

Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group
MINUTES

Meeting No. MMWTWG-02-2022
Thursday, April 14, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Members Present: Mark Davis - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
Doug Bell - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
Bill Palmer - Citizen - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
Steve Adams - Municipality of Brockton
Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth
Tom Allwood - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Dane Nielsen - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Stewart Halliday - Citizen - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Bob Purcell - Municipality of Dutton Dunwich
Stephen Miles - Town of Grand Valley
Bonnie Rowe - Dutton Dunwich Opponents of Wind Turbines (DDOWT) on behalf of Jamie Littlejohn

Others Present: Julie Reid - Recording Secretary
Warren Howard
Margaret Mercer
John Bryant

1. Call to Order

Chair Allwood called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. A quorum was present.

He welcomed new Member Municipality's, The Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich and the Town of Grand Valley, along with their appointed members.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MMWTWG-2022-11

Moved by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

Seconded by: Steve Adams - Municipality of Brockton

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby adopts the agenda of the April 14, 2022 meeting as circulated by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

4.1 February 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MMWTWG-2022-12

Moved by: Mark Davis - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Seconded by: Stewart Halliday - Citizen - Municipality of Grey Highlands

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby approves the minutes of the February 10, 2022 meeting as presented by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 March 28, 2022 from the Ministry of Energy Re: Letter regarding Ontario's Energy Plan - Chair Allwood

A letter was received from the Ministry of Energy in response to the letter sent to the Ministry on March 28, 2022 regarding Ontario's Energy Plan.

The letter appeared very generalized and appeared bureaucratic. It notes that the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) released its 2021 Annual Planning Outlook, which forecasted an emerging electricity need of at least 1,000 megawatts.

During discussion, it was noted that this appears to be discrepant against what grid watch currently shows 39,000 megawatts available. There is no argument that the Province needs to do some planning but grid watch shows around usages of between 14,000 - 20,000 MW in the afternoons during the highest peak. One noted problem is that wind does not

contributes little to no power during the summer months when it is needed most.

Further discussion noted that the 1,000 MW need is forecasted for 2025-2026 and is a part of the long-term proposal that the IESO is putting together following closure of Pickering Nuclear Generating Station and ongoing refurbishment of Ontario's other nuclear facilities. To meet the supply gap that cannot be met by existing resources, the Minister of Energy has directed the IESO to design a procurement called the Long-term Request for Proposals (LT RFP). The LT RFP will be designed to competitively procure new capacity by providing longer-term certainty to incent capital investment, while continuing to balance risk between ratepayers and electricity resource suppliers. The LT RFP will seek resources that can be in service between 2026 and 2028.

The Chair noted that it is positive that the Working Group has now been engaged with the Ministry and that some traction and response has been gained with the efforts. The members agreed that it is important to build on the traction that is being gained.

Reference was made to feedback made on the IESO website which are quite interesting.

Ms. Rowe is a member of the DDOWT as well as a Councillor in West Elgin. She attended the IESO presentation this week and provided a brief overview for the Working Group. They indicated that it was a combination of agricultural need as well as the new battery production industry. She added that West Elgin Council began the process of creating an interim control bylaw to put a hold on any wind developments until their Official Plan was completed.

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

MMWTWG-2022-13

Moved by: Bonnie Rowe - Dutton Dunwich Opponents of Wind Turbines (DDOWT)

Seconded by: Bob Purcell - Municipality of Dutton Dunwich

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby receives the letter received from the Minister of Energy for information purposes.

6. Delegations/Presentations

6.1 A General Update on Developments and WCO Activities - Warren Howard

Mr. Howard provided a brief overview of Wind Concerns Ontario activities.

Report on the well water in North Kent was released this week

- Families in the area of the North Kent 1 wind power project complained of contaminated, discoloured, grit-filled water when turbine construction began in 2017. The report of an Expert Panel reviewing water samples concluded that water quality was poor, and the change is definitely linked to turbine construction and operation. The Panel recommended that more samples be taken, and that the municipality work with residents to find a solution to the problem.

Setback bylaws in Ontario municipalities

- Wind Concerns Ontario sent a letter and our setback recommendation statement to more than 120 municipalities in March. This has been discussed by some Municipal Council's and the recommendation of the WCO is a 2 km minimum setback. Mr. Howard made a presentation to North Perth on this topic and will be presenting to the Perth County Council next week,

Noise Audits

- The operator of the Nation Rise project in Eastern Ontario, failed to submit a mandatory acoustics audit of its transformer substation. The audits are required to validate compliance with noise regulations. An extension was granted by the MECP until June. WCO was prepared to file an appeal to the extension however,

Indigenous Participation in Clean Energy

- The Federal Government announced that it will assist in the development of "clean fuel" projects where ownership is at least partially indigenous, by funding development costs up to 75%.

Communications with MPPs

- WCO has written MPP's in who have wind turbines who have operating wind turbines in their ridings. They have tired to contact Conservative MPP's who are retiring to highlight areas that need addressing before the election is called.

He spoke to a few other information items that were included in the agenda package.

Members of the Working Group noted that not all municipalities have seen the correspondence. They noted that it is important for the Working Group to stand behind all of the 2 km setback recommendations. Dutton Dunwich already has the 2000 metre setback in their official plan. They are happy to share their copies of their official plan and Zoning bylaws as they relate to this matter.

The Recording Secretary will circulate the WCO Setback Recommendation with the approved minutes for inclusion on Member Municipality for inclusion on agendas for Council consideration during their Official Plan and Zoning bylaw reviews.

The Working Group discussed the recommendation of the 2 km setback from Wind Concerns Ontario (WCO). It was noted that the mandate of the Working Group is to recommend best practices to ministries member municipalities and it was suggested that the recommended setbacks be sent to the ministries and the member municipalities immediately.

Mr. Palmer spoke briefly about his presentation to the Council of the Municipality of Kincardine and noted that the question that arose from that presentation was if WCO would make a recommendation to the Municipality.

It was decided that a further discussion on this topic and a formal motion would be made later in the agenda.

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

MMWTWG-2022-14

Moved by: Stewart Halliday - Citizen - Municipality of Grey Highlands

Seconded by: Mark Davis - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby receives the Wind Concerns Ontario updates provided by Mr. Howard for information purposes.

Carried

7. Correspondence

7.1 Requiring Action

7.1.1 Approval of Recording Secretary Invoice - February & March

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2022-15

Moved by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

Seconded by: Dane Nielsen - Municipality of Grey Highlands

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby approves for payment the invoice for February and March Recording Secretary services.

Carried

7.2 For Information

MMWTWG-2022-16

Moved by: Steve Adams - Municipality of Brockton

Seconded by: Bob Purcell - Municipality of Dutton Dunwich

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby accepts the correspondence contained in 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 for information purposes.

Carried

7.2.1 Briefing Note on Zoning Amendments

7.2.2 Presentation to North Perth on changing Zoning By-Laws

7.2.3 Resolutions of Support for MMWTWG Initiatives

MMWTWG-2022-17

Moved by: Bonnie Rowe - Dutton Dunwich
Opponents of Wind Turbines (DDOWT)

Seconded by: Mark Davis - Municipality of Arran-
Elderslie

Be It resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby accepts the correspondence contained in 7.2.3 for information purposes.

Carried

7.2.4 WCO Setback Recommendation

The Working Group discussed the recommendation of the 2 km setback from Wind Concerns Ontario (WCO). It was noted that the mandate of the Working Group is to recommend best practices to ministries and member municipalities and it was suggested that the recommended setbacks be sent to the ministries and the member municipalities immediately.

Mr. Palmer spoke about his presentation to the Council of the Municipality of Kincardine, as a private individual, and noted that the question that arose from that presentation was if WCO would make a recommendation to the Municipality. Following the presentation, Kincardine's Deputy Mayor, as a member of the MMWTWG, indicated he would ask the MMWTWG to request that the Working Group make a recommendation to Council's on the adoption of the WCO recommendations. It was further noted that the problem with the current 550 metre setback, there could potentially be approximately 30 turbines within 3 kms. The idea of a general 2 km setback is a good way to ensure that protection is in place.

Mr. Palmer propose a motion to support that recommendation. Further discussion indicated that there were other setback concerns that needed to be addressed immediately.

The Working Group discussed the recommended verbiage of the motion. It was suggested that the MMWTWG provide the recommendation directly, instead of endorsing other recommendations with links to further background information. Also, that it be distributed to all municipalities in Ontario.

Members supported the presentation that Mr. Palmer made to the Council of the Municipality of Kincardine and Chair Allwood asked that the presentation that Mr. Palmer made be distributed with the minutes to Member Municipalities.

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

MMWTWG-2022-17

Moved by: Bill Palmer - Citizen - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Seconded by: Bob Purcell - Municipality of Dutton Dunwich

To address concerns related to noise and the public safety of citizens, the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group recommends that the following setbacks from wind turbines should be adopted in each municipality:

1. 2000 metres from any wind turbine and any noise receptor, including homes, schools, places of worship, and locations where citizens go for relaxation, such as parks and community centres.
2. 1200 metres from any wind turbine and the lot line of any non-participating citizen, or a place where a citizen can access, such as public roadways, or waterways.

Further, that the Recording Secretary is empowered to prepare a letter to all municipalities in Ontario and the responsible Ministries, (Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks, and Ministry of Municipal Affairs) to be signed by the chair of the MMWTWG for immediate release.

Carried

8. New Business

8.1 Grey Highlands Resolution Re: Wind Turbine Safety Protocol - Chair Allwood

Chair Allwood presented the following resolution to Grey Highlands Council:

2022-128

Tom Allwood - Dane Nielsen

That Council direct staff to bring forward a protocol for investigation and reporting of wind turbine accidents in Grey Highlands based on the protocol provided by the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group.

CARRIED

It was supported unanimously by Council. It is currently in staff hands and once it is returned and approved, it will be distributed to all municipalities in Ontario.

MMWTWG-2022-18

Moved by: Stewart Halliday - Citizen - Municipality of Grey Highlands

Seconded by: Steve Adams - Municipality of Brockton

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby received for information.

Carried

8.2 Plateau Wind Farm Inquiry - Chair Allwood

Chair Allwood received a phone call from Tom Humphrey's regarding the Plateau Wind Farms following an inquiry from a media outlet regarding the work that the MMWTWG is currently engaged in.

He did not engage in discussions without the expressed consent on the Working Group. He advised the group that he had not returned the call and when he did, he intended to speak about the protocol that the Working Group had endorsed. He was specifically looking for what the Working Group was looking for.

In 2010, Grey Highlands was working on an Official Plan Amendment regarding wind turbines however it was sidelined by the Green Energy Act. The sighting for new wind turbines is now back into Municipal hands so the zoning amendments work is becoming important.

The Working Group had no concerns with Chair Allwood returning the call. He will provide an update at the next meeting.

8.3 Recommendation from WCO regarding Wind Turbine Setbacks - Bill Palmer

The discussion on this agenda item was integrating into agenda item 7.2.4.

9. Members Updates

Guest Attendee, John Bryant, a Councillor from Tiny Township addressed the Working Group to gain some insight into how his Township can address the concerns raised with respect to wind turbine projects during their re-zoning process.

There are some original bylaws from some time ago. The Recording Secretary will attempt to locate these bylaws and send them to Mr. Bryant.

Other discussions items noted many local fire services would be unable to provide rescue services so the onus would be on the company to provide that safety aspect, to Council's satisfaction. Provisions under the Municipal Act to provide for health, safety and well-being can override the Planning Act and that is a direction to look in.

Members also directed Mr. Bryant to review policies and briefing notes that are included in the agenda package from various municipalities. Municipalities can also declare themselves an unwilling host. It was also noted that the Official Plan should back up the zoning bylaw and that fees can be built into a municipalities fee bylaw for things such as building permits.

Mr. Bryant thanks the group for their input.

10. Closed Session (if required)

Not Required.

11. Confirmation of Next Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2022 - 7 p.m. via Zoom

12. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Vice-Chair Steve Adams, on behalf of the MMWTWG, thanked Mr. Palmer and Mr. Howard for their continued contributions to the key issues that the Working Group addresses.

MMWTWG-2022-19

Moved by: Stewart Halliday - Citizen - Municipality of Grey Highlands

Seconded by: Bonnie Rowe - Dutton Dunwich Opponents of Wind Turbines (DDOWT)

Be It Resolved that the meeting of the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group is hereby adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Carried

Tom Allwood, Chair

Julie Reid, Recording
Secretary