

Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy

5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

2:00 p.m.

1. Meeting began with refreshments available convening with welcomes from Mary McPhee and Lois Smith. At approximately 2:10p.m., Agenda discussion began. Present at the meeting: Lois Smith, Mary McPhee, Matt Lumley, Cindy Tupper, Shawna Eason, Robert Yorke, and Frank Hartman.
2. Regrets from Terri McCulloch, Gerard Cormier and Melissa Nevin, reported by Mary McPhee
3. Review of Agenda included the addition of:
  - b) Update on Cumberland Energy Authority by Shawna Eason under 6. New Business.
4. FORCE Update (Matt Lumley, Mary McPhee)  
Matt Lumley provided a one-page overview of FORCE activities ranging in timeline from approximately October 2011 through mid-May, 2012, or 6 months of activity. Discussion ensued as follows:

M. Lumley: September, 2011, Prysmian shipped submarine cable. FORCE received the cable at the end of October, 4 days previous to Grand Opening of the Visitor Centre

M. Lumley: First phase environment monitoring completed, available online. The monitoring amounts to a lot of information, doesn't tell us much, and equates to baseline data. There were damages to monitoring equipment. Tidal Energy folks in UK have taken to referencing to Fundy as "Everest" due to the great challenges at the sites. For now, the baseline data can be interpreted and commercial comparisons can be made.

M. Lumley: Substation construction completed January, 2012, representing the largest portion of dollars for the capital components of the project. Substation equipment installations completed by and large throughout March 2012. The Transmission Line has been progressing well, with NSP installing the poles, having that part of the process recently completed. Transmission Line will be completed very shortly, and substation equipment and electric work finalized in coming months.

M. Lumley: NSP withdrew from berth in January 2012, handing marine developments over to EMERA.

**R. Yorke:** What financial impacts will this cause with FORCE?

M. Lumley: As far as financial impacts, this causes none really to FORCE, actually frees a berth, for which there has already been a lot of interest. Turbines and berths separate from FORCE, involving the Provincial Department of Energy.

**C. Tupper:** FORCE is not involved with berths at all?

M. Lumley: We show people around site, host companies, people from all over the world. They come to us for information on the site conditions, environment, and technology.

**L. Smith:** FORCE is akin to a landlord?

Matt Lumley: FORCE is more so a supervisor, the Province is the landlord.

M. Lumley: The Province hosted a Research & Development forum last week, which saw delegates come to Parrsboro for part of the conferencing.

M. McPhee: Topics on Tidal Energy were discussed. The group came in Town on Thursday night, stayed at local inns, went out for dinner at Bare Bones, spent Friday at FORCE, had sessions at the Visitor Centre, toured the substation, and had lunch catered to the VC.

M. Lumley: Province this month released Marine Energy report, available on the website (copies provided). Feed-in tariff for community tidal has been established. Waiting for Utility and Review Board to establish rates for large-scale tidal. The Feed-in Tariff will be established prior to installation of turbines.

**C. Tupper:** Wouldn't we then expect the technology will get cheaper?

M. Lumley: Typically after technology is proven, and a commercialized.

**C. Tupper:** Have they solved problem of attachment of cable to turbine?

M. Lumley: Each developer has difference requests. We're garnering a lot of information from EMEC deployments. It's a slow process. Actually, with the R&D Forum last week in Halifax, Stuart Baird from EMEC faced questions on why FORCE is so slow. His response involved EMEC started in 2001, but had no device in until 3 years ago, as well as defining that the site here is a very different resource.

**C. Tupper:** So a target for production is still 3000 MW?

M. Lumley: We're a long way off of that number. Provincial strategy calls for 300 MW by 2020. It's a slow process, people expect speed.

M. McPhee: Resource is also huge, lots of challenges.

**C. Tupper:** What has been or will be of most benefit to local area?

M. Lumley: Most input into area is through Rafe's as contractor on infrastructure, construction of VC, substation, main contractor.

M. McPhee: Subcontracts as well, operations, supplies.

M. Lumley: Likely will continue this way, additional and continued reliance on marine connections like local boat operators.

**C. Tupper:** This is not seen by public, or communicated to public.

M. Lumley: Discussion or comments on Croyden Jr. tribute?

Consensus commentary on the plaque developed for the VC.

M. Lumley: We were going to see the installation of all submarine cable sections. That's changed, ALSTOM announced they won't deploy until 2013. The site is not a place we want to have cable sitting underwater idle for longer than necessary. There will be announcements in the near future regarding the cable deployment. ADCP monitoring has also been completed, including each of the berth sites. FORCE has nearly all capital around project completed, with the exception of the cable install.

**R. Yorke:** Has IT done dry runs?

M. Lumley: Not yet. No firm dates for dry runs have been established, set to go ahead this year.

M. McPhee: Visitor Centre Update. Scheduling, school tours beginning, and working with Fundy Geological Museum coordinating tours. Hiring summer students. Have just hired Samantha Shaw as post-secondary Student Assistant with grant from NS Student Career Skills Development program. Hoping to bring on another student. Application and interview process.

The VC is operating under limited hours, closed on Mondays, will be altering schedule for summer months. Feedback welcome on Centre.

**C. Tupper:** Closing on Mondays? Would closing another day be better, with most holidays falling on Mondays, with long weekends too?

Discussion ensued on VC operations, consensus of members was that closing the Centre on Tuesdays rather than Monday, as well as being open seven days per week in the July & August. Further discussion on the VC included points on a possible weather/MET station, as well as possibly use of the VC by community groups.

## 5. Old Business

M. McPhee addressed the group the intent to solidify a regular schedule for the CLC meetings, i.e. suggestions of quarterly updates, meetings, etc. As described, this would allow for more updates that CLC members can then take back to the community.

**C. Tupper:** Suggested that updates in winter, spring and fall would be appropriate, with a break during summer while the VC and other operations take precedent.

Discussion on the subject resulted in consensus as per C. Tupper's comments.

M. McPhee introduced the review of environmental monitoring and assessment updates, saying that input had been provided from Joe Kozak, FORCE Environmental Lead, and indicated that Matt Lumley would also illuminate the situation with the environmental research.

M. Lumley reviewed the focuses of the intense environmental monitoring and assessment, indicating that the program is busy, with much ongoing research. He indicated that more fish research had been completed, but that there was still a need for ongoing work, in order to have a good baseline for impending commercial tidal technologies.

**C. Tupper:** Is one year of research not enough for these subjects?

M. Lumley: No, as issues keep arising that change the questions which the research answers. For example, with sea ice, there are possible issues, but the past two winters, relatively no ice.

M. McPhee: There has been a renewed interested in exploring amateur monitoring, particularly bird research, i.e. sea bird monitoring. The question was posed to the members as to whether or not the public or CLC contacts may be interested in such programs.

**R. Yorke:** There were interested individuals in the community (i.e. Diane and John Meadows) but people didn't want to travel to Halifax to be trained so perhaps more local training would be of interest.

## 6. New Business

M. McPhee indicated that there had been suggestions from members, and the public as to adding to the membership of the CLC, i.e. additional fishers, boat operators, or mariners, as well as those connected with environmental groups. Examples provided include the Ecology Action Centre (EAC), as well as the Weir Fishers' Association.

**C. Tupper:** Motion to pursue additional membership to the CLC as per discussion (Weir Fisher, perhaps a representative from EAC or equivalent).

**L. Smith:** Second motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

M. McPhee invited Shawn Eason to give an update on the Cumberland Energy Authority.

S. Eason indicated that the Cumberland Energy Authority comprises of the Towns of Springhill and Parrsboro, as well as the County, with the guidance from CREDA. An energy strategy committee for Cumberland County had been created. Energy highlights of the 3 municipal units include wind, tidal, geothermal, and solar. The communities and the CEA staff focus on marketing the strategy, in order to attract developers. In April 2012, the CEA was formalized with a Signing Ceremony. Agreements between the municipalities lead to the creation of the CEA. The CEA creates a single point of contact for energy in the region, with staff being dedicated solely to energy. The CEA is intended to be an impartial group, allowing communities to own and manage individual projects, paying out both operations costs, as well as dividends. A great deal of the CEA's work involves funding programs, special project agreements, landowner/right-of-way agreements, etc.

**M. Lumley:** Which developers are involved?

S. Eason: 8 developers currently involved. COMFIT project, restrictions include grid restrictions in Amherst area.

**M. Lumley:** Who makes the choices about potential developers?

S. Eason: The Department of Energy for the Province. The possibility of developing an independent turbine has been discussed. This type of development would see devices with a 50KW capacity at the largest scale, though it depends on capacity. Such developments are anticipated to supply additional municipal sustainability. Upcoming events include a public forum on wind, occurring June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, where non-developers can receive information on the subjects. The event is to take place at the Amherst Public Library from 6:30-8:00p.m. Currently, few public issues, but those existing issues include: property valuation/devaluation, selling of energy elsewhere, rumours, rate increases, issues with provincial utility/NSP.

7. No further discussion, some chatting ensued, and refreshments were available.
8. Next meeting date was set for the autumn, specifically: Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 at 2:00PM.
9. L. Smith moved to adjourn.