

Project Meeting Minutes				
Community Liaison Committee Meeting				
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	John Woods	<b>Note Taker:</b>	Kris MacLellan	
<b>Location:</b>	Ellershouse Community Hall		<b>Date:</b>	25 February, 2014
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Representation</b>		<b>Present</b>	<b>Regrets</b>
<b>CLC Members</b>				
Shirley Banfield	Local Resident, Landowner		X	
Dave Blanchard	Local Resident, Landowner, Community Hall		X	
Myles Cornish	Local Resident, Engineer in Training		X	
Yvonne Davison	Local Resident, Landowner		X	
Greg McNeil	Local Resident		X	
Dougie Ross	Local Resident, Snowmobile Association		X	
Steve Sharpe	Local Resident, Landowner, Business Person		X	
<b>Project Team Members</b>				
Aaron Long	Minas Energy		X	
Mary-Frances Lynch	Minas Energy		X	
John Woods	Minas Energy		X	
Chris Peters	Minas Energy		X	
Kris MacLellan	Minas Energy		X	
<b>Guests</b>				
Barb Wilson	Local resident		X	
Joe Cuffari + Guest			X	
Sandra Dorie	Local resident		X	
Ed Sulis	Resident from Kentville		X	
Grace Crawford	Local resident		X	
Jeanne Bourque	West Hants Planner		X	
<b>1. Adoption of Meeting Agenda</b>				
	Adopted meeting agenda.			
<b>2. Review of November 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes</b>				
	No suggested edits, minutes approved.			
<b>3. Update on Environmental Assessment</b>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Peters of Minas Energy presents on EA approval.</li> <li>Project received the EA approval on February 17<sup>th</sup>, the gov't and minister have approved the proposal with conditions:</li> </ul>			

- Must commence work within two years, cannot transfer the document to another party.
- Flora and fauna requirements covered, Minas MUST undertake bird and bat mortality monitoring.
- Noise and visual impact: required to undertake monitoring for shadow flicker at NSE's request.
- Consultation with First Nations planning underway, Minas has met with KMK – Mi'kmaq Rights Office.
- Minas must develop and adhere to an environmental protection plan.

**Questions:**

- At what point did Antigonish become a partner?
  - *They are not yet part of AREA, will require an amendment to the agreement.*
- What stops you from deciding to build two more down the road?
  - *We are limited to the number applied to in the process*
- What happens in the event of discovering bird mortality events? Is this the same requirement at Nuttby?
  - *This is the responsibility of DNR as the regulator*
- Can Minas provide an example of the mitigation strategies undertaken at NSE's request?
  - *Could alter the angle of a blade causing noise*
- If there is any blasting, are there major risks to groundwater? Residents register concern over water quality and security.
  - *We are digging down 3m for the base, which is not a significant occurrence*
- Multiple questions fielded about complaint mechanisms and process – to whom would residents complain if Minas Energy disappeared?
  - *There will be someone who will serve as point of contact, this is an NSE requirement*

**ACTION ITEM: Bring forward complaints process for CLC's consideration at next meeting.**

#### 4. Development Agreement Update

**Development Agreement Process:**

Public meeting for the project to be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> – this is a municipal meeting, not hosted by Minas Energy.

- *Mary Frances: this is a new addition to the process. We want to hear from residents and will advertise widely to assure best possible attendance. Please send us your feedback, more public input is needed and welcome.*

**Questions:**

- Who will be coming to the meeting on behalf of the municipality?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Jeanne Bourque: This is a new thing for us. We have tried something similar at three mile brook.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Jeanne Bourque: We had a selection of different people at our last meeting for Martock Wind, including province and others. We want to hear from residents, if you can't make the meeting we will be putting out a newsletter ad, and soliciting contact numbers and emails. We prefer to get things in writing if possible. There will be another opportunity to have a public hearing before council makes a decision on the project. Info workshop on March 12 then it goes to the planning advisory committee (all of council + two members) on March 20<sup>th</sup>.</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Will the PAC attend the March 12<sup>th</sup> info workshop? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>They may try, but they won't be participating, asking questions, etc</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**5. Photomontage from Steve Sharpe's Property**

	<p>Additional photomontage for the Sharpe property talked about at the last meeting, but nothing confirmed. Minas makes a practice of seeking CLC consent on activities of this type, which it is doing tonight. Permission to make plans to access Sharpe property is granted.</p> <p><b>Comments and Questions:</b> Grace Crawford would like a photograph taken from her office. Patients would like to know what they will see from her office.</p> <p><b>ACTION ITEM: Photomontage from Sharpe property will be undertaken by Minas Energy.</b></p>
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**6. Community Benefits**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First discussion touches on Sage Energy, a business which does photovoltaic projects in the \$10-\$20,000 range.</li> <li>● Some CLC members believe it is too early in the project to be discussing Community Benefits</li> <li>● AREA Contribution to Ellershouse of \$5000/year over the life of the project is raised. Discussion is still at an early stage, with lots of elements to think about (inflation, time, and economics).</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions and Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Why can't we use some of the power from the turbines here in Ellershouse? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>There are 460,000 customers in NS, all of them take from NSPI, the grid supplies those residents power. Ellershouse falls under this grid and does not have its own Municipal Utility like the AREA communities.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>● What about Carbon Credits – can they play a role of some kind in Ellershouse? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Yes, Bullfrog Power is involved and has interest in providing benefits on the Ellershouse project.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Can we renegotiate the \$5000/yr? To what degree is the information about the monetary benefit made public? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>There will be no negotiating at this point in time. This is not a % of the total project,</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>it's a business decision by AREA to support the community.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some residents are pleased by mention of a direct contribution, commit to learning more about the process. Minas Energy and AREA would leave it to the community to dispense the funds.</li> <li>• Is there a mechanism by which to allow community members to find clarity about the AREA benefits process? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Perhaps – Minas to inquire about bringing an AREA rep to future meetings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Action Item: Inquire as to whether AREA is willing to divulge more information about contributions, and whether AREA members can address CLC members.</b></p>
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**7. Turbine Construction**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion commences on transportation needs for construction phase of project.</li> <li>• Chris Peters: A transportation plan will be in place. We anticipate one day of construction per pad, so some traffic will all be happening on one day, then a break, then activity again.</li> <li>• Mary Frances: we will have a full communications strategy, maybe including signage, for when this happens.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions and Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some concern expressed regarding the number of concrete truck trips needed to build the turbines – estimated at 1,050 total. Road conditions are seen as poor to begin with – who is responsible for damage to the road conditions?</li> <li>• Will the hamlet be safe for playing children during the construction phase?</li> <li>• Trucking traffic due to forestry in Ellershouse is already present, without outcry.</li> <li>• Will substantial alterations to any roads be required? If so, will the alterations be reversed? Was this part of the EA?</li> </ul>
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**8. Turbine Locations**

	<p>Aaron Long presenting for Minas Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major points about turbine placement are discussed, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presence of the electrical grid and transmission lines, some of which can handle an influx of power, some which cannot.</li> <li>○ Firm transmission.</li> <li>○ Locations of DND bases around the province.</li> <li>○ Suitable wind resource</li> <li>○ Environmental and community constraints</li> <li>○ Cost to build</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Muskrat Falls project could improve the situation, as Transmission upgrades become more likely and Lingan goes offline.</li> <li>• We have to be strategic about where we build it, but as it stands right now it is not economical for us to build more turbines than proposed.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project economics are sensitive to changes in the layout. Moving one turbine changes the output of all the others.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you run these calculations on places around the province that aren't so close to residences? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>We have, there are places we have looked at in the last decade and many have had difficulties. The need for transmission system upgrades, especially in places like Cape Breton, as well as the influence of DND are all major sighting considerations.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Why wouldn't AREA just pay for personal wind power for their residents, and battery banks? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>It costs too much, This is \$2.5m per megawatt. You get economics at play when you get this large.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Can we put more money into education into getting people to conserve more energy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Nova Scotia already spends \$43m/yr in this province trying to get people to reduce consumption.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<b>9. Check out</b>
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	<p><b>Next meeting <u>April 1st, 2014, 6pm at the Ellershouse Community Hall is recommended.</u></b></p> <p><b>Meeting Adjourned 8:40</b></p>
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<b>Minutes compiled by:</b>	Kris MacLellan
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