



WORKBOOK II

Grand Renewable Energy Park
Community Liaison Committee

May 29th Meeting Notes

Meeting 1—November 20, 2012—Complete

Meeting 2—May 29, 2013—Complete

Note: Meeting #3 Tentative Date—November. Notification will be sent 1 month prior to the meeting

We look forward to the CLC's continued engagement in this project!

OBJECTIVES

Our objectives this evening are as follows:

- Continue to learn about the Project and construction process
- Continue and open dialogue relating to potential community concerns regarding construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project

AGENDA

THANK-YOU

We would like to thank Council Member Stacey LaForme for welcoming us to the meeting and the Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nation for use of their beautiful New Credit Community Centre for this meeting.

Thanks also goes to the Twisted Lemon for the excellent dinner.

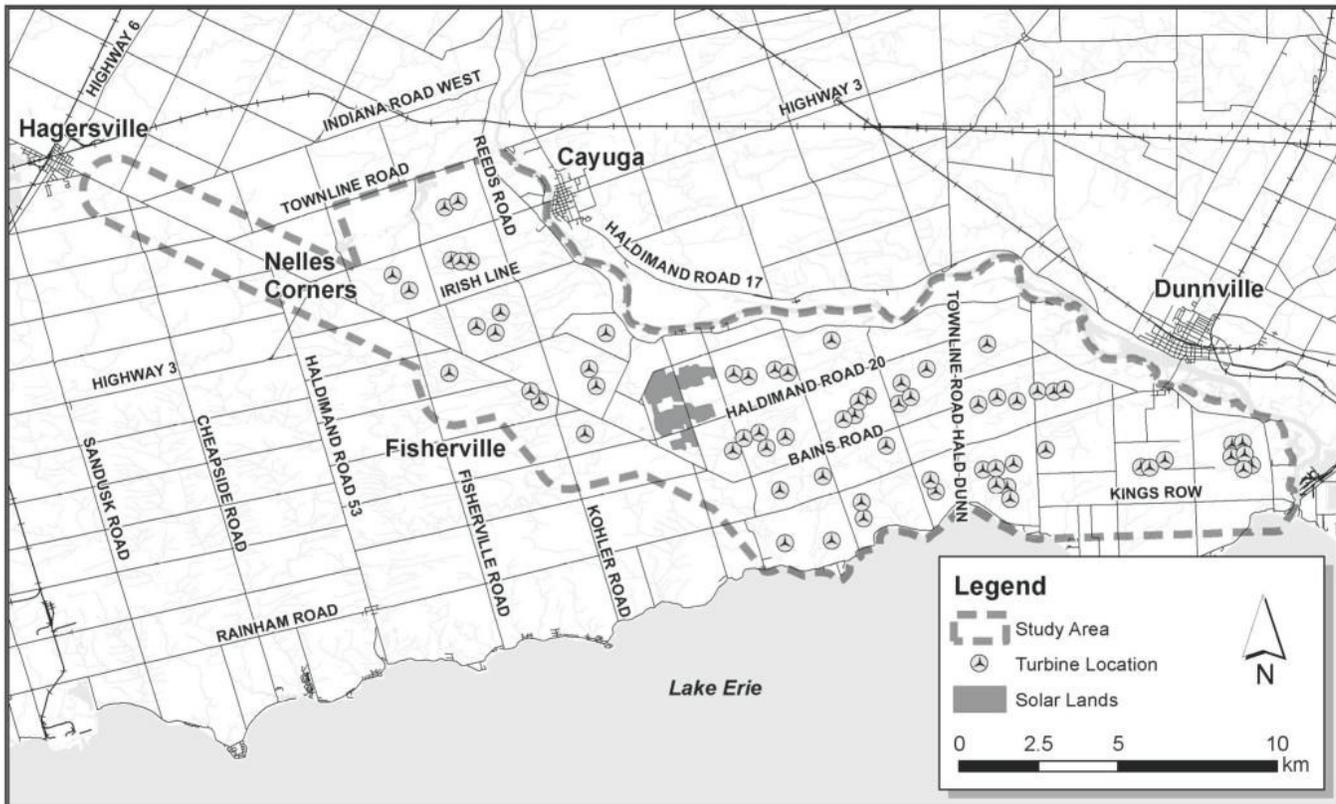
- Welcome & Introductions
- Review of CLC Mandate
- GREP Project Status
- Potential Community Issues
- Communicating During Construction
- Question & Answer Period
- Next Meeting

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The GREP, which consists of the *Grand Renewable Solar Park* and *Grand Renewable Wind Park*, received Renewable Energy Approval (REA) in June 2012 from the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). The wind and solar power cluster, located in Haldimand County, will generate approximately 250 megawatts (MW) of power; 150 MW of wind and 100 MW of solar power.

Approval for these projects was granted by the MOE subject to several terms and conditions including the establishment of a CLC for the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the projects. The formation of the CLC reflects a continuation of positive interaction with the community developed during the approval process, which included public meetings, a project website, presentation to council, project newsletter, and on-site meetings with landowners.

STUDY AREA



QUICK REFERENCE

CLC – Community Liaison Committee

MW - Megawatts

GREP – Grand Renewable Energy Park

REA – Renewable Energy Approval

MOE – Ministry of the Environment

SRE – Samsung Renewable Energy

CLC—MANDATE OVERVIEW

The CLC shall:

- Provide two-way communications including discussion on updates, issues and concerns.
- Focus on construction, operation, and decommissioning of the facility.
- Be guided by principles of **collaboration** and **problem solving, resolution** of issues, **mitigation** of impacts, and encouraging the **use of best practices** in the areas of health safety and the environment.
- Act in an advisory capacity and liaise with the community through the various forums, organizations and community groups that members are involved with.
- Be provided with timely, accurate information on the Project.
- Be guided by a facilitator and have access to the SRE project team at meetings and the SRE office for resources (e.g. photo copying, Project information).

Membership on the CLC is intended to reflect a mix of voices and interests - that is what will help us better understand different perspectives.

The CLC working principles:

- Start on time and end on time
- Respect the agenda
- Participate
- Listen to each other
- Use respectful language
- Only one person should be speaking at a time
- Come to the meeting prepared
- Liaise within your community
- LOL (laughter is welcome... as long as it's not at anyone's expense)

Meetings

- Meeting 1 (held November 20, 2012)
- Meeting 2 (held May 29, 2013)
- **Meeting 3 (Nov. 2013 tentative)**
- Meeting 4 (April 2014 tentative)

Delegations

Recognizing that the meetings are open to the public, the CLC agreed to the following should members of the public wish to speak at future meetings:

- Although the CLC is not the only avenue for people to inquire about the Project, the public should be given the opportunity to do so if they wish.
- In order to prevent such public comments from interfering with the CLC's ability to perform its duties, members of the public who wish to address the CLC will be required to register their name prior to the meeting and allocated time on the agenda at the discretion of the facilitator.

GREP PROJECT STATUS

The Project team provided the following project updates:

- Currently working on Archaeological studies.
- Surveys are underway (migratory bird surveys were completed by Stantec Consulting Limited).
- Permits required prior to construction are being completed.
- In the process of selecting a contractor prior to moving forward with construction.
- Construction of access roads for the wind turbines is expected this summer. Machinery is expected to arrive at the turbine sites and concrete foundations will be installed over late summer and fall. Wind turbines are expected to arrive sometime in early 2014. Completion of wind turbine construction is expected in the first quarter of 2014.
- Solar may proceed under a slightly different schedule than wind as it has a different contractor. Construction on solar fields is likely to start in late summer, early fall. Completion of construction of the solar facility is expected in the first quarter of 2014.
- Solar project is still under final design. Typical ground mounted solar projects use a large drill to install the structure on which the panel is mounted.
- During construction a just in time approach will be implemented for both projects so there will not be prolonged on-site material storage needs. Samsung noted that they are considering erecting a security fence around material and equipment storage areas.
- Videos of the construction process for both wind and solar were presented at the meeting.
- The Community Vibrancy Fund (CVF) will provide funds to the County of Haldimand over the next two decades. These funds will be earmarked for Council approved community related projects and other community needs as determined by Council. The CVF money will become available once the renewable facilities are operational.

WHAT'S THE COMMUNITY SAYING?

Pre-construction:

- The community would like to understand employment opportunities prior to the construction of the site. GREP will be holding a job fair in the community in late Summer/early Fall.

Construction:

- The community is concerned about blasting, and impacts from base construction for wind turbines. Blasting during construction is not anticipated (subject to results from geotechnical analysis and final designs). Each turbine foundation will require an excavated area of approximately 20m in diameter. The depth will vary based on location. Each turbine tower is supported by a 16 m (approx.) diameter, floating concrete foundation. Each site is individually assessed and foundation size varies accordingly.
- The community wanted to know if the wind turbine equipment at the Dunnville airport belonged to the Grand Renewable Wind (GRW) project. It was clarified that the materials do not belong to the GRW project.
- The community has expressed concern about debris at Lakeshore Road in Haldimand. It was clarified that this debris is a result of the Haldimand County Hydro upgrades.
- The County website has a map of all renewable development projects which people can access for information. GRW and Grand Renewable Solar (GRS) are coordinating with the County to minimize impact to lands/roads during the construction phase of the project.
- The community has expressed concern about the traffic and transportation routes that GRW and GRS will use to transport large materials to the construction site. The Project team explained that transportation route studies are underway. These studies will determine the locations where construction and material delivery activities may cross major transportation routes used by the public. The Project team will work with Haldimand County to coordinate traffic concerns. **Action: The route maps will be shared at the next CLC meeting.**

Operation/Maintenance:

- Question was raised about the potential for vibration impact or radiation from the wind turbines on surrounding houses. It was clarified to the CLC that there will be no vibration or radiation coming from the turbines.
- There is concern over wind turbine interference with TV and radio transmission. GRW and GRS have communicated with local TV providers and do not anticipate any interference with TV or radio transmission.
- Is there a difference between the various local projects? To the untrained eye they look the same but GRW's tower is 100 m with a 2.2 MW capacity and NextEra's for example is 80 m with a 1.8 MW capacity. The blades for both types of wind turbines are similar.

WHAT'S THE COMMUNITY SAYING?

What issues do you anticipate as we move forward?

- **Farm insurance:** Some residents expressed concerns about hosting wind turbines and how this may cause problems with their insurance renewals. One of the CLC participants commented that her insurance provider did have a concern initially but with further investigation, the individual did not have any further concerns with obtaining insurance. The Project team indicated that projects hosting wind turbines are not new and have been in Ontario for years. Currently there are insurance providers willing and able to insure.
- **Mortgages:** The community expressed concern over landowners who want to renew their mortgages. The Project team indicated that the GREP team works closely with landowners, and if necessary, their mortgage providers. There have not been any unworkable issues with mortgage providers and the participating landowners. The Project team also noted that there are non-disturbance agreements in place with specific banking institutions.
- **Misinformation:** CLC expressed concern that issues are being blown out of proportion in the community through word of mouth and media. A request was made for proactive, direct, timely and factual information from the project team (a newsletter was suggested). The Project team will work on developing the suggested newsletter.
- **Property values:** The community would like to understand how the project will impact property values. Workbook #1 described that MPAC conducted a study on property values at the Wolfe Island project, which has been in place for a couple of years and did not find a long-term effect on property value. A summary of property value research along with a summary of research on wind and health was distributed.
- **Weed control:** Landowners for the solar farm noted concern over weed growth and maintenance. It was noted that the weed condition may worsen if there is no control over the summer. **Action: Project team will discuss and get back to landowner.**
- **Direct Communication:** The community expressed interest in timely and factual information during various stages of the project.
- **Presentations to the Community:** Presentations to community groups were suggested as one way to continue to inform and educate. It was noted that the community continues to be divided in its opinion about renewable energy and many seem to have settled into those opinions. In this regard some CLC members noted additional presentations may not change people's opinions regarding renewable energy.
- **Compensation:** It was asked whether GRW and GRS were providing compensation to the neighbouring landowners. Project managers for GRW and GRS clarified that this approach was considered early in the project but has since been replaced by the Community Vibrancy Fund which is intended to benefit the broader community.
- **Employment Opportunities:** CLC expressed interest in community employment opportunities during the construction and maintenance of this project. Project managers for GRW and GRS noted that a job fair for both wind and solar are planned.

COMMUNICATING DURING CONSTRUCTION

To date the Project team has been involved in the following consultation and communication activities:

- Ongoing CLC meetings.
- Presentations to interested groups (Lion's Club).
- Landowner's dinner (planning a second dinner).
- Job Fair.
- Article in the Sagem Post.
- Project Newsletter on Project Website.
- Available via telephone and e-mail to answer questions and concerns.

Suggestions heard at previous meeting:

- Monthly column or information notice in a local paper.
- Monthly newsletters.
- Project hotline.
- Facebook and/or Twitter to share project information and respond to inquiries.
- Site office.
- Presentations to community groups.

Consultation and communication during construction is important to keep the community informed. How can we keep you and your community informed?

CLC discussed the use of:

- Social media (twitter and facebook).
- Presentations made to additional community groups.
- A newsletter mailed directly from the Project team.

Feedback on existing communications efforts from CLC:

The CLC thought that the Newsletter was a good idea. Need to have more.

The CLC would like an update and access to information on transportation routes for the delivery of turbine materials.

CLC recommends that the Project team targets communication efforts in the areas where construction will take place (provide information directly to the landowners in this area e.g. place information in their mailbox).

Many community members have difficulty accessing the internet. The website and internet connection in general in the rural areas is very poor and unreliable. The Project team will consider this and provide information through a variety of ways. It was noted that community members can contact the Project team to obtain any of the materials posted online. It was noted that the Haldimand County office is also a resource for the community.

What additional groups should the Project team meet with?

It was recommended that the Project team attend community events and festivals that take place in the community. The Project team noted their presence at several community events including the Mayor's gala as well as acting as a primary sponsor for the 2013 Mud Cat Festival.