

Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group
MINUTES

MMWTWG-2023-03
Thursday, May 11, 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
Tom Allwood - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Jim Hanna - Township of Huron Kinloss
Mike Hentz - Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich
Todd Dowd - Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula

1. Meeting Details

2. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. A quorum was present.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2023-22

Moved by: Dan Wickens - Municipality
of Grey Highlands

Seconded by: Jim Hanna - Township of
Huron Kinloss

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby adopts the agenda of the Thursday, May 11, 2023 as distributed by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

4. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None.

5. Special Guests

5.1 MPP Rick Byers

Chair Allwood welcomed MPP Byers to the meeting.

MPP Byers is looking forward to working with the group to understand the pressing issues and concerns.

Chair Allwood reviewed the main concerns that the Working Group has been advocating for.

The Working Group is happy to see that municipalities have siting controls back however there are still concerns regarding setbacks. The Working Group has made recommendations on what appropriate setbacks should be and continues to advocate for those changes to be made.

There are concerns regarding safety and protocol requirements with wind turbines projects. There have been some catastrophic failures associate with wind turbines. The Working Group has received a response from the Ministry that all concerns are addressed and reported on and the Working Group has requested copies of the reports but has not been successful.

There are concerns regarding the taxation of wind turbines and whether they are being taxed appropriately. The Working Group has received correspondence from the Ministry of Finance on that matter.

The newest concern relates to the IESO RFP that is currently ongoing. The extra generation will need to be housed somewhere and there are many new battery storage facilities being proposed. These proposals bring forward concerns related to fire suppression measures and emergency protocol, setback provisions and noise emissions.

MPP Byers spoke briefly to the provinces Green Energy Plan. The current and continued thrust is in the nuclear power program. Storage is another area that is of focus and will continue to be in the long-term plan.

6. Delegations/Presentations

6.1 Bill Palmer - Brief Update on the Stachura matter

Mr. Palmer provided a brief overview of his role with the group as Technical Advisor to the group as well as the Stachura matter.

The Stachura's are residents living in the K2 Wind Development area. In 2017, they had brought forward issues related to the adverse effects on their lives and the enjoyment of their property from the tonality of the K2 wind turbines.

Feedback has just been received however said very little, other than that the Ministry had received the audit information, had reviewed it, and concluded, *"Those acoustic audits were reviewed by ministry staff and found to be in compliance with ministry's requirements as outlined in the Compliance Protocol for Wind Turbine Noise."* The Ministry letter went on that, *"The ministry's review of the complaint investigation immission audit reports, (audio files), and supporting documents concluded that the K2 wind facility has satisfied the complaint investigation procedures outlined in the letter dated November 30th, 2018."*

Mr. Palmer has written two technical papers that have been published on the K2 tonality issues and it was also one of the primary issues raised during his 2018 briefing with Minister Yurek.

He has reviewed some of the material that the Stachura's have received back. They had to go through Freedom of Information and pay to receive the audit reports. The reports show that there is in fact tonality in the samples.

He provided the Working Group with a brief explanation of A-weighting, noise and sound.

Mr. Palmer noted that it is distressing that the Ministry will not review and revise its compliance protocols in light of the evidence that is being provided to them on the inconsistencies.

Once his technical paper is completed and published, he will share it with the Working Group.

Following Mr. Palmer's presentation, Chair Allwood noted that it touched on two of the main issues the Working Group has raised and advocates for, setbacks and noise receptors. The 550m that is the current regulation does not address the issues of tonality.

There are hundreds of complaints of this nature and the Ministry has indicated that they are reported on quarterly however the Working Group has met roadblocks when trying to obtain those reports.

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

MMWTWG-2023-23

Moved by: Todd Dowd - Municipality
of Northern Bruce
Peninsula

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

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby receives Mr. Palmer's presentation for information purposes.

Carried

6.2 Warren Howard - BESS Considerations for Zoning Bylaws

Mr. Howard made a presentation to the Working Group regarding considerations for municipal bylaws.

Some of the considerations Mr. Howard suggested included:

- location on prime agricultural land
- setbacks from existing structures
- treatment of vacant lots
- setbacks from property lines
- do proposals meet fire safety standards
- noise emissions
- emergency plan requirement
- handling of fire emergencies
- environmental monitoring

Mr. Howard asked for any feedback from the Working Group.

Chair Allwood addressed the BESS concerns during a training session with the Office of the Fire Marshall's office. They indicated that these systems are relatively new and they would be provide training to the Fire Chiefs. They are actively working on regulating these systems but they are about a year away of having anything in place.

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

MMWTWG-2023-24

Moved by: Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands

Seconded by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby receives Mr. Howard's presentation on BESS setback considerations, for information purposes.

Carried

6.3 Warren Howard - IESO Long Term RFP - Request for Feedback

Mr. Howard made a presentation to update the Working Group on the IESO RFP process.

The most recent presentation took place on May 4th. The IESO is requesting feedback by May 18th.

Feedback should be sent to engagement@ieso.ca

Mr. Howard suggested that feedback be provided as follows:

Expansion of Existing Projects

- Municipal Support required for changes to increase capacity or to extend contract terms of existing projects
- Provide confirmation that existing project is fully compliant with all terms of its Renewable Energy Approval.
- Noise emissions from revised project will meet current standards for noise emissions.

Municipal Support

Information requirements are insufficient

- Currently only type of project, maximum project capacity, description of site

Municipalities require detailed Information

- Site, setbacks, noise emissions, fire safety, emergency plan
- Statement of Benefits to Community

Ability to Withdraw Municipal Support

- When new information becomes available

Community Engagement

Proper Community Engagement Required

- Proper written notice to adjoining landowners and wider community
- Limited internet capabilities require in person meetings
- Full project description made available. If details not available or if they change, additional public meetings required.
- Statement of benefits to community
- Precedes municipal consideration of project
- Opportunity for direct community feedback to IESO

Indigenous Support

- Indigenous involvement is important.
- Projects cannot proceed without local Indigenous support.
- Applies to local community within the traditional lands of the Indigenous community.
- Investment by other native groups only permitted when local community supports project.

Mr. Palmer suggested that the issue of hydrogen be included. The IESO talks of 1500 MW of hydrogen from unknown sources. The problem is that wind turbines can be put up to supply hydrogen and become a part of the hydrogen supply field and not necessarily the wind turbine field which is a very significant concern.

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

MMWTWG-2023-25

Moved by: Dan Wickens - Municipality
of Grey Highlands

Seconded by: Jim Hanna - Township of
Huron Kinloss

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby receives Mr. Howard presentation on the IESO and that the Working Group will draft a response to the IESO by May 18, 2023.

Carried

7. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2023-26

Moved by: Ryan Nickason -
Municipality of Arran-
Elderslie

Seconded by: Scott Mackey - Township of
Chatsworth

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby approves the minutes of the Thursday, March 9, 2023 meeting as presented by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1 Follow Up Letter - Wind Turbine Failures

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2023-27

Moved by: Dan Wickens - Municipality
of Grey Highlands

Seconded by: Jim Hanna - Township of
Huron Kinloss

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby approves the distribution of the letter regarding the Wind Turbine Failures as presented.

Carried

8.2 Minister of Health - Health Hazards Letter

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2023-28

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 approves the distribution of the letter regarding Health Hazards.

Carried

8.3 Letter to the Office of The Fire Marshall regarding Battery Storage Systems

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2023-29

Moved by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

Seconded by: Ryan Nickason - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group hereby approves the distribution of the letter to the Office of the Fire Marshall as presented.

Carried

8.4 Feedback from circulation of BESS Presentations to Fire Chiefs

The Working Group provided direction that a follow up letter be sent to Member Municipalities requesting that the information be provided to Council for information.

Members can then make a motion requesting that their respective fire chiefs provide a report back to Council on the matter if they wish.

Mr. Byers thanked the Working Group for the invitation. He will follow up with Chair Allwood to ensure he clearly understands the issues. He departed the 8:12 p.m.

8.5 Approval of Terms of Reference & Annual Fee by Member Municipalities

Approvals have been received from:

Arran-Elderslie

Grey Highlands

The Recording Secretary will forward this request a second time so that the new Terms of Reference can be finalized.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Requiring Action

9.1.1 Approval of March and April Recording Secretary Invoice

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2023-30

Moved by: Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands

Seconded by: Ryan Nickason - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

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

Carried

9.2 For Information

9.2.1 Correspondence Items from Ruby Mekker for information

Ms. Mekker provided an explanation of the materials that she provided.

She has sent a letter to North Stormont providing information on a bylaw that was passed in 2010 by Arran-Elderslie to amend the municipal code to incorporate certain health and safety provisions with respect to the locating and erecting of wind generation facilities within the Municipality. It also touched on the noise issues and other health effects experienced by people.

She also provided information on contamination effects from the shrapnel and chemicals in the breakdown of industrial wind turbine blades and provided some information on bylaws that other municipalities have passed regarding industrial wind turbines.

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

MMWTWG-2023-31

Moved by: Todd Dowd - Municipality
of Northern Bruce
Peninsula

Seconded by: Ryan Nickason -
Municipality of Arran-
Elderslie

Be It Resolved that the Multi Municipal Wind Turbine
Working Group hereby accepts the correspondence for
information purposes.

Carried

10. Members Updates

Chair Allwood has taken the Essentials of Municipal Fire Course through the Office of the Fire Marshall. As noted before, he addressed the BESS concerns during the training session. They indicated that these systems are on their radar however they are about a year away before they would have anything they could share with municipalities. Municipalities could consider putting in place an interim control bylaw in place until that information is available.

There were no other updates from Members.

11. New Business

None.

12. Closed Session (if required)

13. Confirmation of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2023.

14. Adjournment

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMWTWG-2023-32

Moved by: Ryan Nickason -
Municipality of Arran-
Elderslie

Seconded by: Dan Wickens - Municipality
of Grey Highlands

Be it Resolved that the meeting of the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group is hereby adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Carried

Tom Allwood

Tom Allwood, Chair

Julie Hamilton

Julie Hamilton, Recording
Secretary