
????????

- *Concerns about environmental impacts and noise.*

There has not been enough study and discussion about the environmental impact (fishing, bird migration, sounds, ocean animals). Monhegan is a pristine and ecologically fragile island that relies in part on tourism and should not be subject to risks to its quiet, natural environment.
The sight of the windmill is non-objectionable. My only concern is sound, which carries very well over water.
There are too many unanswered questions, including the turbine technology to be employed and the noise factor. My home is on the ocean and depending on wind direction I can hear people talking on boats in the harbor. Sound travels differently on water than land. What will be the noise level when the wind is blowing from the east or south? Will these turbines be direct drive or gear driven?
I feel Monhegan has been pushed into this by bait and switch, and I am concerned about the bird migration flyway. Also, I see climate change as a huge challenge, so I hesitate to throw sand in the gears of work towards a solution.
I am very opposed to this project. It will negatively affect birds and fishermen. I opposes this project and do not trust it will work.

- *General comments about MAV.*

It is my view that mixing government funded academic research with the business of providing a public service is often problematic. There are positive examples where a university owns and runs a research hospital or starts a new school for a discipline that was not previously represented. However, I see the the MAV consortium as something much different. It appears to me that the University of Maine has put together a fairly good research team for investigating new ways for providing offshore wind energy. On the side of running a business that provides electricity to Central Maine Power on the mainland and to Monhegan Island, I am not so sure. This part of the MAV's activities has to be fleshed out in much more detail before I can give my full support. I have no doubt that the MAV partners can build the infrastructure needed to complete this project, but I have serious reservations regarding the ability of this group to adapt to unforeseen problems that require the good business skills that I am not seeing on the UofM team. For example, it is not clear to me how funding would be obtained if there is a failure in either or both of the connections with Monhegan. Could repairs be accomplished using research funds? Could it be handled with revenues from the sale of electricity? These are business questions that have to be addressed by the university. Is UofM willing and able to protect our interest when there are problems? The answer to this basic question is important for me to make a decision about supporting the idea of connecting Monhegan with a power cable plus internet instead of taking the alternate proposal of a payout over 20 years.
My first and biggest concern is dealing with a multifaceted Corporation like Maine Aqua Ventus. You

<p>have proven in the many meetings over the years that although you have answers to most of the technical questions you have not responded to those most critical to the Island. You always say we haven't studied that, it's too soon to know etc. You seem to be stonewalling us and your going forward with the test site no matter what is decided on for a benefit package. If this were truly a good project for the Island you wouldn't need a benefit package. I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop after accepting a benefit package to find out why we are really given this money. Also who's to say that the money will not be taken away down the road by some legislature 10 years from now or by you folks for whatever reason. With a platform that will last 100 years I'm sure there will be a wind generator out there for generations to come. So much for the so called test site. The next step will be a wind farm 10 miles off our shore i.e. in as full a view as Pemaquid Point. I believe you said in your reports that the choice of Monhegan over the other two sites was because there would be less conflict from the fisherman. If that is correct it says an awful lot about the decision making process and it's not much to base a decision of this magnitude on. Finally I have been a resident of this Island for 3 months of every year since 1946. My father came here in 1930 to start a small general store and our family operated it until 1979. I am a tax payer and believe I have just as much right to vote on this as a resident that may only live here during the winter.</p>
<p>These are difficult questions to answer. Have followed the presentations but unable to attend the meetings on island. Because the way it was initially presented trust is low.</p>

- *Comments in support of moving the project.*

<p>With over 3,000 miles of Maine coastline, there must be a place that is more suitable, and with less impact on islanders, who depend on tourism as part of their subsistence.</p>
<p>Find a different location that will not effect Maine residences. There are over 3,000 miles of coastline.</p>
<p>MAV should have chosen an uninhabited island for its location. This has only divided the community and created unwanted anxiety. For me Monhegan's charm is it's throwback charm of a simpler life. People don't come here for Nantucket charm. Dirt roads, walking, reading, socializing and joining in community events are enough. People want to escape life's madness when they come here. I don't see the need for fiber optic service; the ESL service is fast and fine enough. People make a choice to live, work or visit here for several months days or years. If there were to be a payment option agreed to, one way of using some of the funds would be to offer a credit for homeowners to install solar panels to reduce electricity demand. Summer cottage owners should be encouraged due to long daylight hours to take advantage of solar credits to install panels where possible. Other options would be for two small wind turbines to be installed on the backside if the ball field pretty much out of sight to supplement the power plant's supply. But my opposition to the whole offshore project is due to the choice of siting so close to Monhegan and the size of the turbines. They are too invasive to the nature of this island. Unfortunately this is now getting rammed down our throats willy nilly. But we don't need the cable!</p>
<p>A great project that should be moved to another island Damariscove or a similar island- closer to shore and with no residents.</p>
<p>this project needs to be moved from this island</p>
<p>Any such installation should be at least 10 miles from Monhegan.</p>
<p>This project needs to be moved away from the precious resource that is Monhegan Island.</p>
<p>Not enough solid information regarding the real impact these turbines would have on our lives here on Monhegan has been provided. I feel that the plantation should NOT enter into any agreement with the project at this time. This is a long term commitment that could turn out very badly for so many on the island once big business takes control of our environment. Why call this a test site and then force us to live with these turbines for 20 years - if not longer. Couldn't they learn all they need to know in 1 or 2 years. Isn't their plan to start large scale production of off shore farms in 3 or 4 years based on what they learn from this test. And won't these farms generate multi millions if not billions of dollars in profits for the investors. Re-locate this test site. Monhegan is know as the JEWEL of the Easter sea coast. What an absurd and inappropriate choice for this commercial and industrial venture.</p>

- *General comments in opposition to the MAV project.*

We are totally opposed to windmills in the location proposed! What about hydropower sources of energy? Low profile and guaranteed of a supply of energy (tides vs wind).
From the start, this project has been a deceptive "dog + pony show". It would not have gotten this far without a few people (relative to the number on the island from April to Nov) wanting to lower their monthly electric bills, thinking there'd be free cable power. Monhegan has been a unique experience for so many people who seek nature, community, and a simpler way of life. We've used solar electricity successfully since 1980 - 36 years. It is reliable and more affordable than ever, PERFECT for seasonal use. The island serves as an educational resource in many ways, not least of which is an AWARENESS of alternatives to mainland energy use and transportation and waste management. While ind generators are a viable power source in many remote places, this project would negatively impact the very heart of Monhegan's main source of psychic healing: the open ocean all around. Tidal power? Sure! Photovoltaics? Absolutely? Solar hot water? Indeed. Energy conservation? Of course! But please don't ruin the aesthetic source of island summer income and renewal of soulful energy that contemplating, painting or photographing our shore and views gives to so many. There are other places UME/MAV can test ...
I am very supportive of alternative energy, but I do not like that Aqua Vents ultimately did a bait + switch. I've talked to many residents who are opposed + worried of the impact on the natural habitat of Monhegan Island.
I oppose Monhegan and its community being used as Guinea pigs. I am very uncomfortable with the lack of any real say the community has about its destiny vis a vis this project.
This project has never been about helping Monhegan, providing benefit/inexpensive power to Monhegan. Vis Monhegan, it has been about buying Monhegan's support for an undertaking that violates Monhegan's floor, visual and possible audible space. Monhegan has never been viewed as nor has it ever been an at-the-table equal stakeholder with a voice in the undertaking here and as it (hopefully does not) proceed.
I am apposed to the project.

- *General comments in support of the MAV project.*

I continue to be AMAZED by critics of wind power for Monhegan. What threatens our island more than its dependence on fossil fuels? We still truck hundreds of gallons of the stuff over rocky terrain and store it over our incredibly fragile aquifer! Reducing our addiction to fuel is paramount for the preservation of our "cherished way of life". Some people honestly believe the tourists and artists will stop coming to Monhegan because of a few elegant, gull-wing, wind-turbines over two miles away! Won't visitors be more discouraged from coming when an eventual, inevitable spill destroys the water table and every drop of water will have to be imported? How expensive will that be for our community? What will that do to our "cherished way of life" and the perception of our so-called "ecologically and visually pristine" setting? Good Grief! I have walked among thousands of such turbines-- forests of them planted on the acreage of Texas ranches and California deserts. I have visited them on the tiny, energy-independent Hebridean Island of Eigg, in Scotland. I must tell you from these personal experiences that there is no way the sound of a few windmills is going to be objectionable, or even audible over two miles of ocean. That fear is preposterous in the extreme. As for visual appeal, that is a matter of opinion-- and you are welcome to yours-- but I think wind turbines are beautiful! First of all, they represent inexpensive, green energy and the preservation of our "ecologically and visually pristine" setting and "cherished way of life". But their aesthetic appeal goes way beyond what they symbolize. Windmills are traditionally beautiful objects of art, since the time of the great Dutch masters. Speaking as a professional Monhegan artist, and the grandson of one of Monhegan's most iconic artists ever, I think modern energy windmills are as intrinsically beautiful and elegant, by design, as any of their quaint ancestors in Holland. Form follows function breathtakingly, as those graceful, white airfoils leisurely orbit on the horizon, echoing the wheeling of the graceful seagulls they are inspired by. Stunning. Also, positioning these exquisite kinetic sculptures at two miles situates them perfectly for artists-- far enough away to suggest scale and vast perspective in your paintings, but still close enough
--

<p>to discern and utilize their charm. Plus, as with anything a painter does-- if they don't work with your particular composition, just don't include them. It's art, after all! IMO, the wind turbines being proposed offshore of Monhegan could not only be a life-sustaining boon for Monhegan's community and the Monhegan way of life, they will be a valuable aesthetic asset, as well. I predict that the same types of folks whining about seeing wind turbines in the distance from Monhegan now, will whine again in the future. When the project has lived it's full life, and it is time to take down these windmills, a great hue and cry from a new preservation movement will arise to defend our traditional Monhegan way of life: "Save Our Windmills!!" Mark my words. Best Windy Wishes, JON P.S. Can you imagine the frustration of islanders who object to the wind project, when they see the turbines built, but gain nothing from it in the way of alternative electricity or freedom from an oil-spill-induced environmental collapse? Can you imagine watching those beautiful turbines, knowing that they send Monhegan no power? Can you imagine watching them after the inevitable ecological disaster of the oil truck going off the road on the ice and leaking its full load of diesel into our aquifer?? Reducing our use of fossil fuel should be our paramount concern. Embrace MAV, and insist on the cable option. Anything less is begging for eternal shame and rue.</p>
<p>I want to see wind power come, as a benefit to Monhegan residents and to the planet.</p>
<p>The world needs to have zero carbon emissions by 2050 if we want humans to exist in 2100. Monhegan is being given an incredible opportunity to have 100% renewable energy at the lowest possible cost and effort. So very lucky. It will be much harder for the rest of America to switch over.</p>
<p>I think this is a great opportunity on many levels, including furthering renewable energy as an anti-global warming device, providing the island with free energy for 20 years, (by which time there will probably be newer easier ways to create energy,) placing beautiful, white, slow-moving sails within view of the island.</p>
<p>Long-term renewables will provide energy security and promote the island as a "green touristy" location.</p>
<p>This type of project is going to happen whether Monhegan engages or not. This is the future and we need companies with deep pockets to invest in an experimental, but very promising way to generate electricity and provide for free to the island, along with high speed internet access. This isn't about corporate profits and carbon footprints so much as it is about the quality of life for the residents, (today's and tomorrow's) of the island. There are examples of modern innovations all over the island, (the lighthouse, the phone tower, the generator house, the dumpsters), some enhance, some detract, but all provide a better quality of life on the island as will this project. I'm betting the project will enhance the island, draw more eco-tourism, and place it at the forefront of an emerging technology the island should embrace.</p>
<p>We are not a sanctuary alone, but part of a wider, world community. We have an opportunity to share in a test project that can contribute to the end of our predominant hydrocarbon economy and move us toward an era of alternative, renewable energy with all its attendant benefits to humankind. If successful, and looking back from our 500th year celebration in 2114. I have no doubt that MAV will be spoken of as one more illustrious event in the history of our treasured island. I also feel that the spirit of Ted Edison, walking this land, agrees.</p>

METF Community Benefits Survey #3: All Respondents and Monhegan Registered Voters

Q3: Based on your current understanding of the MAV Project, are you (please circle one):				Q4: If the MAV project moves forward, what is your sentiment about the Cable Option:				Q5: If the MAV project moves forward, what is your sentiment about the Payment Option:			
ALL RESPONDENTS				ALL RESPONDENTS				ALL RESPONDENTS			
answered: 112 skipped: 4				answered: 112 skipped: 4				answered: 112 skipped: 4			
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined
very supportive	23.2%	26	43.7%	very supportive	29.0%	33	41.2%	very supportive	22.1%	25	43.4%
supportive	20.5%	23		supportive	12.3%	14		supportive	21.2%	24	
undecided	16.1%	18	16.1%	undecided	13.2%	15	13.2%	undecided	19.5%	22	19.5%
opposed	12.5%	14		opposed	21.1%	24		opposed	16.8%	19	
very opposed	27.7%	31	40.2%	very opposed	24.6%	28	45.6%	very opposed	20.4%	23	37.2%
MONHEGAN REGISTERED VOTERS				MONHEGAN REGISTERED VOTERS				MONHEGAN REGISTERED VOTERS			
answered: 36 skipped: 1				answered: 36 skipped: 1				answered: 36 skipped: 1			
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined
very supportive	27.8%	10	55.6%	very supportive	36.1%	13	41.7%	very supportive	33.3%	12	52.8%
supportive	27.8%	10		supportive	5.6%	2		supportive	19.4%	7	
undecided	11.1%	4	11.1%	undecided	8.3%	3	8.3%	undecided	16.7%	6	16.7%
opposed	8.3%	3		opposed	25.0%	9		opposed	11.1%	4	
very opposed	25.0%	9	33.3%	very opposed	25.0%	9	50.0%	very opposed	19.4%	7	30.6%
Q6: Do you believe the Monhegan Plantation should pursue neither the Cable Option nor the Payment Option (i.e. cease to engage with MAV in the Community Benefits Agreement)?:				Q7: What is your sentiment about the Monhegan Plantation actively working to move the MAV project away from Monhegan:				Q7: What is your sentiment about the Monhegan Plantation actively working to move the MAV project away from Monhegan:			
ALL RESPONDENTS				ALL RESPONDENTS				ALL RESPONDENTS			
answered: 110 skipped: 6				answered: 114 skipped: 2				answered: 114 skipped: 2			
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined
strongly support	14.6%	16	22.7%	very supportive	40.4%	46	50.0%	very supportive	40.4%	46	50.0%
support	8.2%	9		supportive	9.7%	11		supportive	9.7%	11	
undecided	13.6%	15	13.6%	undecided	14.0%	16	14.0%	undecided	14.0%	16	14.0%
oppose	24.6%	27	63.6%	opposed	14.0%	16		opposed	14.0%	16	
strongly oppose	39.1%	43		very opposed	21.9%	25	36.0%	very opposed	21.9%	25	36.0%
MONHEGAN REGISTERED				MONHEGAN REGISTERED				MONHEGAN REGISTERED			
answered: 34 skipped: 3				answered: 36 skipped: 1				answered: 36 skipped: 1			
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Combined
strongly support	8.8%	3	14.7%	very supportive	30.6%	11	38.9%	very supportive	30.6%	11	38.9%
support	5.9%	2		supportive	8.3%	3		supportive	8.3%	3	
undecided	5.9%	2	5.9%	undecided	13.9%	5	13.9%	undecided	13.9%	5	13.9%
oppose	23.5%	8		opposed	13.9%	5		opposed	13.9%	5	
strongly oppose	55.9%	19	79.4%	very opposed	33.3%	12	47.2%	very opposed	33.3%	12	47.2%