

**Multi Municipal Energy Working Group  
MINUTES**

**MMEWG-2024-01  
Thursday, January 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m.  
Virtually via Microsoft Teams**

Members Present: Mark Davis - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie - Citizen  
Appointee  
Ryan Nickason - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie  
Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth  
Tom Allwood - Municipality of Grey Highlands  
Todd Dowd - Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula

Others Present: Julie Hamilton - Recording Secretary

**1. Meeting Details**

**2. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A quorum was present.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

**MMEWG-2024-01**

**Moved by:** Scott Mackey - Township of  
Chatsworth

**Seconded by:** Ryan Nickason -  
Municipality of Arran-  
Elderslie

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby adopts the agenda of the Thursday, January 11, 2024 as distributed by the Recording Secretary.

**Carried**

**4. Membership Update**

The current Membership consists of the following:

Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Municipality of Grey-Highlands

Township of Chatsworth

Township of Huron-Kinloss

Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula

With the province pushing to procure more capacity from various sources such as wind and BESS, the members felt that it would be appropriate to draft a letter to all municipalities in Grey and Bruce Counties that highlights the Group's newly expanded mandate and extend the invitation to join the MMEWG. The information regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems being provided in the presentations that have been made by the group to Grey and Bruce Counties and some lower tiered municipalities recently has proved to be valuable to municipality's in their understanding of the new energy technologies.

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

**MMEWG-2024-02**

**Moved by:** Stewart Halliday -  
Municipality of Grey  
Highlands - Citizen  
Appointee

**Seconded by:** Mark Davis - Municipality  
of Arran-Elderslie - Citizen  
Appointee

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby directs that a letter be drafted and sent along with the new terms of reference to all municipalities in Grey and Bruce Counties that highlights the groups newly expanded mandate and invites them to join the MMEWG.

**Carried**

**5. Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

As per the Terms of Reference for the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group, the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected annually at the first meeting of the year.

The Recording Secretary opened the floor to nominations for Chair of the Working Group for 2024.

Member Mackey nominated Member Allwood.  
Member Allwood accepted the nomination.

The Recording Secondary called a second and third time for nominations. No further nominations were heard.

Nominations were subsequently closed and Tom Allwood was elected Chair for 2024.

The Vice-Chair, Jim Hanna, was not in attendance at the time so the election for vice-chair was postponed until Mr. Hanna was present.

## **6. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared at this time.

## **7. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

### **7.1 November 16, 2023 MMEWG Minutes**

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

#### **MMEWG-2024-03**

**Moved by:** Ryan Nickason -  
Municipality of Arran-  
Elderslie

**Seconded by:** Scott Mackey - Township of  
Chatsworth

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby approves the minutes of the Thursday, November 16, 2023 meeting as presented by the Recording Secretary.

**Carried**

## **8. Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **8.1 Correspondence from Ministry of Health Re: Health Hazards Letter**

Ms. Mekker commented on the BESS products in Eastern Ontario. In Ottawa, Councillor's received a lot of good information and there was only one proposal approved. In South Dundas, one proposal was withdrawn because it did not meet the noise guidelines and in North Dundas and South Stormont, there were no proposals approved due to too many unanswered questions.

Ms. Mekker, who had requested the MMEWG to draft a letter to the Minister of Health regarding Industrial Wind Turbines being deemed a health hazard had the following comments on the response. She believes that the letter implies that:

1. The Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario does apply to complaints about wind turbine noise.
2. The wind turbine noise emissions could possibly be considered a health hazard as defined in the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario
3. The local Medical Officer of Health does have a duty with respect to this potential health hazard
4. A local Medical Officer of Health has the power to issue an order if a health hazard is identified

Ms. Mekker has not received a response to the letter she sent to Carrie Warring at the Ministry of Health but believes that her response reaffirms that the HPPA does apply to wind turbines. She would like the Working Group to continue to pursue this topic by continuing to pursue the Ministry of Health. She would like to see the Ministry of Health make a statement province wide.

The members feel that the it may be a good time to address the local Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Arra by way of letter suggesting that a moratorium be places on the renewal of any existing wind turbine contracts so that a study can be completed on the health impacts related to wind turbines as there is evidence to support the concerns that they are making people sick.

Mr. Palmer has a presentation later in the agenda on this topic but added that the contracts are not just up for renewal but many of the companies are looking to increase the contracts with larger turbines on the same pads. He is currently writing to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Energy that addresses the facts that many of the projects are already in non-compliance with setbacks of 550m that have been put in place since they were constructed and of those 62 locations that are to close, there are at least 5 instances that he is aware of where people have died suddenly.

Mr. Howard added that the Chief Medical Officer of Health has renewed the 2010 statement and that direction will then be

given to Local Medical Officers of Health which creates a big challenge.

A suggestion was made that the Working Group request a delegation to the Grey Bruce Public Health Board who gives direction to Dr. Arra which follows up on the correspondence received from Director Warring.

It was noted that in the past, there was a favourable response received in the past from Dr. Hazel Lynn when she was the Medical Officer of Health and at the time Dr. Arra was an intern at the time and that review was completed by him.

Ms. Mekker noted that she would like to see both a letter to Director Warring and a presentation to the Board.

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

**MMEWG-2024-04**

**Moved by:** Stewart Halliday -  
Municipality of Grey  
Highlands - Citizen  
Appointee

**Seconded by:** Mark Davis - Municipality  
of Arran-Elderslie - Citizen  
Appointee

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby directs that a delegation be made to the Grey Bruce Public Health Board following up on the correspondence received from Director Warring and that the members who shall make the presentation will be determined as appropriate.

**Carried**

**8.2 Letters distributed following the November 16 2023 meeting and Next Steps**

There have been presentations made to both Grey and Bruce Counties, as well as the Council of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie. There is an upcoming delegation being made to the Municipality of West Grey and the SVCA Agricultural Outreach Committee on March 8, 2024.

In order to address future presentation requests, the Working Group passed the following resolution:

**MMEWG-2024-05**

**Moved by:** Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

**Seconded by:** Mark Davis - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie - Citizen Appointee

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby provides blanket approval to accommodate any future delegation requests that are received.

**Carried**

**8.3 FOI Request**

The Recording Secretary has received an email since the agenda was distributed. The MECP staff member assigned to the requests is not longer with the ministry and the requests have been reassigned and an update should be coming shortly on the status of the requests.

**9. Delegations/Presentations**

**9.1 Update on IESO Procurement - Warren Howard**

The IESO is projecting that it will require 5 more terra-watt hours of energy starting in 2030 and is proposing three rounds of RFP's as part of its procurement efforts. Wind, solar, hydroelectric, storage and bioenergy projects all qualify for these RFPs.

The 2025 RFP will be to procure 2,000 MW and will be operational from 2029-2031.

The 2027 RFP will be to procure 1,500 MW and will be operational in 2032.

The 2029 RFP will be to procure 1,500 MW and will be operational in 2034.

Although the first RFP will not formally start until 2025, municipal support can be obtained beginning now. The goal is to push these projects through so there is new capacity for 2030. Factors behind this process include the expectations of sharply

growing demand, the retirement of the Pickering facility and the Federal Clean Energy Regulation.

Municipal Support is still required but it is being challenged. Requests continue to be brought forward before details of the project are known. Community engagement is part of the process however, the project details are not required in proposals.

Prime Agricultural Land is also an ongoing issue. Ontario currently prohibits use of Prime Agricultural Land as sites for wind turbine and solar projects. BESS projects are allowed as a "Diversified Use" which limits them to 2% of total land area or 1 ha. The IESO is asking proponents to provide feedback on the impact of the proposal on protecting prime agricultural land on their proposals. Most municipalities and rural residents support the current protections for agricultural land.

There are other procurement methods that include extending contracts on existing projects and retooling existing projects to increase output with fewer turbines. There was an ad in the Ontario Farmer from a company proposing that farmers installing turbines and storage units.

The IESO has noted the issues with siting such as the impact of restricting use of prime agricultural land and are encouraging projects in northern Ontario, development on crown land and there is a reference in one of the Ministerial Directives about clarifying the environmental approval requirements and permitting process for new and existing projects.

There is a new revenue model proposed to provide certainty that loans can be obtained to build turbines. Proposals must now declare the annual energy production factor which will provide the nameplate capacity and the IESO will use this to calculate the projected monthly energy revenue requirement. The actual revenue paid will be based off the monthly average of the day ahead market price time the production factor time the calendar hours per month. There will also be a new grid reliability payment that will cover shortfalls where the revenue requirement is not met.

In 2013, 115 municipalities declared themselves "Unwilling Hosts" for wind power projects. Since then, no changes have been made to the setbacks despite there being problems evident, there are issues with the enforcement of project approvals and there have been problems encountered with

people who live near turbine projects. Municipalities that already host projects can use the resolution to disallow future projects from coming if they wish. New resolutions should be adopted to re-enforce the concerns.

Mr. Howards presentation suggest a number of actions that should be taken by municipalities as well as action items for the MMEWG to consider.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion and comments.

Subsequent to further discussion, the Working Group passed the following resolution:

**MMEWG-2024-06**

**Moved by:** Stewart Halliday -  
Municipality of Grey  
Highlands - Citizen  
Appointee

**Seconded by:** Todd Dowd - Municipality  
of Northern Bruce  
Peninsula

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby directs,

1. That a letter be sent to the IESO; and
2. That a letter be sent to all Grey and Bruce municipalities and all former member municipalities.

**Carried**

**9.2 Written Feedback - IESO Resource Adequacy and Long-Term 2 RFP Engagement - Dec. 13, 2023 - Bill Palmer**

Mr. Palmer provided an overview of the submission he made to the IESO.

The submission examines the assumptions and conclusions derived from those assumptions contained in these IESO documents:

1. IESO Resource Adequacy and Long-Term 2 RFP Engagement, issued Dec. 13, 2023, for comment by Jan. 15, 2024.



2. Evaluating Procurement Options for Supply Adequacy, a Resource Adequacy Update to the Minister of Energy Dec. 11, 2023.

3. Phasing Out Natural Gas Generation in Ontario, The IESO's response to the draft Clean Electricity Regulations, Nov. 16, 2023.

Six assumptions and conclusions were discussed in the submission with supporting evidence provided for each area.

1. "With new supply on track to meet demand peaks mid-decade, the IESO is now addressing overall energy needs going into the 2030's and beyond." (Document 1, page 7)

2. "Forecasts project a need for approximately 5 TWh of energy beginning in 2030 and expected to grow significantly through the 2030s" (Document 1 – Page 11) "The LT2 RFP will focus on meeting system needs in the 2030 to 2034 timeframe, with an anticipated target of ~2,000 MW" (Document 1 – Page 11)

3. "Significant restrictions on using agricultural land could limit opportunities to repower/expand existing facilities, as well as the volume and timeliness of new resources that are needed to maintain reliability. While restrictions on siting based on agricultural land use were previously limited to ground-mount solar PV generation, some parties have called for restrictions to be expanded to include wind." (Document 2 – Page 13)

4. "Reliability" (16 mentions in Document 1, 7 mentions in Document 2, 10 mentions in Document 3.)

5. "Decarbonization" is a recurring theme in both "Evaluating Procurement Options" (Document 2) and the "Phasing our Natural Gas" (Document 3.) Numerous statements are made such as "The province's next procurements will make a significant contribution to decarbonizing its supply mix." (Document 2 – Page 10).

6. "The IESO is aware that the single most important contribution the electricity system can make towards broader decarbonization efforts is to support the electrification of key sectors, such as transportation and industry, by remaining safe, reliable and cost effective. This goal is central to the IESO's mandate of ensuring electricity is available when and where Ontarians need it." (Document 3 – Page 2)

Mr. Palmer provided the following summary of his findings in the submission;

"As presented by the evidence in the 3 referenced IESO documents, the proposal to accept the "IESO Resource Adequacy and Long-Term 2 RFP Engagement" fails.

- Score 2 of 5 on demonstrating conformance with the stated criteria that peak will be met mid-decade and ongoing
- Score 1 of 5 on demonstrating the criteria will be met that an additional 5 TWh will be available through repowering of existing wind turbines. No consideration was shown that larger turbines on existing sites will not meet O.Reg. 359/09.
- Score 2 of 5 on the criteria that IESO is applying uncalled for pressure on municipal councils to approve projects that may not be in the best interest of local citizens. • Score 2 of 5 on the criteria that the proposal will meet the definition of "reliability"
- Score 1 of 5 on the criteria that the IESO proposal will result in a significant decarbonization of the Ontario electrical system as not consistent with IESO assumptions for system growth.
- Score 1 of 5 on the criteria that the IESO proposal has been shown to be cost effective by any sort of a full cost alternative assessment. "

He concludes that the IESO proposal requires rework to demonstrate meeting the claimed criteria of being safe, reliable, and cost effective and that the reworked document should be recirculated for comment before approval.

Mr. Palmer responded to questions from the Members regarding his presentation.

Subsequent to further discussion, the Working Group passed the following resolution:

**MMEWG-2024-07**

**Moved by:** Mark Davis - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie - Citizen Appointee

**Seconded by:** Scott Mackey - Township of Chatsworth

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby receives agenda item, 9.2 Written Feedback - IESO

Adequacy and Long-Term 2 RFP Engagement - Dec. 13, 2023,  
for information.

**Carried**

## **10. Correspondence**

### **10.1 Requiring Action**

#### 10.1.1 Approval of 2024 Meeting Schedule

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

#### **MMEWG-2024-08**

**Moved by:** Stewart Halliday -  
Municipality of Grey  
Highlands - Citizen  
Appointee

**Seconded by:** Scott Mackey - Township of  
Chatsworth

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working  
Group hereby approves the 2024 meeting agenda as  
presented.

**Carried**

#### 10.1.2 Recording Secretary Invoice

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

#### **MMEWG-2024-09**

**Moved by:** Scott Mackey - Township of  
Chatsworth

**Seconded by:** Ryan Nickason -  
Municipality of Arran-  
Elderslie

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working  
Group hereby approves payment of the invoice for the  
Recording Secretary services for November and December  
2023.

**Carried**

10.1.3 Year End Financial Statement and 2024 Membership Fee

The Working Group discussed the creation of a two-tiered fee structure.

The regular membership would be status quo requiring the appointment of members by participating municipal Council's.

The associate membership would allow municipalities to join and be included in all circulations of information and materials and attend meetings as a non-voting member and would not be required to formally appoint any members to the Working Group.

Subsequent to further discussion, the Working Group passed the following resolution:

**MMEWG-2024-11**

**Moved by:** Stewart Halliday -  
Municipality of Grey  
Highlands - Citizen  
Appointee

**Seconded by:** Ryan Nickason -  
Municipality of Arran-  
Elderslie

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby,

1. Receives the 2023 Financial Statement for information; and
2. Approves the annual membership fees as follows:
  - Full Membership - \$500.00
  - Associate Membership - \$400.00

**Carried**

**10.2 For Information**

Subsequent to further discussion, the Working Group passed the following resolution:

**MMEWG-2024-12**

**Moved by:** Todd Dowd - Municipality  
of Northern Bruce  
Peninsula

**Seconded by:** Ryan Nickason -  
Municipality of Arran-  
Elderslie

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby receives the correspondence for information.

**Carried**

- 10.2.1 Township of Chatsworth Resolution Re: BESS
- 10.2.2 News Article - Bruce County Council delegation by MMEWG
- 10.2.3 News Article - Grey County Council delegation by MMEWG
- 10.2.4 News Article - Lithium-Ion Battery Fire
- 10.2.5 Ministerial Directives to the IESO and WCO Responses
- 10.2.6 Article by Bill Palmer - Predicting Annoyance from Wind Turbines from Objective Measures
- 10.2.7 IESO News Release
- 10.2.8 News Article - Ontario municipalities veto powers granted by Ford are complicating efforts to avert electricity shortages

## **11. Members Updates**

Mr. Palmer confirmed that he has been able to secure liability insurance and will continue consulting for the Working Group.

## **12. New Business**

Ms. Mekker noted that Chatham-Kent Council has received no response from the Ministry of Health to date on the water issues.

## **13. Closed Session (if required)**

## **14. Confirmation of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7 p.m via Microsoft Teams.

**15. Adjournment**

The Working Group passed the following resolution:

**MMEWG-2024-13**

**Moved by:** Ryan Nickason -  
Municipality of Arran-  
Elderslie

**Seconded by:** Stewart Halliday -  
Municipality of Grey  
Highlands - Citizen  
Appointee

Be it Resolved that the meeting of the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group is hereby adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

**Carried**

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Tom Allwood, Chair

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Julie Hamilton, Recording  
Secretary