

**Multi Municipal Energy Working Group
MINUTES**

**MMEWG-2025-03
Thursday, May 8, 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
Tom Allwood - Municipality of Grey Highlands
Todd Dowd - Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula
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 7:00 pm. A quorum was present.

3. Adoption of Agenda

MMEWG-2025-05-08-01

Moved by: Todd Dowd - Municipality of
Northern Bruce Peninsula

Seconded by: Sue Carleton - Township of
Georgians Bluffs

THAT the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby adopts the agenda of the Thursday, May 8, 2025 as distributed by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

4. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None disclosed.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

5.1 MMEWG Minutes - March 13, 2025

MMEWG-2025-05-08-02

Moved by: Ryan Nickason -
Municipality of Arran-
Elderslie

Seconded by: Sue Carleton - Township of
Georgians Bluffs

THAT the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby approves the minutes of the Thursday, March 13, 2025 meeting as presented by the Recording Secretary.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Bill Palmer - Verbal Update on Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

Mr. Palmer shared an update regarding his attempt to delegate to the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. His request was declined to prevent any presentation that might influence the board's impartiality when reviewing the Tara BESS application. The board's role is strictly to approve or reject applications based on established policy and floodplain mapping, and does not allow third-party input or commentary. If the application is denied, the applicant has the right to appeal. At the time Mr. Palmer spoke with the GSCA's CAO, no formal application had been submitted.

Members discussed the limitations of the conservation authority's mandate, noting that floodplain management is its primary responsibility, while oversight for municipal wells and groundwater protection falls to other agencies. Concerns were raised about the restricted ability of conservation authorities to comment on broader issues due to legislative changes, with source water protection now managed by different regulatory bodies. The importance of clear communication and the potential for bias in the dissemination of information to council members were also highlighted.

MMEWG-2025-05-08-03

Moved by: Ryan Nickason -
Municipality of Arran-
Elderslie

Seconded by: Todd Dowd - Municipality of
Northern Bruce Peninsula

THAT the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group receives Bill
Palmers update for information.

Carried

6.2 MPP Paul Vickers - Correspondence

MPP Paul Vickers is tentatively scheduled to attend the meeting
of November 13, 2025.

7. Delegations/Presentations

8. Correspondence

8.1 Requiring Action

8.2 For Information

MMEWG-2025-05-08-04

Moved by: Todd Dowd - Municipality of
Northern Bruce Peninsula

Seconded by: Ryan Nickason -
Municipality of Arran-
Elderslie

THAT the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby receives
correspondence on the agenda for information purposes.

Carried

8.2.1 Arran-Elderslie - Battery Energy Storage Policy

The policy establishes a maximum area of two hectares
and a minimum setback of 300 metres. These restrictions,
along with additional caps for prime agricultural land,
affect the eligibility of larger systems, most of which
exceed these limits. All projects are required to follow
agricultural impact assessment guidelines. No questions or
concerns were noted during the discussion.

8.2.2 Mapleton - Unwilling Host Report

Chair Allwood noted that Mapleton remains an unwilling host.

8.2.3 AMO - Municipal Energy Procurement Toolkit

The AMO document covers energy procurement, municipal involvement, pre-engagement steps, support resolutions, permits, emergency planning, fire safety, decommissioning, and community benefit agreements.

8.2.4 IESO Feedback Submission - Warren Howard

Feedback was submitted by Warren Howard from an April 24 IESO webinar regarding the long-term 2 RFP. Key topics included agricultural impact assessments and contract deadline timing.

8.2.5 Article - Five Reasons Renewable Energy Developers are Losing Confidence in Ontario

An article distributed by Warren addresses lobbying efforts around renewable energy regulations, opposition to solar projects on farmland, and municipality responsibilities. The provincial government recently returned siting authority to local municipalities, but advocates argue it may go too far. The article also mentions bans on Chinese components in large turbines.

8.2.6 Oxford County Update - Warren Howard

Warren Howard submitted an updated on some projects in Oxford County.

9. Members Updates

None.

10. New Business

None.

11. Closed Session (if required)

Not Required

12. Confirmation of Next Meeting

September 11, 2025 7:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams

November 13, 2025 7:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams

13. Adjournment

MMEWG-2025-05-08-04

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

Seconded by: Todd Dowd - Municipality of
Northern Bruce Peninsula

THAT the meeting of the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group is
hereby adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Tom Allwood, Chair

Julie Hamilton, Recording
Secretary