

**Multi Municipal Energy Working Group  
MINUTES**

**MMEWG-2023-05  
Thursday, November 16, 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. Microsoft Teams 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 Recording Secretary noted that Jane Wilson from WCO is unable to attend due to illness.

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

**MMEWG-2023-42**

**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 adopts the agenda of the Thursday, November 16, 2023 as distributed by the Recording Secretary.

**Carried**

**4. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were disclosed.

**5. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**5.1 MMEWG Minutes - September 21, 2023**

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

**MMEWG-2023-43**

**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 approves the minutes of the Thursday, September 21, 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**

Comments were received via email regarding the letter from Ms. Mekker, who had requested the MMEWG to draft a letter to the Minister of Health regarding Industrial Wind Turbines being deemed a health hazard.

1. The Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario does apply to complaints about wind turbine noise.
2. The wind turbine noise emissions could possibly be considered a health hazard as defined in the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario
3. The local Medical Officer of Health does have a duty with respect to this potential health hazard
4. A local Medical Officer of Health has the power to issue an order if a health hazard is identified

Ms. Mekker was unable to attend the meeting and would like to contribute to the discussion at a future meeting.

The Members acknowledged receipt of the response and deferred further discussion until the next meeting.

## **6.2 MMEWG Response to the IESO**

The municipal approval requirements are not sufficient where BESS projects are in close proximity to other municipal boundaries. Currently, the municipal support and public meeting requirements are only required from the siting municipality.

An example is the Bruce Trail/Orchard Storage facility being proposed in the Municipality of Meaford, however, it is in close proximity to the borders of Owen Sound and Georgian Bluffs. The public meeting was held over 15 km away from the project site itself, in Bognor. Fire protection and emergency services to the proposed site are not provided by Meaford and are provided by an inter-township fire protection agreement that involves Georgian Bluffs. The connection to the grid for the project is in Owen Sound.

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

### **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).

**Carried**

## **6.3 FOI Requests**

No further updates have been received at this time.

The Recording Secretary will continue to follow up.

## **7. Delegations/Presentations**

### **7.1 Jane Wilson - Wind Concerns Ontario (WCO) - Verbal Update on BESS Proposals**

Ms. Wilson was unable to attend due to illness. Warren Howard made some brief comments on her behalf.

WCO published the BESS proposal list earlier this week and it received a large number of hits was received overnight. It has brought forward a number of comments and concerns regarding the community engagement process and municipal support requirements. There is a lack of information and Council is being asked to make decisions with no facts.

The Hydro One standards outlines a set of requirements that are required to be submitted to receive approval from Hydro One. It also includes setback requirements. It has now been formalized into a policy is published on the internet.

## **8. Correspondence**

### **8.1 Requiring Action**

#### **8.1.1 Approve Recording Secretary Invoice - September, October 2023**

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

#### **MMEWG-2023-45**

**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 approves the Recording Secretary invoice for September and October 2023.

**Carried**

### **8.2 For Information**

The Working Group discussed the correspondence as follows:

Item 8.2.3 - Specifically question 2 in the document regarding decommissioning responsibility. The documents states that decommissioning is likely to take place following the expiry of the LT1 Contracts and the IESO would have then assumed responsibility in the capacity of system operator and removal of the facility from IESO administered markets. The IESO has not developed standards for decommissioning and this responsibility would lie with the landowners in accordance with applicable law.

The BESS projects are progressing in the same manor as wind turbine projects did in the past with little information being provided to Council during the decision making process.

The fact that these projects are going ahead without the Office of the Fire Marshall providing any guidelines or best practices is concerning.

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

**MMEWG-2023-46**

**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 accepts the correspondence included in 8.2 for information purposes.

**Carried**

**MMEWG-2023-47**

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

**Seconded by:** Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby directs that a copy of Grey Highlands Resolution regarding BESS be forwarded to all MMEWG member municipalities and municipalities in Grey and Bruce Counties.

8.2.1 Grey Highlands - Resolution regarding BESS

8.2.2 Kansas Motion of Support

8.2.3 IESO Question and Comment Period

## **9. Members Updates**

There were no member updates.

## **10. New Business**

### **10.1 Discussion regarding Bill Palmer's presentation to the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers - Challenges Facing the Electrical System**

Bill Palmer has provided the Members with a link to his presentation prior to the meeting for review due to its length.

The presentation provided some background information and looked at the situation of what has happened with energy demand in Ontario. The government is projecting that the demand of the electrical system will double in the next 15 years.

There are currently 2,710 wind turbines in Ontario today, 2,306 of which are located in South Western Ontario. The Federal Government is proposing that effectively, 100,000 wind turbines are needed in Ontario. In reality, most of the ideal siting locations have been utilized already.

The Province proposes that the load needs to double and the Federal Government proposes all wind, solar and water generation.

The Chair thanked Mr. Palmer for the summary of his presentation.

### **10.2 BESS Project Discussions**

The Working Group discussed the various projects that are proposed as a result of of the IESO RFP.

The Orchard Storage/Bruce Trail Storage proposed in the Municipality of Meaford, and on the border of Owen Sound, is a 100 MW project. The Grey Owl Storage proposal in the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie is a 400 MW project.

The following concerns were raised are as follows:

- Installation of BESS on prime farmland
- Once the Municipal Support has been provided, no clear course of retraction without legal implications
- The Provincial Policy Statement will not be finalized until the new year
- Property taxation revenues

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

**MMEWG-2023-48**

**Moved by:** Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands

**Seconded by:** Ryan Nickason - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby directs the Recording Secretary, Chair Allwood, Bill Palmer and Warren Howard to prepare a fact sheet that will be provided to all municipalities in Grey and Bruce Counties and that presentations will be coordinated to each County Council, with the invitation for a delegation being extended to all other municipalities in Grey and Bruce.

**Carried**

**10.3 Future Presentations to Member Council's regarding BESS**

Agenda Item 10.3 was discussed in conjunction with item 10.2 and a resolution was passed.

**11. Closed Session (if required)**

Not Required

**12. Confirmation of Next Meeting**

January 11, 2024 - Election of Chair and Vice Chair will take place

**13. Adjournment**

**Moved by:** Dan Wickens - Municipality of Grey Highlands

**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 8:29 p.m.

**Carried**

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Tom Allwood, Chair

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Julie Hamilton, Recording  
Secretary