# Minutes of the Regional Energy Committee (REC)
# July 10, 2024 @ 11:00 am
# Athabasca Hall, Peace River AB

**Present:**

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| Terry Ungarian (Chair) | Reeve, County of Northern Lights |
| Brenda Yasinski | Deputy Reeve, County of Northern Lights |
| Gerhard Stickling | CAO, County of Northern Lights |
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| Robert Willing | Reeve, MD of Peace |
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| Art Laurin | Deputy Reeve, Northern Sunrise County |
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| Wendy Wald | Mayor, Town of Grimshaw |
| Carmen Johnson | Councillor, Town of Grimshaw |
| Brian Allen | CAO, Town of Grimshaw |
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| Elaine Manzer | Mayor, Town of Peace River |
| Shelly Shannon | Deputy Mayor, Town of Peace River |
| Barbara Miller (Scribe) | CAO, Town of Peace River |

**Regrets:**

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| Corinna Williams | Reeve, Northern Sunrise County |
| Cindy Millar | CAO, Northern Sunrise County |
| Sandra Eastman | Deputy Reeve, MD of Peace |
| Margaret McClarty | CAO, MD of Peace |

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1. **Call to Order**

Chair Ungarian called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

2. **Agenda**

Adopted as amended (by consensus)

Amendments:

Addition(s) 1 – GOA update (Chair)
2 – Energy Alberta update (Chair)
3 – EDC and Chambers of Commerce (Manzer)

3. **Minutes**

Minutes outline of the previous meeting approved (by consensus)

4. **New Business**

*Terms of Reference*

Discussion was had on the draft Terms of Reference with the following amendments agreed to (by consensus). A revised draft to be circulated for adoption by the member councils and returned for the September 12th REC meeting.

Amendments:

1. Membership: No. 1 (bullet 2), add "or designate" after CAO
2. Membership: No. 2 amend to read 1 elected official from each member municipality in attendance will be considered quorum.
3. New article: add Administrative Support to be provided by CNL
4. Objectives: add new bullet, Public Engagement
5. Term: No. 3 – delete etc, add "all other costs to be approved by the individual councils".
6. Date: Amend to July 10, 2024

*Communication Plan*

Discussion was had on communications, public engagement and the level of expertise that would be required to manage comms. It was agreed (by consensus) that the REC would create a simple website, with muni websites including a link to the REC site, ensuring 1 common source for energy related information being provided by the REC.

- **Discussion paused**, (agenda order change) by the Chair to accommodate telecall from Energy Alberta)

*Energy Alberta update*

Scott Henuset, Energy Alberta, provided an update on the progress of their Candu project for Peace Region including:

- WSP fully engaged
- 3 potential site selection locations being finalized (application requirement)
- expertise in nuclear energy operations engaged
- project financing planning ongoing.
- meeting scheduled with GOA upcoming

Scott Henuset to attend the August meeting and will provide insight on WSP communications plan and seek feedback.

- **Discussion resumed** on communications. It was agreed (by consensus) to table the discussion post presentation of communications/engagement plans being prepared for Energy Alberta by WSP.

*GOA update*

Chair Ungarian provided an update on GOA discussions including:

- Meeting scheduled with Energy Alberta
- REC has been granted face time with Premier Smith on August 7th at 2:30pm at Peace Valley Inn, Emerald Room.
    - Will need to prepare speaking notes for the meeting to ensure effective and efficient use of time granted including:
        - Public funding
        - Economic development, driver for the region
        - *Regional municipal governments aligned, collaborative and have each declared as Nuclear Host Communities
        - Keeping our youth
        - Jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs
        - Stabilization of the power grid
        - Infrastructure, jobs will stimulate other sectors
        - Biggest capital project in Alberta's history

*Membership Consideration*

Chair Ungarian suggested that

1. REC consider hearing a presentation from the Nuclear Waste Group. Agreement (by consensus) to invite the group to the next meeting
2. REC consider joining the Canadian Association of Nuclear Hosts. Estimated membership fee of $500. Administration to seek more details for consideration at the next meeting.

A probable membership fee prompted discussion on funding expenses. It was agreed (by consensus) for each member municipality to provide $2,000 in seed funding to be held and accounted for by County of Northern Lights, the REC administrative lead. A financial reconciliation report to be included in monthly agenda packages.

*Ec. Dev and Chambers of Commerce*

The role of regional Ec. Dev Committee(s) and Chamber of Commerce partnerships were discussed. It was agreed (by consensus) that the minutes of the REC meetings be forwarded to such partners to ensure that they are continually informed of any progress or challenges faced.

Peace River and District Chamber of Commerce has expressed that scheduled air is needed to further energy development. Committee members discussed this concern, concluding that increased air traffic would eventually evolve the service level of airport operations.

*Next Steps*

Next meeting scheduled for August 1st at 11:00 am.
Host – MD of Peace

**Adjournment**
Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 1:06 p.m.

Chair, Terry Ungarian

August 1, 2024
Date Signed