

**Multi Municipal Energy Working Group
MINUTES**

**MMEWG-2023-04
Thursday, September 21, 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
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

Others Present: Julie Hamilton - Recording Secretary

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 Working Group passed the following resolution:

MMEWG-2023-33

Moved by: Terry Mckay - Township of
Chatsworth

Seconded by: Ryan Nickason -
Municipality of Arran-
Elderslie

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby adopts the agenda of the Thursday, September 21, 2023 as distributed by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

4. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

5.1 May 11, 2023 MMEWG Meeting Minutes

MMEWG-2023-34

Moved by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

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

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby approves the minutes of the Thursday, May 11, 2023 meeting as presented by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Correspondence from Ministry of Health Re: Health Hazards Letter

The Members reviewed the letter received in response the letter sent to the Ministry of Health regarding the status of Wind Turbines being defined as a health hazard.

The Working Group discussed a potential response to the letter as it does not appear to address the issues originally raised in the letter.

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

MMEWG-2023-35

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

Seconded by: Ryan Nickason - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby directs that a letter be drafted to respond requesting that the issues originally raised in the letter be addressed.

6.2 MMEWG Response to the IESO

A copy of the feedback sent to the IESO on behalf of the MMEWG was provided to the Members for information purposes. No response has been received from the IESO.

6.3 Approval of Revised Terms of Reference

The revised Terms of Reference have been approved by a majority of the member municipalities and the name of the Working Group is now the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group (MMEWG).

6.4 FOI Requests

No further updates have been received at this time.

7. Delegations/Presentations

7.1 Bill Palmer - Summary, Presentation and Paper from the 10th International Wind Turbine Noise Conference - Dublin, Ireland

Bill Palmer made a presentation to the Members regarding the 10th Wind Turbine Noise Conference he attended virtually in June, 2023.

The conference saw 125 delegates attend in person in Dublin, Ireland and 30 joined remotely.

44 papers were presented on the following topics:

Propagation

Mode Management

Guidelines and Regulations

Source Noise

Impact on People

Compliance

Miscellany

Tonal Noise

Some key learning points were:

Wind Turbine Noise Reduction

Tonal Reduction

Follow the money to find the problems

World wide, standards are softening to allow for more turbines

Population Effect vs/ Individual Effect

Mr. Palmer presented a paper regarding the development of a measurable objective for wind turbine annoyance. This study began from listening to people who were experiencing issue that appear to be related to wind turbines such as:

- Behavioral changes in domesticated animals (horses, cows, goats, etc.)
- Difficulty in falling asleep or in going back to sleep after awakening –condition goes away if they leave home, yet comes back when they return
- Digestive issues, nausea, headaches
- Changes in control of diabetes, or blood pressure regulation
- Tinnitus
- Changes work schedules, work life, or residence
- Specific troubles from freezing rain, or hot, still summer nights

The next step looked at data already available.

- Spot measurements from wind turbines since 2007
- Short duration attended recordings near turbines since 2011
- Two years of continuous acoustic recordings
- 9 months of continuous acoustic recordings from a site along with some simultaneous recordings
- Resident complaint data filed with the Ministry of the Environment at the sites near wind turbines

The data suggested a possible hypothesis that Annoyance can be predicted for $LZ_{10}-LZ_{90} \geq 6$ dB while $LA_{10}-LA_{90} \leq 3$ dB.

To confirm the hypothesis, further testing was completed to determine if it was in fact wind turbines creating the annoyance and not just the wind.

The paper concluded that there is a real basis from annoyance reported from wind turbines.

Jim Hanna joined the meeting during Mr. Palmer's presentation at 7:37 p.m.

In addition, Mr. Palmer showed some statistics on the various types of energy consumption.

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

MMEWG-2023-36

Moved by: Jim Hanna - Township of Huron Kinloss

Seconded by: Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby receives agenda item, 7.1, Presentation by Bill Palmer regarding the 10th International Wind Turbine Noise Conference, for information.

7.2 Ruby Mekker - Update on Chatham Kent Well Water Issues

Ms. Mekker provided an update on her activities to the Working Group.

She advised the Members that she is working with a women in the United States and she has shared the Arran-Elderslie by-law. A Kansas legislator has included part of it in a bill she is putting forward paraphrasing "will benefit and will not harm humans or water".

She presented a brief update on the ongoing well water issues in Chatham-Kent.

She provided the Members with a PowerPoint presentation that was presented to the Council of Chatham-Kent by Dr. Keith Benn, regarding the sediments found in the water during well testing.

She also presented a resolution of Council that was passed requesting the Ministry of Health to perform further testing on not only the water but the sediments that have been found as well.

She has had a recent meeting with an MPP that is an assistant to the Minister of Energy.

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

MMEWG-2023-37

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 agenda item, 7.2 - Ruby Mekker, Update on Chatham Kent Well Water, for information.

Carried

7.3 Warren Howard - Update on Provincial Activities

Mr. Howard made a presentation to Council on the ongoing Provincial Activities.

Ontario Energy Clean Plan

There is a new Energy Plan in Ontario and it appears to be very different then what has been seen in the passed.

The demand is growing from 44 MW to 88 MW in 2050.

Some key factors include:

- New nuclear at Bruce and Darlington. Refurbish Pickering.
- Pumped storage and BESS
- Maintain affordable electricity to support electrification
- New transmission lines for Algoma Steel and growth in Ottawa Region

The plan suggests that there is an opportunity to fix current problems with wind such as setbacks, pricing, existing contracts

and repowering existing projects. It also suggests that review of energy planning processes are needed.

Hydro One BESS Requirements

Hydro One has identified that there are a lack of standards to address potential impacts of BESS fires . In response, they have created a draft standards for requirements of connection to to Hydro One infrastructure. It includes a hazard mitigation analysis, community fire risk assessment, air/gas dispersion study and a fire protection design document. This draft standard provides a good roadmap for municipal requirements.

IESO Procurement Process

The final version of RFP contract and documents was posted on September 8th. There is no change to the Municipal Support Resolution to reflect the MMEWG input that more details are required. There are also no learnings from the Hydro One requirements.

The target storage is 600 MW and the non-storage 905 MW. The requirement for dispatchable power remains. The next RFP is to be issued in late September and submissions will be due December 12th.

Arran-Elderslie has been awarded a contract in the first round and there is an active proposal in Huron-East.

Niagara Wind - Noise Audit Process

The REA for the project requires that noise testing was completed at 5 receptors as a sample for whole project. The testing was reduced to 4 receptors and it was discovered that one of the locations was over 40 dBA. The protocol for wind testing requires that the wind company provide a noise abatement action plan for the project. The ministry only did this for one turbine and that turbine was brought within the 40 dBA limit. The REA was amended to reduce power level at the non-compliant turbine

The decision was appealed by a local group. The process was handled by the new tribunal which rejected the appeal without hearings.

The appeal scope was limited to decision on one turbine as opposed to the whole project and there was no evidence of serious harm to human health provided, even though a lady with

serious health issues registered as a participant and submitted a 400 page statement.

The only option in the new system is a court appeal on matters of law as the appeal to the Minister option has been eliminated so the local group wrote letter a to Premier asking for direction stating that MECP is not following their own rules for noise audits and did not provide the Tribunal complaint information showing other problems.

The question that has been asked of the Premier is: Who is responsible to enforce REA when MECP fails to act?

No answer has been received to date.

Draft Provincial Policy Statement

The PPS is driven by a need to expand housing. It is a plan to support phased expansion of residential development and it states that prime agricultural land may only be removed to support additional housing. Some other notable changes are definition of On-Farm Diversified Uses which includes solar and BESS permitted on Prime Agricultural Land only but does not include wind.

There is also clause protecting airports from incompatible uses and requires that municipalities have a plan for energy generation to current/projected needs but it does not specify whether this is local needs or provincial needs

Chair Allwood noted that MPP Byers noted at the last meeting that the provincial focus would be on nuclear. The Chair also noted that the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA) trumps all planning legislation and fire departments are mandated to provide fire projection services and determine the capability and capacity to attend an emergency. A fire at BESS facilities would be beyond the fire departments capabilities in most rural municipalities. The Municipality of Grey Highlands has passed the following resolution:

"Whereas the Province and the Independent Electricity System Operator, IESO, are moving ahead with an expedited program on Battery Energy Storage Systems, BESS, without the appropriate regulations in place; and

Whereas Municipal approval is required for siting these types of installations in Grey Highlands; and

Whereas Battery Energy Storage Systems have increased fire safety risks that may require an emergency response that is beyond the capability of our Fire Department. These risks include but are not limited to Explosions and venting life-threatening toxic gases; and
Whereas the Office of The Fire Marshal under The Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA) 1997 provides Public Safety Guidelines and Technical Guidelines to Municipalities and Ministries; and "At present the OFM has not established any guidelines with respect to Battery Energy Storage Systems"; and

Whereas under FPPA 1997 every Municipality that establishes a fire department is required to provide fire protection services and shall determine their capability and capacity to attend an emergency; and

Whereas the Municipality of Grey Highlands currently does not permit Battery Energy Storage Systems as of right and in order to permit one of these systems an applicant would need to apply for a Zoning By-law Amendment from the Municipality; now

Therefore be it resolved that Council does not support the establishment of Battery Energy Storage Systems in Grey Highlands until the Office of the Fire Marshal and the appropriate Ministries issue Public Safety and Technical Guidelines; and

That staff be directed to advise potential applicants of this resolution."

Clarification was sought on the average size of the BESS systems. The approved projects range from 5 MW to 300 MW.

The Members discussed the purpose of the transmission line to Algoma. Algoma Steel and Stelco are looking to get rid of coal fired furnaces and replacing them with electric which would create a large demand for supply.

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

MMEWG-2023-38

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 directs that a response be provided to the IESO suggesting that more information is required on the municipal support resolution and highlighting that the feedback provided previously has not been addressed.

Carried

8. Correspondence

8.1 Requiring Action

8.1.1 Recording Secretary Invoice - May-August

The Working group passed the following resolution:

MMEWG-2023-39

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 the invoice for the services of the Recording Secretary.

Carried

8.2 For Information

The Working group passed the following resolution:

MMEWG-2023-40

Moved by: Terry Mckay - Township of Chatsworth

Seconded by: Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands

Be It resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby accepts the correspondence for information purposes.

Carried

8.2.1 IESO - Selected Proponents - May 16, 2023

8.2.2 IESO - Selected Proponents - June 30, 2023

8.2.3 WCO Feedback on IESO Long Term RFP Process

9. Members Updates

Mr. Palmer looked for clarification if a response was received from the local Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Ian Arra. The Recording Secretary confirmed the direction was given to send the letter to the Minister of Health as opposed to the Medical Officer of Health, which was completed.

He also advised that he may not be able to renew his Errors and Omissions Insurance and in that case, he would not be able to provide engineering consulting services for the MMEWG. He will advised the group in the future.

There was a suggestion as to whether the MMEWG should start to raise questions related to the health hazards associated with BESS. The avenue for this may be better suited to be addressed with the Office of the Fire Marshall.

An important point was noted regarding the risk factors associated with BESS and municipalities are already facing high insurance costs. Municipalities should consider communicating with their risk management representatives if they have proposed projects within their boundaries.

10. New Business

None.

11. Closed Session (If Required)

Not Required.

12. Confirmation of Next Meeting

November 16, 2023 at 7pm via Teams

13. Adjournment

The Working group passed the following resolution:

MMEWG-2023-41

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

Seconded by: Jim Hanna - Township of
Huron Kinloss

Be it Resolved that the meeting of the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group is hereby adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Carried

Tom Allwood, Chair

Julie Hamilton, Recording
Secretary

As a result, the MMEWG has passed the following resolution:

Thursday, November 16, 2023
Resolution No. MMEWG-2023-44

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 Energy Working Group hereby directs that a response to the IESO be drafted regarding the public meeting requirements and municipal support requirements across municipal borders where projects are within 1500 metres of a neighbouring municipality and that the letter be copied to the Minister of Energy, Grey and Bruce Counties, their lower tiered municipalities and the Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

The MMEWG recognizes that the submission deadline is approaching quickly, however, as per the letter provided to us, municipal support can be submitted within 18 months of a contract being issued and we strongly urge the IESO to require municipal support from neighbouring municipalities within 1500 metres of a BESS site.

Regards,

p.p. 

Tom Allwood,
Chair, Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group
Councillor, Municipality of Grey Highlands

c. Hon. Todd Smith, Minister of Energy
Municipalities in Grey and Bruce County
Association of Municipalities of Ontario