

WISCNEWS.COM

Classifieds | Jobs | Autos | Homes | Rentals

PORTAGE DAILY REGISTER



Columbia County's Daily Newspaper

Tuesday July 25, 2006

- Home ▶
- Local News ▶
- Sports ▶
- Opinion ▶
- Speak Up ▶
- Obituaries ▶
- Classifieds ▶
- About Us ▶
- Calendar ▶
- Archives ▶
- Subscriber Services ▶
- Your Home ▶

Local News ▼

Cambria discusses ethanol

By Jen McCoy

CAMBRIA — A village meeting Monday to provide information about ethanol became too supportive of the industry for some of the officials in attendance.

Representatives from Alliant Energy, the Department of Commerce and the Columbia County Board of Supervisors were present to discuss infrastructure grants available to the village and how other towns have fared with an ethanol plant. About 30 people attended.

Last week, Didion Milling's ethanol plant on the border of Cambria got past one hurdle as the Columbia County Board rezoned 10 acres of land for a plant proposed to manufacture 40 million gallons of ethanol a year. With rezoning approved by the county and town of Courtland, the county's next step is issuing Didion a conditional use permit, which will prescribe certain conditions on things such as water use.

Economic Development Manager Bruce Kepner of Alliant Energy talked swiftly about ethanol's benefits Monday and appeared surprised when he was questioned by a trustee.

"I get the feeling that you're trying to annex property or change the ordinance. We listened for 45 minutes about how ethanol is a great industry and great neighbors," said John Domino, Cambria trustee.

TOOLBOX

[printable page](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

"We have worked with every ethanol plant in the state except two. Generally they have not come across as one that is not a good neighbor. Wisconsin is not going to be an Iowa because we don't grow enough corn. But we'll have a few more (ethanol plants)," Kepner said. He added earlier that Didion Milling is a "major customer" for Alliant.

"This is about Didion and Alliant Energy making a lot of money, not renewable resources. No one ever challenges them because they beat you down as anti-farming and anti-American," said Sarah Lloyd, Columbia County Board supervisor for

Poll
Would you support a smoking ban in Portage like the one in Madison?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

vote!

[current tally](#)

How To: ▼

[Contact Us](#)

[Subscribe/Reader Services](#)

Newspapers in

Education

Cambria and Courtland.

"There was a bit of confusion about what the meeting was for. It was to share ideas about resources and strategies and if the village did not want to use them they do not have to. It was tools on the menu, and I don't think the village board got that message," said Jack Sanderson, member of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors.

jmccoy@capitalnewspapers.com

745-3519

© Copyright Portage Daily Register