



PEACE REGIONAL
ENERGY
COMMITTEE

MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026 – 1:00 PM
NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT:

Terry Ungarian (Chair)	Reeve, County of Northern Lights
Gerhard Stickling	CAO, County of Northern Lights
Robert Willing (Vice Chair)	Reeve, MD of Peace
Sandra Eastman	Deputy Reeve, MD of Peace
Brian Allen	CAO, MD of Peace
Claude Rodrigue	Reeve, Northern Sunrise County
Cindy Millar	CAO, Northern Sunrise County (<i>Outreach Coordinator</i>)
Jocelyn Tangen	Legislative Services Coordinator, Northern Sunrise County (Technology)
Stacey Messner	Mayor, Town of Grimshaw
Robert McLeod	Mayor, Town of Manning
Jeff Forsythe	Councillor, Town of Peace River
Kayla Parsons	Interim CAO, Town of Peace River
Nicole Johnson	Reeve, Village of Berwyn

GUESTS:

Jake Pastore	President, Summit PCG, Communication Specialist (<i>virtual</i>)
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REGRETS:

Kayln Schug	Deputy Reeve, County of Northern Lights
Jason Javos	Deputy Reeve, Northern Sunrise County
Colleen Sklapsky	Deputy Mayor, Town of Grimshaw
Olive Toews	CAO, Town of Grimshaw
Shelly Shannon	Mayor, Town of Peace River
April Doll	CAO, Town of Manning

1. Call to Order

Chair Ungarian called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

2. Adoption of Agenda

By consensus, May 27, 2026 PREA agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

a) *Thursday, April 9, 2026, PREA Meeting Minutes*

By consensus, April 9, 2026, PREA Meeting Minutes were adopted as presented.

4. Updates from Old Business

4.1 **ACTION STEP:** Admin to forward the virtual link to PREA members for the CANHC AGM

OUTCOME: Link to CANHC AGM forwarded to PREA members by Teresa Tupper, Executive Assistant, County of Northern Lights – **COMPLETED**

4.2 **ACTION STEP:** Everyone to review the draft Position Paper (PP) and provide comments to Jake April 14 & 17. Copy back to group by April 22. Members to review and digest again. Call a special meeting to go through the paper and draft communication strategy. After approval, take paper back to individual councils for information.

OUTCOME: Updated PP provided by due date with additional versions circulated to PREA members. – **COMPLETED**

4.3 **ACTION STEP:** arrange a date for a Special Meeting after April 22.

OUTCOME: Special Meeting held May 15, 2026, and a final PP was approved by consensus. Each Council will be asked for a motion to endorse the PP at an upcoming Council meeting in closed session – **COMPLETED**

Note: As of May 27, 2026 meeting 6/8 municipalities had already endorsed the PP, with the remaining 2 having council meetings on the evening of May 27, 2026.

4.4 **ACTION STEP:** Administration schedule a meeting with Kamie Currie, PrairiesCan and the sub-committee of PREA to discuss an application to the CEDD Core Program

OUTCOME: Sub-committee meeting held with Kamie Currie on April 23, 2026 – meeting notes were included in the May 27, 2026 agenda package. – **COMPLETE**

4.5 **ACTION ITEM:** - Admin to send a letter to each Council requesting seed money of \$1,000 for membership to PREA.

OUTCOME: Letter sent from Chairperson Ungarian to each Council by Teresa Tupper, Executive Assistant, County of Northern Lights – **COMPLETED**

4.6 **ACTION ITEM:** - Admin to provide \$500 payment to the MD of Peace, Town of Peace River, and County of Northern Lights to provide financial assistance for the CNA Conference registration.

OUTCOME: Municipalities confirmed receipt of funds at the May 27, 2026 PREA meeting. – **COMPLETED**

5. New Business

5.1 *Terms of Reference – update required to change the Terms of Reference from Peace Regional Energy Committee to Peace Regional Energy Alliance/Administrative Support Discussion.*

Motion by Mayor McLeod, Town of Manning, to accept the updated Terms of Reference as presented.

- 5.1** Chair Ungarian advised that Teresa Tupper, Executive Assistant, County of Northern Lights, will be retiring June 12, 2026. Administrative support for PREA was discussed. It will remain with the County of Northern Lights; however, Northern Sunrise County will provide backup support in the interim until further notice.
- 5.2** Thank you letter to Minister Neudorf

By consensus, PREA agreed to send a letter of thanks to Minister Neudorf with the amendments provided by Jake Pastore.

ACTION ITEM: Outreach Coordinator to amend the letter to Minister Neudorf and send via email.

5.3 Communication Plan – Jake Pastore, Summit PCG

Jake Pastore reviewed the Communication Plan for the Position Paper. The Plan supports the public release of the PREA PP advocating for responsible nuclear energy development – including both full scale reactors and small modular reactors (SMRs) – in Northwestern Alberta. Jake also provided a proposed timeline for the month of June, with the press release scheduled for June 25, 2026.

Discussions that took place during a review of the Communication Plan

- Jake Pastore advised that the PP had been shared with the Chambers, and Economic Development Officers on May 26, 2026.
- Indigenous participation in PREA – many diverse views were presented on this item. Confirmed that PREA would be good neighbors and share information with the First Nations/Metis “groups” that Energy Alberta has been consulting with (about 8) as required.
- Jake Pastore shared that he will be meeting next week with Ali Hounsell from Energy Alberta.

ACTION ITEM: Outreach Coordinator to schedule media training with Jake Pastore for Chair and Vice Chair prior to the press release being sent out.

ACTION ITEM: Jake Pastore to draft an email from the Chair and Vice Chair to send out to the applicable Chiefs & Councils.

ACTION ITEM: Outreach Coordinator to coordinate Press Release schedule with Jake Pastore. Provide a schedule for PREA members.

ACTION ITEM: Outreach Coordinator to provide PREA CAOs with the information to be placed on municipal websites that are to be available after the Press Release.

5.6 Letters from Northern Action Alliance and Karen Gardecki

By consensus, PREA agreed to have Jake Pastore draft a response to the two letters from the Northern Action Alliance and Karen Gardecki.

ACTION ITEM: Jake Pastore will provide a draft communication to Outreach Coordinator regarding item 5.6.

Chair Ungarian shared with Jake Pastore that PREA met with federal Assistant Deputy Minister Michele Evans. Her portfolio is with PrairiesCan. ADM Evans will hold a placeholder for us to include the PP as a submission to the consultation being undertaken by the Government of Canada on the federal discussion paper: Getting Major Projects Built in Canada – Discussion Paper on Proposed Legislative, Regulatory, and Policy Reforms. The deadline for submissions to this paper is June 7, 2026.

ACTION ITEM: Outreach Coordinator to send PP to ADM Evans and Kamie Currie prior to the Press Release so that it may then be shared as submission to the above.

Jake Pastore left the meeting at 2:21 pm

5.4 CANHC Staff Working Group Verbal Update

CAO Millar (Outreach Coordinator) provided an update on the CANHC Staff Working Group:

- One role that CANHC has been doing is providing submissions to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada on proposed nuclear energy projects, as well as the federal paper listed above. These are being sent on behalf of the entire CANHC municipalities. Some of the municipalities within CANHC are taking these submissions to their Councils and asking them to endorse CANHC's submission. This ensures that their individual municipality provides a submission that they agree with the information from CANHC and provides credibility to CANHC's role. As PREA, it will be more difficult for 8 municipalities to take each document that CANHC produces to their respective Councils for endorsement. However, PREA wants to ensure that their voice is also included with CANHC for support and representation.

By consensus, PREA agreed that they want to be able to provide support and endorse CANHC's submissions to IAAC, etc., and requested that the Outreach Coordinator provide an executive summary of the submission via email.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Outreach Coordinator to provide an executive summary of CANHC submission documents and ask for email consensus as required.
- **ACTION ITEM:** PREA members are to review the executive summary and provide endorsement to the document within the required deadline.
- CANHC has been developing a variety of documents that are reviewed by the Working Group. CAO Millar asked when PREA would like to have the documents presented to them – while they are in draft or upon completion/approval.

By consensus, only CANHC approved documents are to be shared with the PREA members, unless feedback from the entire group is required.

ACTION ITEM: Outreach Coordinator will provide CANHC documents to PREA as discussed. This will be an ongoing action item, with no defined end date.

5.5 Economic Development Sub-Committee Update

Chair Ungarian and Interim CAO Parsons, Town of Peace River provided information from the sub-committee meeting with Kamie Curie from PrairiesCan.

CAO Millar confirmed that Northern Sunrise County had been working on the Expression of Interest for the CEDD grant opportunity. CAO Millar shared that the municipalities in Ontario (Township of Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, and Bruce County) have all been provided grants (\$2M to \$2.2M each) from Bruce Power for the Bruce C project for Community Readiness.

One of the requirements of the CEDD grant is a 50/50 share between PrairiesCan and the municipalities. PREA would like to apply for the CEDD to begin to address community readiness for the 8 municipalities who are part of PREA. This will be a large grant ask and municipalities must be willing to commit funding should it be requested – no amount has been confirmed yet, but it would be to provide the following: Communication Consultant (Jake Pastore at this time), Nuclear Coordinator to relieve the pressure on municipal administrative staff and to ensure alignment across the 8 municipalities, a nuclear education symposium, and infrastructure and municipal services assessments for the 8 municipalities.

Even though socio-economic impacts are a requirement of the IAAC Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, the actual assessment process is fundamentally tied to federal effects and federal decision-making under the Impact Assessment Act. CANHC Executive Director, Clare Churchill shared the following in an email on May 8, 2026: “In practice, this means that many issues most directly experienced by municipalities — including housing pressures, infrastructure demands, emergency management capacity, workforce accommodation, municipal service delivery, regional health systems, and broader community readiness considerations — risk being described within studies, but not necessarily fully assessed, mitigated, monitored, or tied directly to federal decisions. CANHC’s position is that, for nuclear projects in particular, these issues cannot simply be viewed as local or secondary matters. Nuclear facilities rely heavily on municipal and regional systems to support emergency management, public safety, transportation, infrastructure, and long-term project implementation. As such, community readiness and related socio-economic considerations should form part of the broader federal assessment and integrated IAAC–CNSC safety framework.

She also stresses that municipalities should be more clearly recognized as functional jurisdictions and implementation partners within the process, rather than being treated solely as members of the public”. This means we are required to conduct our own in-depth assessments of infrastructure and services, and this amount will need to be

reflected in the CEDD Expression of Interest. This will be an expensive deliverable and is of utmost importance and must be completed accurately to ensure success for all of us.

By consensus, PREA agreed to include the items discussed above in the CEDD Expression of Interest and requested that the Outreach Coordinator look for additional opportunities for funding the 50% municipal portion.

ACTION STEP: CAO Millar and Lynn Florence, Economic Development Officer with Northern Sunrise County will continue to develop the Expression of Interest for the CEDD grant through PrairiesCan.

ACTION STEP: CAO Millar to inquire with PrairiesCan if the municipal portion can be provided by other funding means, such as provincial funds, or different grant options.

ACTION STEP: Lynn Florence, Economic Development Officer, Northern Sunrise County will draft a grant application for the NRED grant to offset costs to the municipalities.

ACTION STEP: Request funding for PREA's Community Readiness project from the Province of Alberta at the appropriate time.

5.6 CANHC AGM/CNA Conference – verbal updates from attendees

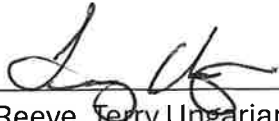
- The conference hosted a lot of very good speakers. Met Jason Donev (Professor, University of Calgary) and feel that he would be a great resource to have come to the Peace region for education / engagement sessions.
- Discussions with elected officials – it would be a positive move to have them come here to talk to the residents and share their lived experience (good/not so good).
- Biggest takeaway was the CANHC AGM and being able to sit with the municipal leaders from ON. Their willingness to share information is awesome. Encourage all to attend both AGM and Conference.
- Chair Ungarian met with MPs Viersen and Warkentin. PREA should invite them to an upcoming PREA meeting to discuss our PP and vision.
- Chair and Vice Chair, CANHC Chair Mayor Foster, CANHC Executive Director and other municipal leaders attended a meeting with IAAC president, stressing the importance of streamlining the process, while still ensuring safety and regulatory requirements and that municipalities need to be treated as a level of government, not as individual people.

6. Next Steps

- a) *Host for next Meeting, County of Northern Lights, Council Chambers, Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.*

7. Adjournment

Chair Ungarian adjourned May 27, 2026, PREA meeting at 3:30 p.m.


Chair, Reeve, Terry Ungarian


Date Signed