MINUTES
PEACE REGIONAL ENERGY COMMITTEE (PREC)
MONDAY, APRIL 07, 2025 11:30 AM
WEBERVILLE FIRE HALL, North of Peace River on Hwy 743

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83173846363?pwd=DI9dLWq0flk5M76MOb52Fp8owP0ag3.1

Present:

Terry Ungarian (Chair)	Reeve, County of Northern Lights
Brenda Yasinski	Deputy Reeve, County of Northern Lights
Gerhard Stickling	CAO, County of Northern Lights
Teresa Tupper	Executive Assistant, County of Northern Lights (Admin Support)
Bob Willing (Vice Chair)	Reeve, MD of Peace
Sandra Eastman	Deputy Reeve, MD of Peace
Kelly Bunn	Acting CAO, MD of Peace
Corinna Williams	Reeve, Northern Sunrise County
Cindy Millar	CAO, Northern Sunrise County
Stacey Messner	Deputy Mayor, Town of Grimshaw
Brian Allen	CAO, Town of Grimshaw
Elaine Manzer	Mayor, Town of Peace River
Shelly Shannon	Councillor, Town of Peace River
Barb Miller	CAO, Town of Peace River (virtual)

Guests:

Scott Henuset	CEO & President of Energy Alberta (virtual)
Ali Hounsell	Sideways Rain Strategies Inc. (virtual)

Regrets:

Wendy Wald	Mayor, Town of Grimshaw
Art Laurin	Deputy Reeve, Northern Sunrise County

1. Call to Order

Chair Ungarian called the Monday, April 7, 2025 PREC meeting to order at11:30 a.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda *(by consensus)*

By consensus, the committee adopted the Monday, April 7th, 2025 PREC Agenda with the following addition:

5.c) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

   a) *Thursday, March 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes*

By consensus, the committee adopted the Thursday, March 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented.

4. Logo

Shelly Shannon, Councillor for the Town of Peace River, moved to accept the Logo Design from Convey's Design & Marketing as the logo for the Peace Regional Energy Committee.

Approved by consensus

5. Updates from Old Business

   a) *Energy Alberta Update with Scott at 11:30am*

Update:

- Scott reported to the committee that on Friday, April 4th, 2025, the Initial Project Description (IPD) and information for license to prepare a site for the Peace River Energy Project was submitted to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).
- April 14, 2025 is the deadline date. The Federal Government has 10 days upon receiving application to determine if the IPD is efficient or if it is lacking in any particular way.
- The heart of the impact assessment is Indigenous consultation. There are over 24 indigenous groups (Metis & First Nations) that Energy Alberta has been in contact with.
- EA will utilize 'working groups' to facilitate indigenous consultation.
- Memorandum of Understandings (MOU's) are being drafted up to be sent out to the most effected Indigenous groups.
- After the EA's Open House, the President of IAAC and its senior staff contacted Scott. They informed him that the organization is excited about the proposed project and the feedback from the staff that attended the Open House.
- This is the first green field site with an IPD.
- The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission approved the BWX300 reactor (design for a small modular nuclear reactor proposed by GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH). For Ontario's Darlington New Nuclear Project.

- EA has no responsibility to build/ supply transmission lines. ATCO and the provincial regulator are to ensure there are lines to and from the project location.
- From a project standpoint, EA is happy with where they are and how there are progressing.
- Reminder to PREC that IAAC has its own consultation process outside of Energy Alberta's and to be prepared for them to contact the committee and possibly each municipality in the committee.

6. New Business

b) Communications Strategy/Plan (Ali Hounsell)

- A lengthy discussion was held around communication from the committee and what that looks like.
- Ali spoke to the committee about what they should be ready for. For example: there will be a 30-day timeframe to submit responses to the IPD. The responses would mention anything that we think is missing – identify and address problems /deficiencies. (this may change or more appropriately be identified over the next 3 years)
- The committee should have a formal and informal response. The informal response should be shared with the public.
- The regulatory response to the IPD could be used as a position paper. The formal response is a public document.
- The committee needs to think about where their purpose and vision statement live. Where can the public find it?
- Develop a criteria/concept of how we interact with the media.
- What are the committee's goals?

Committee

The committee reviewed the communication piece from the Town of Ignace that was provided by CAO, Cindy Miller.

The committee identified that misinformation is a key issue that needs to be addressed.

The committee desires a communication consultant to assist with public engagement going forward and would be provide advice/strategies on public engagement and be responsible for creating a variety of documents including, but not limited to monthly updates, myth busters, educational awareness as well as reviewing documents, if applicable, and drafting responses to Federal/Provincial organizations.

ACTION STEP: CAO's to discuss and draft an RFP /EOI for a communication strategy or plan and communications person who is capable of creating a strategy and following through.

ACTION STEP: Admin/Chair to send purpose statement to Ali.

e) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

ACTION STEP: CAO, Gerhard Stickling to respond to email and arrange a meeting with IAAC. Preferable dates for committee: April 28, 29, 30.

7. Round Table

Consensus around the table regarding a sense of moving forward after hearing that Energy Alberta had submitted their IPD.

ACTION STEP: Chair to talk with Arcadis regarding a third party consultant in assisting with responses & communication.

CAO, Cindy Miller has a meeting to speak with CANHC tomorrow regarding communication strategies/plans, etc.

8. Next Steps

    a) *Host for next Meeting - Town of Grimshaw, Wednesday, May 07th, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.*

9. Adjournment

Chair adjourned the Monday, April 7th PREC meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Chair, Reeve Terry Ungarian

May 13/25

Date Signed