

**Multi Municipal Energy Working Group
MINUTES**

**MMEWG-2024-03
Thursday, May 9, 2024, 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
Terry Mckay - Township of Chatsworth
Tom Allwood - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Jim Hanna - Township of Huron Kinloss
Todd Dowd - Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula
Sue Carleton - Township of Georgians Bluffs

Others Present: Julie Hamilton - Recording Secretary
Bill Palmer - Technical Advisor

1. Meeting Details

2. Call to Order

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair asked for an amendment to the agenda to include under New Business the list of BESS Contracts released today by the IESO.

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMEWG-2024-23

Moved by: Terry Mckay - Township of
Chatsworth

Seconded by: Todd Dowd - Municipality
of Northern Bruce
Peninsula

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby adopts the agenda of the Thursday, May 9, 2024 as amended by the Recording Secretary.

4. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

5.1 March 14, 2024 MMEWG Meeting Minutes

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMEWG-2024-24

Moved by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

Seconded by: Ryan Nickason - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby approves the minutes of the Thursday, March 14, 2024 meeting as presented by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Meeting with Carla Nell, IESO

Ms. Nell's office has provided two dates that are available for a meeting with the Working Group. The meeting would be held as a special meeting at the call of the Chair. The members confirmed availability for a meeting on July 4, 2024. The Recording Secretary will confirm the date with Ms. Nell's office and confirm timelines for submission of materials and agenda release.

A special meeting notice will be released as well.

6.2 Update on presentation to Grey Bruce Board of Health

Chair Allwood and Bill Palmer provided the Working Group with an update following their presentation that was made to the Grey Bruce Board of Health on March 22, 2024. The video of the meeting can be found on the Boards YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/GreyBruceHealthUnit>.

The key points of the presentation focused on the request for the Board of Health to:

- Institute a rigorous review of reports of annoyance, adverse health consequences, or deaths, correlated to residence proximity to nearest wind turbine, and the number of turbines within 1000, 2000, and 3000 metres.
- Review the current research into an objective measure of annoyance from analysis of sound from wind turbines, and share review findings with the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Research shows the need to change current method of calculating limits based only on A-weighted sound.
- As necessary, issue a health hazard order before the IESO issues licences to repower current wind turbines, many of which are not even meeting current standards, as repowering would worsen an already bad situation.

Following the presentation Dr. Arran provided his comments noting that:

- the Grey Bruce Board Statement in 2013 was based on low level data, so the association between wind turbines and health was very weak. At the time, they had called for more work to be done, which would have to be done by Public Health Ontario. It is not in their mandate to do this.
- Public Health Ontario identifies wind turbines as a "nuisance" not a health hazard, so as MOH, he is unable to take action as requested to possibly issue an order regarding wind turbines or wind turbine repowering.
- If an order was issued, it would not stand, would likely be appealed, and the order would not be upheld, as Public Health Ontario has not declared wind turbines to be a health hazard.

Dr. Arra offered to facilitate a meeting between the MMEWG and Public Health Ontario.

Quorum was lost part way through the discussion so the delegation was received.

Dr. Arra acknowledged how disturbing to the life of citizens wind turbines may be, however, it is wider than a local issue and noted that he is bound by the decision made by Public Health Ontario that wind turbines are not categorized as a health

hazard. The standards are set by the Ministry of Environment, making it a provincial issue and not a local issue.

Following the meeting, Dr. Arra contacted Mr. Palmer to request research to be sent to his colleagues at Public Health Ontario and put them in touch with Mr. Palmer.

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

MMEWG-2024-25

Moved by: Terry Mckay - Township of Chatsworth

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

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby receives the update provided by Mr. Palmer for information.

Carried

6.3 Website preview and comments

The Recording Secretary provided the group with a preview of the website and welcomed comments and suggestions.

Archival information will be continually added from the records available to the Recording Secretary.

The website is launched and the link will be provided to each member municipality for linking from their website.

7. Delegations/Presentations

7.1 Presentation on Annoyance Linked to Wind Turbines - Bill Palmer

Mr. Palmer provided a preview of the presentation he will presenting for Acoustics Week in Canada in Ottawa on May 15th.

He notes that previous presentation to Acoustic Weeks Canada showed a criterion for a site with nearest constant speed, stall regulated (Vesta V28) 1.65 MW turbine at 537 m, with 4 within 1000 m, and 19 within 3000 m.

IF (LA10-LA90) ≤ 3 dBA AND IF (LZ10 – LZ90) ≥ 6 dBZ

Annoyance can be predicted

The objective was to test this hypothesis at a site with the nearest variable speed, pitch regulated (Siemens SWT 101) 2.3 MW turbine at 787 m, with 3 within 1000 m, and 16 within 3000 m.

Mr. Palmer walked the members through the audit that was undertaken and the analysis of the results.

He concluded that annoyance can be attributed to either criterion.

IF (LA10-LA90) \leq 3 dBA AND IF (LZ10 – LZ90) \geq 6 dBZ or a tonal-like characteristic, where a critical band of energy is more than 3 dB above higher and lower bands with the rising and falling energy of the critical band is an added compounding factor.

The use of IEC 61400-11 or ISO/PSA 20065 standards, which currently describe the tonal-like samples as “inaudible” is in itself a contributing factor to annoyance, and calls for modification of the standards.

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

MMEWG-2024-26

Moved by: Jim Hanna - Township of Huron Kinloss

Seconded by: Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby receives Mr. Palmer's presentation on linking annoyance to wind turbines for information.

Carried

7.2 IESO Update - Warren Howard

Mr. Howard provided the Working Group with an update on the IESO procurement activities.

Chair Allwood noted that the BESS contracts have now been released and will be discussed later in the agenda.

Municipal support considers to be a non-negotiable requirement.

There are currently 155 unwilling host municipalities.

The draft LT RFP is due in mid-2024.

A key outstanding issue is the protection of prime farmland. The provincial policy statement provides that there be no new energy projects on prime farmland with the exception of a diversified farm use which is limited to 20% of the property up to 1 hectare. The IESO is recommending that energy project be allowed on prime farmland. The issue is currently with Minister Smith and an urgent answer is needed.

A second outstanding issue relates to the revenue model. There have been two webinars on the proposed approach and the IESO made some changes to address concerns raised. Those have been rejected by the industry because the method could still be easily gamed and the measures used are not recognized by funders. The IESO was proposing a draft solution to Minister Smith last week.

Currently, the Ministry of the the Environment will not be proposing changes in setbacks or noise limits and they are responsible f for enforcement and not the Ministry of Energy. They have indicated that tonality is a problem and there are some new rules needed based on ISO standard.

The other outstanding is issue is the repowering of existing projects. The IESO sees it as easy access to additional capacity. The industry has admitted that it is difficult for exiting projects to meet current noise standards. There are some discussions underway but the process is stil vague.

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

MMEWG-2024-27

Moved by: Terry Mckay - Township of Chatsworth

Seconded by: Todd Dowd - Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby receives the IESO update provided by Mr. Howard for information purposes.

Carried

8. Correspondence

8.1 Requiring Action

8.1.1 Approval of Recording Secretary Invoice

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMEWG-2024-28

Moved by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

Seconded by: Jim Hanna - Township of Huron Kinloss

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby approves payment of the invoice for the Recording Secretary services.

Carried

8.2 For Information

8.2.1 Wind Concerns Ontario - Letter to Minister Smith Re: Revenue Model

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

MMEWG-2024-29

Moved by: Jim Hanna - Township of Huron Kinloss

Seconded by: Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby receives agenda item, 8.2.1, for information.

Carried

9. Members Updates

Chair Allwood received an email from Scott Miller at CTV to interview him tomorrow, May 10th, and he will attempt to accommodate.

10. New Business

10.1 LTI-RFP Final Results

The Working Group discussed the LT1-RFP final results which were released today. The project of concern would be the Grey Owl storage facility which is to be sited in Arran-Elderslie and closely to the border of the Township of Chatsworth. The Township of Chatsworth was not consulted in the process. It appears to be on prime farmland however, it is in a wet area as well which brings further environmental concerns.

To date, there has been no further direction provided from the Office of the Fire Marshall regarding the training and fire suppression measures surrounding BESS Facilities. In a report presented to Grey County Council it notes that the Ontario Fire Marshal (OFM) has commented that there are no additional training or certification requirements for municipal fire services where lithium-ion batteries are used in BESS facilities. The OFM does require municipalities to complete community risk assessments to identify and prioritize public safety risks involving fire protection in consideration of potential fire or explosion risks posed by the failure of lithium batteries.

The MMEWG will discuss this topic in more length at it's next regular meeting once all members have had a change to review the report.

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

MMEWG-2024-30

Moved by: Sue Carleton - Township of Georgians Bluffs

Seconded by: Jim Hanna - Township of Huron Kinloss

Be It resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby receives the LTI-RFP Final Results for information purposes.

Carried

11. Closed Session (if required)

12. Confirmation of Next Meeting

There will be a special meeting of the MMEWG on July 4, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. with representatives of the IESO in attendance.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMEWG-2024-30

Moved by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

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

Be it Resolved that the meeting of the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group is hereby adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Carried

Tom Allwood, Chair

Julie Hamilton, Recording Secretary