

**Multi Municipal Energy Working Group
MINUTES**

**MMEWG-2025-02
Thursday, March 13, 2025, 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
Tom Allwood - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Don Murray - Township of Huron Kinloss
Sue Carleton - Township of Georgians Bluffs
Mike Pearson, Township of Georgian Bluffs - Citizen
Appointee

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 7:01 pm. A quorum was present.

3. New Member Introduction

Chair Allwood welcomed new member Mike Pearson, Citizen Appointee from the Township of Georgian Bluffs.

Mr. Pearson introduced himself as a resident of Georgian Bluffs. He is a practicing Professional Engineer who works in the field of contaminated properties. He looks forward to learning from the Working Group.

4. Adoption of Agenda

MMWEG-2025-03-13-01

Moved by: Ryan Nickason -
Municipality of Arran-
Elderslie

Seconded by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

THAT the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby adopts the agenda of the Thursday, March 13, 2025, as distributed by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None.

6. Minutes of Previous Meetings

6.1 January 9, 2025, MMEWG Minutes

MMWEG-2025-03-13-02

Moved by: Sue Carleton - Township of Georgians Bluffs

Seconded by: Ryan Nickason - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

THAT the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby approves the minutes of the Thursday, January 9, 2025 meeting as presented by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 Update on submission to OFM Re: Tara BESS - Bill Palmer

Mr. Palmer provided the members with a summary of the response that he received from the Deputy Fire Marshall regarding a submission made in December 2024. Following the response, he provided an additional response which is included in the agenda package, and no further correspondence has taken place.

The Working Group recognizes the need to continue advocate to the Fire Marshall's Office for more definitive definitions, setbacks and other safety parameters surrounding BESS installations.

Mr. Palmer provided some current photos of the proposed site which shows the current site conditions and flooding.

MMEWG-2025-03-13-03

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

Seconded by: Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands

THAT the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby receives for information agenda item, 7.1 - Update of submission to OFM Re: Tara BESS.

Carried

8. Delegations/Presentations

9. Correspondence

9.1 Requiring Action

9.2 For Information

Mr. Howard provided a brief overview of the feedback he submitted back in December.

MMEWG-2025-03-13-04

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

Seconded by: Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands

THAT the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby accepts the correspondence for information purposes.

Carried

9.2.1 Warren Howard - IESO Feedback Submission

9.2.2 Notice - IESO Engagement Postponed

10. Members Updates

Member Halliday attempted to join the meeting but had technical issues. He provided his update by email for the Recording Secretary to read aloud which noted that Grey Highlands wrote a bylaw and with the blessing of the fire marshal, insisted that fire suppression had to

be installed before they could turn on the system. Fire suppression systems do exist for BESS installations. Grey Highlands believed that they needed to make fire suppression happen and it did and they even got existing IWT's fitted with fire protection. Member Davis noted that the issue with the Grey Highlands Bylaw requires that the IWT be built and the goal with wind turbines then, and now with BESS is that they do not be built in our area.

Member Mackey noted that we have a new member of Parliament and suggested that Mr. Vickers be invited to an upcoming meeting of the Working Group.

MMEWG-2025-03-13-05

Moved by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

Seconded by: Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby directs that a welcome letter be sent to Paul Vickers welcoming him and inviting him to meet at his convenience.

Carried

11. New Business

Member Davis

11.1 2025 Membership Fees

The purpose of the fund is to cover expenses related to secretarial services as well as administrative costs, consultant costs and legal or other expert advice. The current balance in the fund is \$6777.28.

MMWEG-2025-03-13-06

Moved by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

Seconded by: Don Murray - Township of Huron Kinloss

THAT the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby maintains the current fee structure of \$500.00 for a Voting Municipal Member and \$400.00 for a Non-Voting Municipal Member.

11.2 Chair Allwood - ROMA Conference Update

Chair Allwood provided the group with a brief update from the ROMA Conference.

The IESO had a large presence there and had a booth, hosted a concurrent session, a lunch and learn and spoke during the preliminary program. They discussed the projected energy demand increase, community benefit agreements, municipal support resolutions and pre-engagement consultations with municipalities early in the process.

Another interesting presentation provided information on agricultural economic development which focused on the protection of prime agricultural lands and specialty crop areas. It also touched on the Agricultural Impact Assessment that must be prepared by proponents, which must be assessed by the municipality.

Chair Allwood was able to speak directly with Carla Nell and Leslie Gallinger and he noted that 1/3 of the municipalities in Ontario are currently unwilling hosts due to the ongoing issues with projects such as setbacks and fire suppression. He also noted that it was encouraging that the IESO had agreed to a meeting with the MMEWG, IESO and relevant ministries which has unfortunately been delayed.

12. Closed Session (if required)

Not Required.

13. Confirmation of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held May 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm via Microsoft Teams.

14. Adjournment

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

Seconded by: Sue Carleton - Township of Georgians Bluffs

THAT the meeting of the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group is hereby adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Carried

Tom Allwood, Chair

Julie Hamilton, Recording
Secretary