



February 26, 2016

## **South Branch Wind Farm Project Community Liaison Committee (CLC) – Meeting Minutes – Meeting #4**

### **Time and Place**

Tuesday February 23, 2016

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Dixon's Corners Community Centre  
10951 Cook Road, County Road 18,  
Brinston ON, K0E 1C0

### **Invited**

Current CLC members/volunteers, EDP Renewables (EDP) representatives, and all interested members of the community

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Meeting purpose, goals and agreements
3. Project update
4. Community Liaison Committee (CLC) review of depositions
5. Q&A/Open discussion

### **Attendees**

Total number of community members in attendance: **4**

Total number of agency members in attendance: **1** (Terri Forrester, MOECC)

### **CLC members present:**

- Francois Lauzon (CLC Chair) from Stantec Consulting Ltd.
- Ceryne Staples (CLC meeting support) from Stantec Consulting Ltd.
- Bill Byker (CLC volunteer)
- Greg Vant Foort (CLC Volunteer)

### **CLC Members regrets:**

- Pieter Biemond (CLC volunteer)
- Chris Bazinet (CLC volunteer)

## Discussion

1. **Welcome and Introductions (CLC Chair).** The meeting was officially opened at 2:14 pm by Francois Lauzon (CLC Chair) with general introductions of CLC member Mr. Bill Byker, as well as Ms. Ceryne Staples from Stantec to assist. EDP staff (Erika Nelson, Ken Little and Nathan Roscoe) were also introduced.
2. **Meeting purpose, goals, and agreements (CLC Chair).** The purpose of the CLC was explained in the context of the CLC Terms of Reference (ToR) and of the Ontario Renewable Energy Act (REA) Approval. The CLC acts as a mechanism for community members to communicate and voice concerns or questions in a community forum and to seek potential resolution of issues relating to the turbine project. It also provides EDP the opportunity to share information about the project with the community.
3. **Project Update (Ken Little and Erika Nelson, EDP).** An update of the South Branch Wind Project was provided by Ken Little and Erika Nelson (EDP). Highlights of the presentation included the following:
  - a) **Bird and bat mortality monitoring update.** The completed 2015 mortality monitoring update should be submitted to the MNRF and MOECC this week. Results indicate consistently low bird mortality, and a decrease in bat mortality [below threshold levels], possibly due to increased searcher efficiency, and effective mitigation measures. Erika Nelson provided context regarding the mitigation measures; the mitigation measures implemented during the bat migration season (July 15- Oct 1) are in accordance with the REA.
  - b) **Acoustic monitoring.** The acoustic audits ran from September 2015 and January 2016 are complete, first draft of acoustic monitoring report will be submitted to the MOECC within the next few weeks. The results indicate that SBWF is in compliance.
  - c) **Operations update.** Operations are quiet and running well, with few issues since the completion of main bearing repairs in September 2015.
4. **Depositions.** No depositions were received prior to today's meeting to be brought forward and addressed. One member of the community did inquire as to the holding of the meeting in the afternoon instead of the evening. A response was provided indicating that the alternating meeting hours had been agreed to during the initial community planning meeting for the set-up of the CLC.
5. **Questions and Answers/Other Discussion**

A series of questions were raised during the open discussion. The questions will be discussed in this section of the summary of discussion.

  - a) A question was asked about what were the actual bat mortality levels from the 2015 monitoring. Ceryne Staples (Stantec) replied that there were approximately 6 bats per turbine in 2015, and 18.5 bats per turbine in 2014. Ken Little (EDP) provided clarification on

what the Ontario threshold for bat mortalities is (10 bats/turbine/year). The reduction was likely attributable to the mitigation measures implemented to reduce turbine operation during migration periods in accordance with the REA.

- b)** A follow-up question to a) asked how many birds were found in 2015. Ceryne Staples replied that bird mortalities were down from 3 birds per turbine in 2014 to approximately 1 bird per turbine in 2015.
- c)** A question was raised regarding the lack of ducks and geese in the fields where the turbines were placed, that there used to be lots, but none are noticed. Bill Byker (CLC volunteer) agreed, mentioning that there used to be many in the past. Ceryne Staples responded, mentioning that she couldn't guess what historical populations would have been. Francois Lauzon (CLC Chair, Stantec) added that this type of information would have been assessed during the original project study/environmental approval. Ken Little brought up the four (4) study turbines in Cardinal, ON, where they looked at wetland impacts, and nothing was flagged for mitigation issues, although they have no concrete numbers.
- d)** A community member raised a question about the soil quality, especially near the northern-most turbines, mentioning the sites were very flooded, especially in the first year. Ken Little responded, that this issue was taken care of, that it was a drain tile issue; crews kept all topsoil separate from subsoil during construction to avoid compaction.
- e)** Greg Vant Foort (CLC Volunteer) asked what species of birds were found in the (2015) mortality surveys. Ms. Staples responded that Wilson's warbler, red-winged blackbird, yellow-bellied sapsucker, sparrow, and ruffed grouse were found; Mr. Byker observed that none were ducks or geese.
- f)** One community member observed that there are 10 turbines, asking why all ten are not running at all times, as there always seems to be at least one or two not running. Erika Nelson (EDP) explained there are shut-downs during ice events or other preventative type of things that are not problems but are part of normal operations. Additionally, it can take Siemens (EDP contractor) 5-6 hours to get onsite if they are not on site already. Ken Little added that if the observations were over six months ago, some of the turbines were down for repairs (main bearing replacement) for extended time periods. Erika Nelson continued, explaining that the main bearing shut-downs were finished in September 2015. A community member followed up, wondering what the fault was. Ms. Nelson explained it was a manufacturing issue but that EDP had worked with Siemens to ensure that all three main bearings were successfully replaced and there haven't been any other issues to date.
- g)** A question was asked regarding whether there would be public access to the acoustic study reports. Erika Nelson responded, explaining that the reports are submitted to agencies in accordance with the REA and are subject to FOIL (Freedom of Information Law) or equivalent statutory requests.



- h) A community member asked if there would be feedback from the report findings provided to the Municipality of South Dundas. Ken Little replied, mentioning that EDP would possibly talk to the Municipality, but that the duration of MOECC approval for submitted reports is lengthy and may delay final results, adding that members of the community are welcome to contact EDP directly. Francois Lauzon mentioned that contact information is on the EDP website.
- i) A question was raised about potential expansion of the project further east. Ken Little replied that this is unknown until March (2016), as there is currently a bidding process underway for the expansion project.
- j) A question regarding how deep the cement bases of the turbines were. Ken Little explained that the cement bases are 4-5m deep, but there are geo-piers that are installed deeper.
- k) A landowner from SBWF raised a concern about some drain tile work that EDP's contractor, wherein he requested a map of the tiling installs, etc. Erika Nelson advised Mr. Henderson that she would work with the contractor to get him a map as soon as the contractor returned from vacation.
- l) Terri Forrester (MOECC) mentioned that there is one MOECC inspection report published, and the second one is due; if anyone is interested in the results, they can contact EDP, or the MOECC.

## **6. Wrap-up/Closing**

This meeting completes the minimum mandatory four CLC meeting. All meeting participants were thanked for coming and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 pm.