PEACE REGIONAL ENERGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025, AT 1:00 PM
TOWN OF PEACE RIVER COUNCIL CHAMBERS

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84583991317?pwd=D6RDVRVnbG7nokSzvbEWMSGDI72a4o.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
Corinna Williams	Reeve, Northern Sunrise County
Art Laurin	Deputy Reeve, Northern Sunrise County (virtual)
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
Sam Mugford	Acting CAO, Town of Peace River
Guests:	
Ali Hounsell	Sideways Rain Strategies Inc. (virtual)
Regrets:	
Wendy Wald	Mayor, Town of Grimshaw
Kelly Bunn	Acting CAO, MD of Peace
Shelly Shannon	Councillor, Town of Peace River
Barb Miller	CAO, Town of Peace River

1. Call to Order

Chair Ungarian called the Thursday, June 12, 2025, Peace Regional Energy Committee Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda *(by consensus)*

By consensus, the June 12, 2025, PREC meeting agenda was adopted with the addition of Corinna Williams, Reeve of NSC to speak in regard to 5.d).

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

   a) *Friday, May 09, 2025, Meeting Minutes*

By consensus, the Friday, May 09, 2025, PREC Meeting minutes were adopted as presented.

4. Updates from Old Business/Action Step

   a) *Action Step: Chair and Vice-Chair to meet with Jake to discuss a communications plan/strategy.* **INCOMPLETE**

   b) *Action Step: The five municipal CAO's and Amy Longhorn will meet to discuss timelines/schedule/structure.* **INCOMPLETE**

c) *Action Step: IPD response was submitted by the deadline.* **COMPLETED**

d) *Action Step: Admin support to send letters to the Organizations to provide awareness of the submission of the proposed project to IAAC and CNSC and indicate the available funding application that can be applied for to assist in engagement.* **COMPLETED**

e) *Action Step: Chair and Vice-Chair to follow-up with Ministers to see where the government is on the drafting of framework and legislation concerning nuclear energy in the province of Alberta.* ***Minister Neudorf Meeting Update from Chair/Vice-Chair***

Robert Willing, Vice-Chair, indicated:

- that he and Chair Ungarian discussed the Premiers Mandate letter with Minister Neudorf
- inquired about a public statement
- Minister indicated the mandate is a public statement
- Provincial government is supportive of nuclear energy
- Nuclear is considered by them as a project of National Interest
- Current political climate sets Oil, Gas and Pipelines as priority #1 and nuclear #2nd
- $100 billion dollars of investment – roughly 40 to nuclear and 60 to other (possibly vertical and horizontal infrastructure)
- The provincial government is working on nuclear framework. It is a very long process in view of i) Alberta does not support individual private energy company's ii) free market enterprise in Alberta
- Hoping to have a draft framework rolled out in three (3) years
- There will be public engagement sessions hosted by the province for the whole of Alberta
- The province will be conducting presentations at the Fall RMA and AM conferences
- The province does have Canadian framework to use as a baseline/guide for drafting Alberta's framework

f) *Participation Funding Program Application –* ***COMPLETED AND APPROVED***

5. New Business

a) *Finance Update – see attachment*

Art Laurin, Deputy Reeve, NSC, moved to accept the financial report.

b) *Dr. R Neil Alexander – Canadian Nuclear Society*

Corinna William, Reeve, NSC moved to use PREC funds, up to $10,0000.00 maximum, to pay Dr. Neil Alexander's consultant fees.

c) *Discussion items – Meeting with Premier*

Plan of conversation for meeting

Each municipality will have one representative to speak to an issue. Discussion based around public support (raising the profile of nuclear), Indigenous & Rural Inclusion, and the five criteria for National Interest Projects:

- Strengthen Canada's autonomy, resilience and security
- Provide economic or other benefits to Canada
- Have a high likelihood of successful execution
- Advance the interests of Indigenous Peoples; and
- Contribute to clean growth and to Canada's objectives with respect to climate change.

➢ Grimshaw: what has been discussed with the USA: trade, projects, northern Alberta specifically.
➢ NSC: concerns regarding watershed amalgamation and water licensing.
➢ T of PR: A parallel of current/immediate downsizing in economics, education (schools), hospitals, infrastructure, etc, while planning for growth.
➢ CNL: mandate letter: increase public awareness of content and ideology of mandate letters.
➢ MD of P: economic impact to area, national energy security

d) *Communication protocols – Mayor Manzer & Reeve Williams*

The Town Hall Meetings/Public Sessions process seemed to move quickly.

Subsequently:

- CNL council moved to host public meetings. They were able to secure Dr. Neil Alexander. An email was sent out to all the municipalities in PREC to see if anyone else wanted to have Dr. Neil present to their residents. Four responded yes. In consideration of the dynamics of PREC, a motion was made earlier in this meeting to pay Dr. Neil's consultation fees from PREC funds.
- Each municipality is to coordinate their own agenda for their session.
- Considering the fast-approaching timeline, initial group advertising went out. More detailed advertising can be done by individual municipalities.

6. Correspondence for Information

    - *Globe and Mail Article: AtkinsRealis, EDF pursue tighter partnership as they seek to build new nuclear plants*

7. Round Table

Ali Hounsell, Sideways Rain Strategies Inc:

Currently conducting Local government and Indigenous tour presentations.

Energy Alberta (EA) will have a booth at River Days. Hoping to have some good one on one conversations

EA will be participating in local events throughout the summer, creating engagement, communication opportunities

On June 9th, IAAC? & CNSC released a few new documents:

Deputy Mayor, Town of Grimshaw: announced Brian Allens resignation and his new position at MD of Peace.

8. Next Steps

    a) *Host for next Meeting, MD of Peace, Thursday, September 11th, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.*

July and August meetings cancelled.

9. Adjournment

Chair, Terry Ungarian adjourned the Thursday, June 12, 2025 PREC Meeting at 2:19 p.m.

Chair, Terry Ungarian

Sept 11/2025

Date Signed