

Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group
MINUTES

MMWTWG-2023-01
Thursday, January 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Mark Davis - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie - Citizen Appointee
Ryan Nickason - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth
Paul McQueen - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Tom Allwood - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Don Murray - Township of Huron Kinloss
Jim Hanna - Township of Huron Kinloss
Mike Hentz - Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich
Todd Dowd - Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula
Bill Palmer - Consultant

Others Present: Julie Hamilton - Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2023-01

Moved by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

Seconded by: Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby adopts the agenda of the Thursday, January 12, 2023 as distributed by the Recording Secretary.

3. MMWTWG Membership Update

The Recording Secretary provided an update on the membership of the Working Group.

Returning Municipal Members and Appointees

Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Ryan Nickason

Brian Dudgeon

Mark Davis - Citizen Appointee

Township of Chatsworth

Scott Mackey

Terry McKay

Municipality of Grey Highlands

Paul McQueen

Tom Allwood

Dan Wickens

Township of Huron Kinloss

Don Murray

Jim Hanna

Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich

Mike Hentz

Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula

Rod Anderson

Todd Dowd

Unconfirmed Membership

Municipality of Kincardine

Municipality of Central Huron

Non-Returning Members

Town of Grand Valley
Municipality of Brockton
Township of Melancthon
Township of West Lincoln

4. Annual Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

As per the Terms of Reference for the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group, the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected annually at the first meeting of the year.

The Recording Secretary opened the floor to nominations for Chair of the Working Group for 2023.

Member Mackey nominated Member Allwood.

Member Allwood accepted the nomination.

The Recording Secondary called a second and third time for nominations. No further nominations were heard.

Nominations were subsequently closed and Tom Allwood was elected Chair for 2023.

The Recording Secretary opened the floor to nominations for Vice-Chair of the Working Group for 2023.

Member Murray, Member Davis and Member McQueen and Member Hanna declined nomination.

No other nominations were made. Member Hanna agreed to accept the nomination in the absence of further nominations.

Nominations were subsequently closed and Jim Hanna was elected Vice-Chair for 2023.

Tom Allwood resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None.

6. Minutes of Previous Meetings

6.1 MMWTWG November 10, 2023 Minutes

MMWTWG-2023-02

Moved by: Mark Davis - Municipality
of Arran-Elderslie - Citizen
Appointee

Seconded by: Scott Mackey - Township of
Chatsworth

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby approves the minutes of the Thursday, January 12, 2023 meeting as presented by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 Letter Re: Wind Turbine Taxation

There has been no response to the letter sent to the Minister of Finance regarding the Wind Turbine Taxation letter.

It was also noted that no response from the Minister of Environment had been received regarding the letter sent in December 2021 regarding wind turbine failures. The Recording Secretary will look into this further to confirm.

Members of the Working Group feel that it would be beneficial to invite MPP Rick Byers, who is also the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance, to the next meeting to introduce him to the Working Group and follow up on the letter.

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

MMWTWG-2023-03

Moved by: Scott Mackey - Township of
Chatsworth

Seconded by: Dan Wickens - Municipality
of Grey Highlands

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby invite MPP Rick Byers to the next meeting of the Working Group to discuss the letter sent to the Minister of Finance regarding Wind Turbine Taxation.

Carried

7.2 Response to November 10, 2022 letter requesting quarterly reports from the MECP.

The Working Group believes that the complaints would not be considered confidential. The request is for information regarding the complaints themselves and is not to obtain the names of who the complaint is regarding. It was decided that a follow up letter should be sent challenging the response that was sent to the Working Group.

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

MMWTWG-2023-04

Moved by: Jim Hanna - Township of Huron Kinloss

Seconded by: Todd Dowd - Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby,

1. Directs that a follow up letter be sent to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks requesting that the data regarding the complaints be sent to the Working Group, with any confidential information redacted; and
2. That the letter be copied to MPP Rick Byers and MPP Lisa Thompson as well.

Carried

7.3 Ruby Mekker - Wind Turbines defined as a Health Hazard

Ms. Mekker is unable to attend and this item is being deferred to a future meeting.

Chair Allwood provided some information that he had an opportunity to speak with Dr. Arra, the local Medical Officer of Health in Grey-Bruce regarding this issues. Dr. Arra indicated that he was aware of the MMWTWG and its mandates and although he finds the issues interesting, there is not the money and resources available to properly investigate the health affects.

Ms. Mekker is seeking an amendment to the original motion passed by the Working Group that indicated that a letter be sent to the local Medical Officer's of Health.

The Working Group will discuss this matter further and provide direction at a future meeting.

7.4 MECP FOI Requests

The Recording Secretary reported that the fee estimate has been paid however, no further information has been received.

8. Delegations/Presentations

8.1 IESO Update - Warren Howard

Mr. Howard provided an update on the IESO.

The IESO is seeking additional capacity and has issued an RFP to obtain proposals for achieving this.

There has been some differing views on the requirement for municipal support of the proposed projects between the government and IESO. On December 23, the RFP was changed which made the municipal support requirement mandatory to the application.

There have been a number of proposals presented to Council's all over the province. Some of the questions being raised relate to location, aboriginal support and zoning. Online public consultations have also been allowed. Mr. Howard suggested that if proposals do come to local Council tables, it is important that Council asks a number of questions.

He also provided some information on the plan for decarbonization. Minister Smith requested a plan to decarbonize electricity production in Ontario. Consultations were held with more than 70 organizations. A plan was developed with 2 scenarios and there has been a positive response from the environmental sector. Mr. Howard feels that a response from both the MMWTWG and individual municipalities would be appropriate.

The plan projects that wind capacity will double which would allow them to phase out natural gas. There is no backup supply discussed for intermittent wind and solar sources. The plan also highlights a need to address decommissioning. There is the possibility that the IESO's view of needing 17,760 MW of wind

capacity by 2050 could be out of step with the government's view on the matter.

It was noted that the IESO decarbonation plan also includes a significant contribution of 15,000 MW of hydrogen generation which should also be included in any response drafted from the Working Group.

Mr. Howard also provided a brief update on the North Kent well water issues, indicating that a study was completed showing that the water contamination was linked to wind turbines. There is a local campaign to raise funds to complete further in depth testing in the area. The contamination is the result of the vibrations coming from the turbines.

Members raised questions regarding the various storage technologies that will be seen as a result of the IESO RFP, two of the main sources being lithium ion battery storage and hydrogen. The carbon footprint could be made much larger from the mining required for the production of all these batteries.

There is a storage facility proposed for Chesley. It consists of sea container type buildings full of batteries that fill up with power during the off peak times and send it back out during the peak times.

The IESO requires that the projects have the power be available on demand with 4-6 hours of continuous power so a wind turbine without storage would be able to support this demand.

It was also noted that oftentimes the benefits are examined but not always are the consequences associated with alternative energy solutions are considered.

There have been issues raised regarding fire suppression measures related to the battery storage facilities and the large quantities of water that would be required to combat a fire if it occurred.

Member Palmer offered to bring forward a presentation on battery storage facilities for the benefit of members at the next meeting in March.

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

MMWTWG-2023-05

Moved by: Todd Dowd - Municipality
of Northern Bruce
Peninsula

Seconded by: Jim Hanna - Township of
Huron Kinloss

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby receives agenda item 8.1 IESO Update from Warren Howard, for information purposes.

Carried

9. Correspondence

9.1 Requiring Action

9.1.1 Approval of Recording Secretary Invoice

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2023-06

Moved by: Scott Mackey - Township of
Chatsworth

Seconded by: Don Murray - Township of
Huron Kinloss

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby approve the invoice for the Recording Secretary for November and December 2022.

Carried

9.2 For Information

9.2.1 MOE Response to Letter Re: IESO Handling Municipal Support for Energy Projects

A response to the letter sent to the Minister of Energy dated September 28, 2022 has been received.

The letter confirms that municipal support will be a requirement of the RFP process associated with the IESO additional storage requirements.

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2023-06

Moved by: Jim Hanna - Township of Huron Kinloss

Seconded by: Mark Davis - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie - Citizen Appointee

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby receives agenda item, 9.2.1 MOE Response to Letter Re: IESO Handling Municipal Support for Energy Projects, for information.

Carried

10. Members Updates

The Recording Secretary formally introduced the new Member Municipality, Northern Bruce Peninsula, along with each returning and newly appointed member.

Members introduced themselves and provided some background for the benefit of the Working Group.

A general discussion took place regarding the various projects and issues that have arose from those projects in the member municipalities that currently have wind turbines.

11. New Business

Member Murray raised the point that the group was originally formed to combat wind turbine issues, however, other issues are coming forward regarding storage facilities and other alternative energy solution.

The Working Group agreed that it would warrant revisiting the Terms of Reference to make amendments to allow for the group to address concerns with other alternative generation facilities.

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2023-07

Moved by: Don Murray - Township of Huron Kinloss

Seconded by: Mark Davis - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie - Citizen Appointee

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby agrees to review the Terms of Reference and revise them to reevaluate the MMWTWG mandate and address other alternative energy sources.

Carried

12. Closed Session (if required)

13. Resolution to Reconvene in Open Session

14. Adoption of Recommendations Arising from Closed Session (If Any)

15. Adoption of Closed Session Minutes

16. Confirmation of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed for Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm virtually via Teams.

17. Adjournment

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2023-08

Moved by: Mark Davis - Municipality
of Arran-Elderslie - Citizen
Appointee

Seconded by: Don Murray - Township of
Huron Kinloss

Be it Resolved that the meeting of the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group is hereby adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Carried

Tom Allwood, Chair

Julie Hamilton,
Recording Secretary