

MINUTES
Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm.
MULTI-MUNICIPAL WIND TURBINE WORKING GROUP
via Zoom

Participating Municipalities Present:

Arran-Elderslie	Mark Davis, Bill Palmer
Brockton	Phil Englishman
Chatsworth	Scott Mackey
Grey Highlands	Tom Allwood, Paul McQueen, Stuart Halliday
Kincardine	Randy Roppel

Participating Municipalities Absent:

Central Huron, West Lincoln, Huron Kinloss
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Others who addressed the Working Group:

Warren Howard, Vern Martin

Others in Attendance:

Jane Wilson, Carla Stachura

1. Call to Order

Chair Tom Allwood called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. A quorum was present. Members of the Working Group provided introductions for Recording Secretary, Julie Reid.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 4-1-2021

Moved by: Phil Englishman

Seconded by: Scott Mackey

Be It Resolved that the Agenda for the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group meeting of October 14, 2021 be received and adopted, as distributed by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None.

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the September 9, 2021 Meeting

Resolution 4-2-2021

Moved by: Stuart Halliday

Seconded by: Phil Englishman

Be It Resolved that the minutes of the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group meeting held September 9, 2021 be adopted as presented.

Carried

4. Delegations

4.1 Warren Howard – Update and overview on Ottawa and their Official Plan

Warren Howard provided Members of the Working Group with an update on Ottawa's Official Plan

The Working Group raised concerns during the discussion following Mr. Howard's presentation regarding the role of ROMA and AMO in representing rural interest, as well as concerns regarding zoning and setbacks and what rules and regulations this project will be required to follow. It was noted that all of the disadvantages are unknown. The understanding is that the provincial rules would have to be followed and approval of these projects would ultimately rest with the province.

Members had a general discussion about the implications of switching to electricity as a sole source of energy and no longer utilising other energy sources such as natural gas. It was noted that communities are not ready for this as a whole and the effects could be quite alarming.

Members discussed what direction should be taken in light of this information. It appears there is a disconnect between what's going on in Ottawa and the province.

A motion was made to accept Mr. Howard's presentation with gratitude and to prepare a single page summary letter to Minister Smith explaining the Working Groups concerns noted with the expansion of the wind turbines in the City of Ottawa.

Mr. Howard confirmed that he could assist in drafting the letter.

Subsequent to further discussion, the Working Group passed the following resolution:

Resolution 4-3-2021

Moved By: Bill Palmer

Seconded by: Stuart Halliday

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group accepts the presentation made by Warren Howard with gratitude; and

That the Working Group will follow up with a letter to MPP Bill Walker, Minister of Energy Todd Smith, Minister of Agriculture Lisa Thompson and MPP Sam Oosterhoff regarding the concerns of the expansion of the wind turbines proposed by the City of Ottawa.

Carried

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 5.1 Bill Palmer - List of "Principal Issues for the MMWTWG" to be included in New Membership letter

Member Bill Palmer prepared as requested, a point form list of unresolved issues to be available for new members and potentially be included in the new membership letter. A letter had been drafted previously to solicit new membership given the fact that attendance can be now virtual and has been free due to pandemic.

The Working Group discussed how the letter should be revised going forward. It was noted that the original letter was prepared back in April and the free year is almost over. It was further noted that with the additional information regarding the City of Ottawa that has come forward perhaps the letter should be drafted as a call for assistance against the major cities using the countryside to produce power. This list was prepared based to address the technical issues and not from the political viewpoint. Chair Allwood will work with the Deputy Chair to draft something that speaks to the political concerns.

This list speaks to the focus and mandate of the Working Group.

Members commended Mr. Palmer for his efforts in creating the list of unresolved issues. It was agreed that the list of unresolved issues included all of the important issues that need to be addressed and public awareness raised.

The Working Group agrees that the letter needs to be sent out and discussed which municipalities it should be sent to. The Recording Secretary offered to revise the letter to incorporate the point form notes compiled by Mr. Palmer.

The following motion was made:

Be It resolved that the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby approves the release of the letter originally drafted by Bill Palmer to all municipalities in Ontario.

Subsequent to further discussion, this motion was tabled and the Working Group passed the following resolution:

4-3-2021

Moved by: Bill Palmer

Seconded by: Philip Englishman

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group accepts the list of unresolved issues for the MMWTWG as prepared by Member Bill Palmer and that the Recording Secretary will draft a letter for approval at the next meeting to incorporate these issues

CARRIED

5.2 Julie Reid - Second notice to MMWTWG Communications list

This item will be brought forward as an action item to be completed once the letter for membership has been approved for distribution.

- 5.3 Bill Palmer - Update on recent turbine public safety failures including:
- Skyway 8 vestas v90 blade failure in Southgate
 - Kent Hills (New Brunswick) Vestas V90 collapse
 - German Nordex new turbine collapse

Bill Palmer provided an update on these failures for the Working Group.

Chair Allwood opened the floor for discussion.

A picture of a wind turbine failure that occurred in New Brunswick was shared for discussion purposes. Vern Martin provided commentary on what he believed contributed to the failure. It appears there were a number of flaws related to the foundation and rebar of the turbine. This turbine came down at 3:30pm on October the 1st and all three weather stations within the area provided the same report that there was under 10 km/per hour winds at the time. It appeared to be a strange concrete failure.

Mr. Martin responded to further questions regarding this particular turbine failure from Members of the Working Group.

The Working group discussed the building permit process for the construction of wind turbines. There is still a level of liability that falls with the Municipality when permits are issued even if engineered stamped drawings are submitted.

It was noted that the New Brunswick structure looks much different than what one would expect to see in Ontario. The bases in Ontario are much more substantial than what is being seen in the photograph. There are a few ways to build bases depending on the type of land that it is being built on.

Members briefly discussed the South Gate turbine failure location and it appeared repairs to the turbines has been made. Information from a resident had advised that all 3 blades had been removed, new blades installed, all parts of power cone removed and a new nose cone reinstalled so it is basically back to its original status.

Subsequent to further discussion, the Working Group passed the following resolution:

4-4-2021

Moved By: Paul McQueen

Seconded By: Scott Mackey

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group accept the update on recent turbine public safety failures for information purposes.

CARRIED

5.4 Bill Palmer - Protocol for Investigation and Reporting of Wind Turbine Accidents

Chair Allwood opened the floor for discussion.

The discussion acknowledged that the group is grateful to have Mr. Martin join the meetings to advise on the engineering standards of these structures. He has raised some very great points in the past few meetings. This is something that the group needs to focus on. There are believed to be approximately 2800 wind turbines in the province and some have been up for at least 15 years.

The Members discussed the role that Municipality's have to ensure the safety of the citizen within the Municipality under the authority of the Municipal Act and how that relates to establishing protocols related to the investigation and reporting of wind turbine failures. There is large liability and safety issues and it could fall back to the Municipality's.

It appears that many of the failures have been contributed to a different failure mechanism which shows that investigations are just scratching the surface of the implications of these failures. The question was raised as to whether Municipality's should require all turbine projects to have a compliance letter to ensure that they've been properly checked annually or something that proves due diligence towards the protection of people and property as a part of our Municipal mandate. Additionally, it was questioned whether these turbines have a monitoring mechanism that is real time recording whether the ground is settling underneath which would start knocking the tower off centre. The technology is out there to be able to check how vertical the turbines are from a distance away without even going on the property in some instances.

Member Stuart Halliday suggested a motion that this report be sent under separate cover to each member Municipal Council and that the MMWTWG advises them to have a serious look at this to seek legal council and consider writing a bylaw. Member Scott Mackey seconded the motion.

The group discussed where the protocol should be sent noting that not all Member Municipality's have wind turbines. There may be reluctance to pass bylaws when there is not a current issue within a municipality. Contrary to that it was noted that this approach was proactive, in the event that wind turbines were erected in the future.

Subsequent to further discussion, the Working Group passed the following resolution:

4-5-2021

Moved BY: Stuart Halliday

Seconded By: Scott Mackey

Be It Resolved that MMWTWG accepts the Protocol for the Investigation and Reporting of Wind Turbine Accidents as presented by Bill Palmer and that it be sent to each Member Municipal Council for further consideration

CARRIED

Following the passing of the resolution, the Working Group asked Member Randy Roppel to provide his thoughts on this matter since the Municipality of Kincardine has a number of wind turbines.

6 New Business

6.1 Julie Reid - Meeting Intervals and Schedule

Currently the MMWTWG is meeting monthly on the second Thursday of each month. There was discussion of meeting every second month.

It was suggested to put the next meeting off until December since the November meeting would fall on Remembrance Day.

The Working Group agreed that next meeting would be scheduled for December 9, 2021 at 7 pm.

Further meeting intervals will be discussed at the next meeting.

6.2 Financial Update

The Working Group is current balance is \$7951.66.

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

4-6-2021

Moved by: Stuart Halliday

Seconded by: Scott Mackey

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group receives the Financial Update for information purposes.

CARRIED

6.3 Letter from North Stormont Citizen requesting HPPA Investigation

This letter highlights the considerable lack of response from the Ministry regarding the health hazard complaints. It was noted that there is no accountability from the Ministry in the investigation of these failures.

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

4-7-2021

Moved by: Stuart Halliday

Seconded by: Bill Palmer

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group receives the letter from North Stormont Citizen requesting an HPPA Investigation for information purposes.

CARRIED

7 Round Table Discussion

8 Confirmation of next Meeting

8.1 Proposed Next Meeting – November 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

As discussed earlier in the meeting, the next meeting will be held on December 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held virtually by Zoom.

9 Closed Session (If required)

10 Resolution to Reconvene in Open Session

11 Adoption of Closed Session Minutes

12 Adoption of Recommendations Arising from Closed Session (If any)

13 Adjournment

4-8-2021

Moved By: Philip Englishman

Seconded By: Paul McQueen

Be It Resolved that the meeting of the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group was adjourned at 9:50 pm.