MINUTES
REGIONAL ENERGY COMMITTEE (REC)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025, at 4:30 PM
MD OF PEACE CHAMBERS, BERWYN

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86760018269?pwd=aYKcORQ3Dbul5zoDZUfoi46qTJurbL.1

Present:

Terry Ungarian (Chair)	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
Margaret McClarity	CAO, MD of Peace
Corinna Williams	Reeve, Northern Sunrise County
Art Laurin	Deputy Reeve, Northern Sunrise County
Cindy Millar	CAO, Northern Sunrise County
Wendy Wald	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

Guests:

Scott Henuset	CEO & President of Energy Alberta (virtual)

Regrets:

Brenda Yasinski	Deputy Reeve, County of Northern Lights
Stacey Messner	Deputy Mayor, Town of Grimshaw

1. Call to Order

Chair Terry Ungarian called the Thursday, February 13, 2025, Regional Energy Committee Meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda *(by consensus)*

By consensus, the committee adopted the Thursday, February 13, 2025, Regional Energy Committee Meeting agenda with the following addition:

5. e) Letter from Peace River Chamber of Commerce regarding the Peace River Regional Airport received by regional municipalities.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

a) Thursday, January 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

By consensus, the committee adopted the Thursday, January 16, 2025, REC Meeting minutes as presented.

4. Updates from Old Business

a) Comments/Discussion on virtual meeting with Minister Neudorf

- Six pieces of legislation are being brought forward at the Spring Session by his Ministry.
- Municipalities, being creatures of the province, will be included in the legislation describing their role and responsibility regarding nuclear energy in the province.

b) CANHC AGM – the virtual option is free of charge and Admin Support can send out the link to anyone who wishes to attend.

ACTION STEP: Admin support to email out virtual link to the AGM to members.

c) SMR Canada 2025 Summit Update

- *CAO, Cindy Millar and one staff member of NSC will be attending the SMR Summit.*
- *Chair Ungarian accepted an invitation to sit on a panel discussion of the Peace Region Nuclear Project.*
- *Vice-Chair Willings accepted an invitation to sit on a public panel scheduled for the end of the Summit.*
- *Word is that there is a shift in acceptance of nuclear across the province of Alberta.*

5. New Business

a) Energy Alberta's March Open House

- *Energy Alberta is hosting an Open House on Tuesday, March 11th from 4 pm to 8 pm at the Weberville Community Hall.*
- *Energy Albera (EA) will send out advertisements/information when it becomes available.*
- *Scott is hoping that the Canadian Nuclear Association will be able to attend the open house. The CNA are drafting a 'nuclear fact book' for the public; it may also be found on their website.*
- *Discussion took place regarding EA's request that the REC attend the open house.*
- *REC members affirmed their attendance in a supportive role. Integrating themselves amongst residents, listening to their questions, thoughts, etc. Having a 'presence' in the room and to be a part of the 'accumulation of education' with their residents.*
- *Municipalities can share the ads with their residents when EA distributes them. (On social media outlets, etc)*

Energy Alberta Update:

- *Consultation with Indigenous groups is going well. A good foundation of communication has been established. All are willing to write a letter of intent (LOI).*
- *As for Ministerial updates, the province is focused on tariffs and the electricity market right now. This is not impeding EA as they have all they currently need from the province for now.*
- *EA met with Capital Power and are drafting a communications sharing agreement so they tell people the same answers.*
- *EA to open an Office in the Town of Peace River in March. Kelly Bunn will be on staff there.*
- *ATCO is doing a study on anticipated areas of where transmission lines may be, should be complete by end of March.*
- *Amy Langhorne will follow-up with Municipalities regarding our component in the IPD. The IPD is a living document and will evolve over the next 3 years.*
- *The Crown has their own duty to consult. They will probably be contacting the region's municipalities through the Regional Energy Committee (as a group). Indigenous groups will be contacted individually as they have different rights than municipalities.*

Scott finished at 5:10 p.m. and exited the meeting.

b) Grant Approval

ACTION STEP: By consensus, the committee moved to send a Thank you to Minister Neudorf and MLA Dan Williams for the notice of approval for the grant that REC applied for.

c) REC Logo

Discussion took place regarding logo concept, colours, committee name, tag line, and the use of a logo. (banner, stationary, website, etc)

Elaine Manzer, Mayor of the Town of Peace River moved that the Regional Energy Committee budget $1000 towards the design of a logo for the now 'Peace Regional Energy Committee'.

ACTION STEP: Admin support to get quotes from graphic designers in the region

Committee went back to 5.a) EA Open House. The consensus of the group is to attend as support, to actively listen, engage and mingle with residents.

d) Community SMR Education Sessions (February 11, 2025 in Fahler)

- *Corinna Williams, Reeve and Art Laurin, Deputy Reeve of Northern Sunrise County (NSC) stated that the presentations were very good, presenters were well spoken, and good delivery.*
- *NSC indicated that the proponent of this project is looking for areas that have capacity left on transmission lines. This project is very different than the peace region nuclear project and in no way is it bringing competition to NSC's alignment/partnership with the regional energy committee.*
- *Birch Hills County approaching NSC was purely for power grid accessibility. If the project comes to fruition, there may be a revenue sharing agreement between them.*
- *The project is at a very different stage in the process. They are still in the research and evolving technology stage for SMR whereas Candu is a proven technology. The Developer also wants to be the Licensed Operator.*

- *Some good questions coming from residents at the education sessions were about: safety, exclusion zone, noise/site issues, partners, reduction to utility costs.*

e) *Letter from Peace River Chamber of Commerce regarding the Peace River Airport.*

- *Brian Allen, CAO of the Town of Grimshaw noted that Grimshaw did not receive a letter.*
- *Northern Sunrise County Council moved to send a reply letter indicating that they too were also concerned, and it was cc'd to the first group of municipalities that were involved before the current Not-for-Profit Group took over.*
- *MD of Peace sent out a tax notice to the Airport group.*
- *The committee was reminded of the Plebiscite held in the Town of Peace River concerning the Airport. Residents do not want their taxes increased to pay for the operations of the airport.*

ACTION STEP: Bob Willing, Reeve of MD of Peace to speak to Will Stewart with the Peace River Regional Airport Authority at the Growing the North Conference and request the Airport Owners meet with either the MD of Peace or a small group of Elected Representatives from the region's municipalities; include MLA, Dan Williams in the conversation.

6. Round Table

7. Next Steps

a) *Next Meeting: Thursday, March 13, 2025, at Northern Sunrise County 2:30 p.m.*
b) *Note: The Regional Energy Committee (REC) is now called Peace Regional Energy Committee (PREC).*

8. Adjournment

Chair Ungarian adjourned the Tuesday, February 13, 2025, Peace Regional Energy Committee at 6:28 p.m.

Chair, Reeve Terry Ungarian

March 24/25

Date Signed