MINUTES
REGIONAL ENERGY COMMITTEE (REC)
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024 AT 11:00 AM
MD OF PEACE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82548316899?pwd=PoMMvjOUbLCvbJzh2QiHwuBtX6kzsU.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)*
Robert Willing (Vice-Chair)	Reeve, MD of Peace
Sandra Eastman	Deputy Reeve, MD of Peace
Margaret McClarty	CAO, MD of Peace
Art Laurin	Deputy Reeve, Northern Sunrise County
Cindy Millar	CAO, Northern Sunrise County
Stacey Messner	Deputy Mayor, Town of Grimshaw
Carmen Johnson	Councillor, Town of Grimshaw
Brian Allen	CAO, Town of Grimshaw
Elaine Manzer	Mayor, Town of Peace River
Barbara Miller	CAO, Town of Peace River

Guests:

Scott Henuset	Energy Alberta *(virtually)*
Adrian Foster	Mayor of The Municipality of Clarington and Chair of the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) *(virtually)*
Justin MacLean	CANHC Staff Contact *(virtually)*

Regrets:

Shelly Shannon	Deputy Mayor, Town of Peace River
Wendy Wald	Mayor, Town of Grimshaw
Corinna Williams	Reeve, Northern Sunrise County

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1. Call to Order

Chair Terry Ungarian called the Thursday, August 1, 2024 Regional Energy Committee Meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

By consensus, the committee adopted the meeting agenda with the following additions:

5. d) Update from the Meeting with Nathan Neudorf, Minister of Affordability and Utilities and Peace River Region MLA, Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction
5. e) August 9, 2024 RMA District 4 Zone Meeting

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes – July 10, 2024

By consensus, the committee adopted the July 10, 2024 Regional Energy Committee Meeting minutes.

ACTION STEP: email minutes to CAO's and members of the REC committee

4. Updates from Old Business

a) Adoption of Terms of Reference

By consensus, the committee adopted the Terms of Reference for the Regional Energy Committee.

b) Membership Fee Replies

The Town of Grimshaw, Northern Sunrise County, and Town of Peace River councils have all agreed to pay the $2000 membership fee. Cheques are/or will be sent to the County of Northern Lights who will act as financial account holders for the committee. Reasons for the fee were reiterated: future general expenses, possible membership to CANHC, and communication expenses.

ACTION STEP: secretary will have a financial spreadsheet in next meeting agenda.

c) Speaking points for meeting with Premier Smith *(August 7th at 2:30pm)*

The committee discussed speaking points for their meeting with the Premier.

Paused discussion for Virtual Guests 11:11 a.m.

5. New Business

b) Energy Alberta Update (Scott Henuset)

- On July 30, 2024, Energy Alberta met with approximately 20 government officials for a 2-hour session regarding nuclear energy within the Alberta energy mix and what that would look like and how that would work for the Province.
- The province will be putting forward a request for funding support to the Federal government. *(Province reached out to the Feds after the meeting and they are to be getting together next week to discuss funding)*
- Energy Alberta is starting the RFP process and will work with the province over the next 6 weeks to build the RFP. It will be detailed on a feasible project.
- Location announcement will hopefully be made mid-Sept.
- Hopeful that the Premier will stand and support the project.
- Currently, the province is not involved in the energy market. Market built on competition.
- Nuclear Power needs Government support.
- We were thinking to submit for a license site of 4000 megawatts of power, now, the submission will be for 6000 megawatts of power at one site location.
- There will be full scale military security on-site.
- Hopefully by mid-August draft versions of the Open House Educational materials can be sent out to REC.
- Plant will need involvement from many business partners.
- Energy Alberta is the **Develope***r*, not the **Operator** of the project. Discussions with major Utility Companies is still at least 2 years down the road.
- Provincial government would like to see growth in the North/Western portion of the province.

c) Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities *(Mayor Foster)* at 11:30 via Zoom.

At 11:30 a.m., the Chair welcomed Adrian Foster, Mayor of the Municipality of Clarington, who is the current Chair for the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities and Justin Maclean, Staff Contact to the meeting.

https://www.canhc.ca/

- The CANHC represents a broad cross-section of communities (16 members) with a common interest as a host (or potential host) of nuclear technology in Canada.
- Bringing experiences, challenges knowledge and dialogue together to assist and support each other.
- One Goal of the Committee is to work more closely with the Federal Government and:

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

International Energy Agency: IEA

- And to seek Global partnerships as the challenges for host communities are similar across the globe.
- CANHC is a not-for-profit and therefore can access funding such as the "participant funding" which is currently unavailable to Municipalities.
- It should not be expected that municipalities should have nuclear experts on staff. CANHC would apply for the participant funding on behalf of the host community to pay for 'experts in the field' to submit statements or attendance in the hearing processes.
- As CANHC moves forward, they want to have more resources available for host communities.
- CANHC members must approve a municipality membership.
- Host municipality membership fee: $1000 per year, with one vote
- Associate (possible host municipality) membership fee: $500 per year, no vote
- Ontario municipalities have a tiered system government. The Regional Energy Committee may be comprised of the regions municipalities that will be affected by a nuclear power plant, but only the Host municipality will be allowed to apply for membership to CANHC.

Adrian and Justin exited the meeting via zoom at 12:16 p.m.
Recessed for lunch at 12:16 p.m.
Reconvened from lunch at 12:47 p.m.

Returned to 4 c) Speaking points for the meeting with Premier Smith

- The municipalities joining in a regional committee indicates unity and support for nuclear in the region.

- Committee and region willing to work with Energy Alberta
- Committee supports the made in Canada and Canadian technology
- It is a 56 billion dollar project
- Issues such as: schools, infrastructure and housing may need to be addressed before the building of the project.
- Can the municipalities get a guarantee that there will be 'planning' and financial' assistance from the Province.
- Does the Province have the resources to deal with a project of this size and the effects it will have on the public?

REC members reiterate/voice:

- that we have the water allocation for such a project available.
- that the land location is ideal. North Weberville. Country location but close to rural town. Greenfield, isolation good for security purposes.
- Education of public already started.
- Testing of location has been conducted (historical)transportation corridors partially in place and prepared for future growth.
- Not just about electricity generation but other business opportunities such as Data Centers.

ACTION STEP: Secretary will draft up points for each municipal spokesperson to present to the Premier and have out to members. Bob and Terry to lead discussion. In closing, the members should ask: *What can we do, or what should we be doing, to promote and support this project in our region?*

a) Town hall meeting with Premier Smith on August 7th in Peace River at Chateau Nova from 5:00pm -6:30pm.

ACTION STEP: encourage business owners and people to come out to the 5pm public Open Hall and clarify that the UPC membership function is afterwards.

d) Update from Meeting with MLA and Nathan Neudorf, Minister of Affordability and Utilities

Terry gave an update regarding "leveling off" of transmission fees across the province and that affordable housing was its own topic unto itself. The cost of building was at $400 a square foot.

e) RMA Zone Meeting

Bob had a request from the Zone Chair if the Committee would give a 5 minute update.

ACTION STEP: It was agreed that if there was time, that an update could be given and that that update be shared with Alberta Municipalities (AM) as well as MD of Peace to share with Berwyn; CNL to share with Manning; and NSC to share with Nampa.

6. Next Steps
   a) Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 12 at 11:00 am

   b) Host: Northern Sunrise County

ACTION STEP: Host municipality to set up zoom link and provide lunch.

   d) Adjournment

Chair Ungarian adjourned the Thursday, August 1st, 2024 Regional Energy Committee meeting at 1:41 p.m.

Chair, Terry Ungarian

August 16, 2024
Date Signed