

Community Liaison Committee (“CLC”) Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2017

Pioneer Rooms – 714516 Middletown Line, Woodstock, ON – 7:00pm-8:30pm

Members Present: Susan Shaw  
Larry Martin  
Tabitha Curley  
Evert Veldhuizen

Regrets: Alan Dale  
David Steenburg

Guests: Rochelle Rumney  
Heather Shilton

**Time Start: 7:02 pm**

Introduction

Susan Shaw called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

It was agreed upon by the committee members that the Minutes from the November 2016 meeting were approved via e-mail. No further approval is required. Minutes from the November 2016 meeting have been posted on the Gunn’s Hill website (<http://gunnshillwind.ca/>) and have been submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (“MOECC”).

Operations Update

Information packages were provided both in hard-copy format and in digital format, projected on the wall. Susan Shaw provided a description of the content beginning with the Planned Production vs. Actual Production graph. Shaw noted that all 10 turbines at the Gunn’s Hill location have been in service as of November 14, 2016. All requirements for commercial operation were achieved by November 14, 2016, making that date the Commercial Operation Date. As such, the graph depicted the planned production compared to the actual production from the wind farm from December 2016 to June 2017. Susan Shaw explained that the variances in production are due to the varying wind resource. These variances should average out over the course of the year. Currently, actual production is 5% above what was expected for the first year of production due to the high wind resource in December 2016.

Susan Shaw then began to describe the Availability Graph as depicted on the hard-copy information packages as well as the digital projection at the meeting. It was explained that overall, there was 99% availability for December 2016 to June 2017. This 99% does not include planned shut-downs for maintenance, only includes non-operational time due to any sort of failure, which have been primarily

due to instrumentation issues. Operations are to remain normal until the next inspection period which is to be performed in the fall of 2017.

**Question from Rochelle Rumney:** Do the December month numbers depicted on the first graph also include the last two weeks of November's production?

**Answer from Susan Shaw:** No, just the month of December. There was a very high wind resource in December which accounts for the variance in the graph.

### REA Compliance

Rochelle Rumney provided an update regarding compliance with the MOECC's Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") associated with the development and operations of the Gunn's Hill Wind Farm. Rochelle Rumney first noted that the CLC Minutes have been posted on the Gunn's Hill website (<http://gunnshillwind.ca/>) and have been submitted to the MOECC as required by the REA.

### *Turbine Locations*

Rumney explained that another REA compliance requirement is to provide the MOECC with the exact locations of the wind turbines. The planned coordinates of the wind turbines were submitted to the MOECC and listed as part of the REA permit. The turbines were then surveyed for their actual UTM coordinates in the summer of 2016. The REA allows for a 10m difference between the permitted coordinates and the actual coordinates. The locations and the variances in planned location and actual location were provided in the hard-copy handouts as well as the digital projection. Susan Shaw explained the larger variances in location for T2 and T3 were due to the landowner's desire to move the locations of the turbines away from the existing road on their property. The largest variance was 8.5m for T8. This was due to the planned location being located on the steepest section of a slope in the land, and therefore the actual location was moved 8.5m south in order to be constructed on flatter land. These surveyed coordinates have been submitted to the MOECC.

**Question from Evert Veldhuizen:** How did you come up with the wind turbine locations?

**Answer from Rochelle Rumney:** Determination of location is based on a number of factors. Noise compliance usually requires that a turbine be located as far away from nearby residential homes as possible. After this factor has been taken into account, micro-siting begins, which takes into account different grades of land, avoidance of disruption to natural features, and landowners desire for specific locations. The locations of the turbines are meant to be as least disruptive to land use as possible.

### *Bird and Bat Monitoring*

Rochelle Rumney explained the bird and bat monitoring process as required by the REA. The monitoring process is required to be performed for three years following the commissioning of the wind farm to ensure no negative impacts are had on bird and/or bat populations in the area. Gunn's Hill LP is currently two (2) months into the monitoring campaign and no thresholds have been hit that would require any operational mitigation measures to be put in place. The monitors have put out test carcasses in order to determine the scavenger rate for the area and this process is ongoing. Searcher efficiency trials are also held for the monitors in order to determine the efficiency of each searcher to discover carcasses. The land upon which the bird and bat monitoring takes place at the Gunn's Hill location is considered to be a Class 1 Visibility Class due to the land being clear and free of vegetation. Class 1 describes at least 90% visibility of the land.

**Question from Larry Martin:** Have there been any bird and/or bat mortalities?

**Answer from Rochelle Rumney:** This monitoring season ends in November at which time a report will be provided by the monitors detailing any mortalities found at the site. This report will be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (“MNR”) within three months of the end of the monitoring period and will be posted on the Gunn’s Hill website (<http://gunnshillwind.ca/>). Some mortalities have been counted thus far in the monitoring campaign, though the numbers are below the maximum allowable thresholds.

### *Noise Testing*

Noise testing is set to begin in the coming months in order to meet the compliance requirements for the REA. Rochelle Rumney outlined the maximum noise allowed at non-participating residents’ homes is 40 decibels. Two (2) noise tests are to be performed as a part of the noise monitoring campaign. The first test is an immission test which monitors sound at two (2) receptors, which is to be done twice- once within 12 months of Commercial Operation and another within 18 months of Commercial Operation. The second noise test is an emission test to be performed at one turbine to ensure no noise is being emitted from the turbine that should not be. The emission test is to be performed in the coming months, however full production of the turbines is required for the test and therefore the test may not be able to be performed until the fall when the wind resource increases.

**Question from Tabitha Curley and Evert Veldhuizen:** Has it not been really windy this summer? How do the turbines pick up the wind?

**Answer from Susan Shaw:** The wind turbines have sensors on them so that they turn and face into the wind any time the wind changes direction. All turbines should be facing the same direction in order to maximize production.

### Community Fund

It was decided at the last CLC meeting that this committee will not be involved in administering the funds set aside for the Community Fund. Each year beginning with the year after the commissioning of the Gunn’s Hill Wind Farm, Gunn’s Hill LP will provide \$25,000 to a Community Fund for the life of the project. The Community Fund is meant to be used towards projects which improve community vibrancy. The Oxford Community Energy Co-operative (“OCEC”) will administer the funds and the Community Liaison Committee will not be involved in such administration.

### Committee Meeting Schedule

Susan Shaw explained that this July 17 meeting fulfills the remainder of the requirements of the MOECC to hold public meetings. The scheduling of any further meetings shall be decided by the members of the Community Liaison Committee.

Larry Martin brought forward a motion to recess the Gunn’s Hill Community Liaison Committee until such a time when any member of the Committee decides to call a meeting. Tabitha Curley seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.**