



Fundy Ocean Research Center for Energy

**8<sup>TH</sup> Meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC)**

Boardroom/Theater

FORCE Visitor Centre - 1156 West Bay Road

Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Minutes**

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 10:42am. The Agenda, 2009 Terms of Reference document, and EEMP update were circulated. As well, the minutes had been circulated electronically previous to the meeting. Present at the meeting were: Cindy Tupper (CT), Lois Smith (LS), Robert Yorke (RY), Frank Hartman (FH), and Mary McPhee (MM). Melissa Nevin (MN) had called in to report she was running late, and joined the meeting at 11:00. Regrets had been received from Don Fletcher, Andrew Wagstaff, Gerard Cormier, Ken Adams, and Steven Collinson.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting & Business Arising**

CLC Membership discussion/update warranted (RY). On-going need to have participation from lobster fishers. CT reported that after contacting the Ecology Action Centre, she had received no response from the oceans contact. MM suggested that membership discussion be tabled for the "New Business" section of the Agenda, all agreed. Upon review of the minutes of the meeting of Nov.26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, there were no other pressing issues. CT relayed a question that she had received at her work regarding the FORCE data cable; an inquiry as to the way in which the Data Cable was integrated on the beach. MM responded that the data cable is buried subterranean from the surf zone to a temporary termination on the beach berm, describing that this cable would eventually be terminated into a vault, but in the meantime, can be tested, and connected to at the temporary termination.

**3. New Business:**

a) CLC Membership and TOR

The matter of members who consistently do not attend meetings and events concerning tidal energy was discussed, as to the value to the CLC discussion requiring member engagement. In addition to fishers, the membership feels that individuals who are interested and engaged with the FORCE project and tidal energy should be approached. MM told the membership that she would continue to have conversations with lobster fishers re. CLC participation. The membership discussed the merits of inviting various lobster fishers to the regular CLC meeting, based on the premise that even if a

different fisher were present at each meeting, there would be a lobster fisher present to provide feedback to the CLC discussions from that important stakeholder group. There was a consensus among the membership as to this process for engaging local lobster fishers to be involved in CLC meetings. CT brought up the membership list, and discussion ensued that the CLC presence on the FORCE website should be updated, both in membership, Terms of Reference (TOR) and minutes. The members discussed the value of sharing media and social media postings to keep people informed of the FORCE project.

The TOR "Objectives" were reviewed, and all agreed that this section didn't require any changes. CT brought up the issue of misinformation of the public re. the FORCE project, saying that many people have the viewpoint that the project will "never-go-anywhere," and further, that there is misunderstanding surrounding the FORCE organization, and for example, after the OpenHydro turbine deployment in 2009, no distinction between FORCE and NSPI. The membership showed agreement on CT's comments, and the discussion evolved to the role of the CLC being important in bringing understanding to the public of the project. MN suggested that an operational flow chart be posted prominently on the website, and perhaps made into an interactive format (ie. Hovering over the "CLC" bubble on the org. chart would bring up a little description of the CLC, and define where it fits in the FORCE structure). There was consensus with this idea being a means of effectively communicating the FORCE project outline.

The TOR "Membership" section brought about discussion about the number of members, efficacy of members who consistently don't participate, and the effective number for Committee membership. It was agreed that 12 is an effective number of members, but the desire to have allowance for 15 members to include key stakeholder groups (like lobster fishers) would be an improvement to the TOR. MN added that this would allow the invitation of various fishers to meetings to attend when an opportunity presents itself. MM added that if the membership wished, additional "special guests" could be invited to individual regular CLC meetings to make a presentation. RY shared that he liked the idea of inviting special guests, bringing more information to meetings. MM asked if the membership was in agreement to the principal of guest speakers/special guests, and all present were in agreement. MM explained that if the membership wished to have special guests, or had ideas for guest speakers/presentations, they should let her know, and FORCE could facilitate these types of presentations. MN suggested an edit to the wording of the TOR which describes Mi'kmaq representation, to read simply: "A Mi'kmaq representative will be invited by contacting the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative (KMK), representing the NS Mi'kmaq communities." Discussion around the FORCE representative followed, including the role of the FORCE rep as the Secretariat, and coordinator, who provides committee support and manages the CLC. This combined with the requirement that a FORCE rep always be present at CLC meetings warrants wording to describe this role. Further, because a FORCE rep is required, and the FORCE rep manages the Committee, this rep doesn't need to be a "Chair" position. Discussion of the Co-Chairs followed with emphasis on Co-Chairs being community representatives, and having two "Community Co-chairs" to share the responsibilities of growing the CLC's role, championing membership, and bringing requests to FORCE for the CLC meetings. MM told the membership that she had discussed the matter with Co-chair Lois Smith. LS added that two Community Co-chairs could share the responsibility of the CLC. The Co-chairs reported that discussion with long-time CLC member Gerard Cormier had been positive and Gerard (who was out-of-Province on a family visit) was willing to stand as Community Co-Chair with Lois Smith. The membership felt a formal motion/nomination was warranted. RY nominated Gerard Cormier to Community Co-Chair,

moving that the CLC adopt Community Co-Chairs. Discussion ensued as to the sharing of the Community Co-Chairs positions, as well as a staggered 2-year term for the Co-chairs, allowing for renewal but also continuity. CT seconded the motion to establish GC with LS as Community Co-chairs of the CLC. Consensus among the membership, all were in agreement. The final discussion on the TOR membership section was towards annual review of the CLC membership, with the premise that the membership be discussed actively, as needed, with a review at least every two years. There were a few outdated statements in the TOR document noted. MM will edit the TOR document and circulate, and move forward the TOR as required.

b) FORCE project update

MM reported the successful installation of the FORCE Data Cable in December 2013; this cable being the link which the FAST platform will be connected to, in order to move sensor data and provide real-time information re. the FORCE site. RY asked if the platform would be AC powered. MM responded that DC configuration could be utilized, using a sea-earth return, but that the sensor platform will be equipped with batteries and many sensors have internal batteries.

MM told the membership that FORCE had undergone regular Strategic Planning sessions over the winter, involving Board, and all-staff of FORCE in a multi-step process.

MM told the membership that there were two new independent Board Members, Paul Jamer and Janet MacMillan. MM announced the addition of Simon Melrose as FAST project manager, and the exciting addition of Anne-Marie Belliveau to the FORCE team as Director of Operations. MM described Anne-Marie's dual role; after the recent retirement of FORCE's beloved Joe Kozak as Environmental Programs lead, Anne-Marie would take the lead on Environmental Programs for FORCE. The membership expressed their best wishes to Joe Kozak in his retirement, and MM told the membership that Joe is missed by the FORCE team, but remaining in communication often.

MM shared with the membership on-going work on the FAST program, including steps toward the platform, moorings, and the selection of sensors by the Science Advisory Board. CT asked when the FAST platform would be launched. MM responded that first a mini-platform or test node would be deployed, and that test node was already in-progress for tests later this year. CT asked what the mooring work would contribute to. MM responded that mooring technology was important to both FAST, in keeping the platform in position, being able to recover the platform, but also, mooring technology is important piece of the puzzle in the power cable deployment.

MM relayed the announcement of two new berth-holders into the FORCE project from March, namely OpenHydro/EMERA and Black Rock Tidal Power (Schottel). In addition to these new berth-holders, the Province of NS awarded \$4.2million to FORCE which will go toward expanding the electrical capacity at FORCE.

MM shared with the membership that the FORCE subsea power cable deployment was being planned for this year, the installation would follow months of preparation, risk assessment, planning, work on the cable terminations and preparation in Parrsboro as well as other locations. MM told the membership that updates would be forth-coming on the power cable project.

### c) EEMP (Environmental Programs) update

In addition to the handout circulated, MM reviewed the EEMP updates with the membership. CT asked about progress in the Wetlands Compensation and why this compensation was required. MM responded that the compensation processes were in conjunction with the approval to complete the wetlands trenching project. MN described the process of FORCE consultation with the Mi'kmaq, including on the archaeology while the excavation of the cable trench would be in progress. MM described that the wetlands compensations is specifically in place as the trench for the cable will temporarily interrupt a watercourse of upland flows that enters the wetland in question and the formal term for this is "Watercourse Alteration;" in order for FORCE to proceed with this cable installation, there was a process of consultation, and applications to Department of Environment, Dept. Natural Resources, and a permit for Heritage Research (due to excavation) in conjunction with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. MM explained the involvement of a student to complete a monitoring project on the wetland over the course of the summer. The membership expressed an interest in an update meeting on the Power Cable project. MM responded that a community update would occur in advance of the cable installation.

### d) Visitor Centre details

MM shared the hours of operation with the membership, with the Visitor Centre (VC) opening May 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am-5pm Wednesday-Monday, closed on Tuesdays thru end/June, following 7-days-a-week operation through July & August, with expected reduced hours in September & October, though staying open this year through first week of November due to the ICOE (International Conference on Ocean Energy) happening this year in Halifax, with delegations visiting FORCE. FORCE would hope to employ two students again this summer, including a university student and local high school student. MM announced that FORCE was excited to have student Hanna Doyle join the FORCE team for the summer, including participation in the wetlands compensation. MM shared that FORCE had established a part-time non-student position for the FORCE VC and Carrie Goodwin would begin work at the VC the following day. MM told the membership that a second student would be hired to work with the VC team for July & August. MM updated the members that several student/school tours had happened during the month of May, and a busy season was anticipated at the VC.

## **2. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

MM reminded the membership of the Public Meeting at The Hall on King St. in Parrsboro occurring the evening of May 20<sup>th</sup>, with representatives from Berth-Holders, and FORCE presenting re. the FORCE project. Discussion on a next meeting was directed towards waiting to establish the meeting date around the end of the VC season and depending on the power cable project. However, established sharing of updates via email would be crucial. MN asked for additional updates to the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative/KMK when the trenching work occurs (MN and MM resolved to meet and discuss the Approvals and Wetlands Compensation). Consideration of the ICOE conference and later VC season would be considered in deciding on a next meeting date.

\*CT requested discussion re. a letter for Clyde McPhee to acknowledge his contributions to the FORCE Project (as Mr. McPhee is very ill) on the logistics for the Open Hydro turbine in 2009. MN suggested a plaque. MM suggested CT provide suggested wording to Matt Lumley, FORCE. Consensus was to move forward with this initiative. CT will provide wording to Matt Lumley.