



Fundy Ocean Research Center for Energy

## **11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC)**

Fundy Geological Museum  
162 Two Islands Road, Parrsboro, NS  
Wednesday, December 16th, 2015

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Gerard Cormier at 7:11 p.m. The Agenda was circulated (the minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated electronically). Present at the meeting were: Gerard Cormier (GC), Carys Burgess (CB), Steven Collinson (SC), Sarah Dawson (SD) – Cape Sharp Tidal Venture, Lois Smith (LS), Robert Yorke (RY), and Mary McPhee (MM). Regrets were received from Don Fletcher, Tom MacLaren, Cindy Tupper, and Andrew Wagstaff. Members exchanged greetings. The Agenda was approved as circulated.

#### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting we approved as circulated. LS noted that there was consensus from those who had reviewed the minutes.

#### **3. Old Business:**

##### **a. Membership – Community Co-Chairs**

Members discussed the concept of staggered terms for Community Co-Chairs to ensure continuity. There was general consensus about the concept but the adoption of Tom MacLaren as Co-Chair had not been made official. CB asked if other members had volunteered and offered service as Co-Chair if required. Further discussion followed, the plan being to have Gerard Cormier remain as co-chair for another year to end/2016, and initiate Tom MacLaren into a two-year term to end/2017. Consensus was reached on the action of this plan. GC and MM to meet with Tom MacLaren.

##### **b. CLC Membership Update – Website**

Members discussed the need for an update to the CLC page on the FORCE website, particularly membership. The option of promoting use of conference call discussion for member participation in CLC meetings was discussed. MM to follow up on CLC web presence, updates.

##### **c. CLC Substation Field Trip**

As identified, some CLC members have yet to tour the FORCE Substation. It was noted that eventually the substation would be an active generating station, thus the need for organizing such a tour soon for members who wished to join. MM to coordinate with those members who expressed interest in a substation tour.

#### 4. New Business

##### a. FORCE Project Update (EEMP, FAST, Electrical Upgrades)

MM updated the membership on the latest developments for the new EEMP, sharing the progress toward the release of RFPs for various studies in 2016, and the following steps to implement studies. Anne-Marie Belliveau, FORCE Environmental Programs lead had prepared an update for sharing which will be included in the CLC web page content. MM told the members that deployment of both FAST 1 and FAST 2 would be occurring in the coming months, and shared excitement over the positive testing with both platforms, including “Fish Cam” and hydrophone acoustic collection, as well as the sharing of live data. CB asked about the relocation of the FAST platform and whether the platform would be deployed at a particular berth at the FORCE site. MM replied that the approaching deployment would not be in a specified berth, but on the SW corner of the site. CB asked if that was in proximity of Berth E and MM confirmed that it was in proximity to the location of Berth E, generally – having been chosen based on sea floor characteristics with data available.

##### b. FORCE Site Update (Visitor Centre, Media, Milestones, Staffing)

MM provided updates on the FORCE site, including the successful visitor season, which saw over 5400 visitors, and additional tours booked and executed since, with increasing demand for tours during the winter months. MM shared the immense satisfaction with student support in 2015, relaying that student intern Tyler Boucher had been retained by FORCE for his Ocean Technology and Marine Biology expertise. MM shared that local part-time support had been incredible, with Patty Wood having been involved in the public programs over the summer, and the more recent part-time capacity provided by the very competent and hard-working Sandra Currie. MM described the use of the FORCE site as an operations base, and the increasing activity on site. MM highlighted many of the media pieces from 2015. Finally, MM shared that FORCE had hired a new technical director, Andrew Lowery, who is based in Halifax working directly on the FAST program and R&D.

##### c. Fifth Berth

Membership discussed the addition of DP Energy to the FORCE roster, working in Partnership with Atlantis. Members commented on the excitement at the obvious interest in working at the FORCE site.

*\*Membership discussed and decided to amend Agenda, calling for item g. to be exchanged with item d. Therefore the discussion turned next to the update from Cape Sharp Tidal Venture. See section g. Following this decision, a break of 5 minutes was observed by members.*

##### d. Marine Operations & Fishing Activity \*

MM reported that day-to-day liaison with fishers in the local area was generally good, and added that the sharing of information through the Fishers Liaison Group was proving to be a good method of information sharing. MM noted that there was an incident of compromised lobster fishing gear in West Bay during operations, but added that there had been quick action, recovery of gear and discussion on resolution resulting after the incident.

##### e. Site Access & Safety

Members discussed the issues surrounding West Bay Road conditions which often prohibit safe, comfortable access to the FORCE site. Members discussed the potential for Cumberland County and the Cumberland Energy Authority to influence the Provincial authorities to address these issues with the unprecedented traffic on West Bay Road due to FORCE site, and the public safety risks presented by road conditions. SC asked MM if there were implications that FORCE site was to blame for the conditions of the road and MM replied that in fact there were such implications, due to increased

traffic volume from visitors and operational traffic. Members shared consensus that there was a legitimate risk to public safety presented by the road. MM described regular communications with Department of Transportation, and the timing of actions in response and in completion of regular maintenance.

f. CLC Meeting & Engagement Schedule

The discussion turned to schedule of CLC meetings. MM noted that some members had expressed desire for more meetings, i.e. quarterly. RY stated that some were not interested in more meetings as there isn't additional information. GC noted that meetings weren't the only method of CLC engagement. MM added that public events may be a good use of CLC time. RY described his outlook on CLC role as being the provision of information and social context to the community, and local community groups. Discussion followed regarding the value of community offices by the turbine developers, and liaison with the Board of trade, Cumberland Energy Authority and CLC being a key relationship. LS told the group that the Cumberland Energy Authority would host another energy symposium in spring of 2016. ICOE 2016 was mentioned as an important event for regional presence.

g. Cape Sharp Tidal Venture Update \*

SD described the major milestones that had been reached for the CSTV project this year. These included the installation of connector cables at the FORCE site, which required the recovery of the FORCE subsea cable, a task that was certainly of a high degree of difficulty. SC asked SD if CSTV was working in relation to the Berth E at the site and SD clarified that CSTV was working at Berth D. SD informed the members of the activities of Open Hydro's parent company DCNS, with a turbine project in France, which was described by many as a world first, involving the deployment of two large Open Hydro turbines in France. RY asked SD if the lunar cycle (tidal cycle) was important to the operations schedule for turbine deployment. CB replied that for the turbine deployment it matters little, but the ebb tide is preferred over the flood for deployment. SD told the members of the second huge 2015 milestone for CSTV, which was the build and deployment/launch of the deployment barge for the turbine project. Known as the Scotia Tide, the installation barge is a catamaran style, and is docked in Pictou near the subsea base for the turbines. SD indicated that tow trials and sensor testing would be completed in advance of the barge's voyage with the turbines. CB updated the members on the CSTV environmental monitoring program, indicating that DFO was reviewing the program, and CSTV would provide clarifications on any questions of the program. DFO science review would be completed in the coming months. CB described the main components of the program as fish monitoring, marine mammal monitoring and acoustics monitoring. CB described the turbine tow trials which would be completed in the coming months. Further, CB indicated that the environmental monitoring program included real-time data and required intense data management. CB told the members that following deployment, CSTV would report to DFO the results of monitoring, and DFO would respond, informing the second phase of the monitoring. CB described the testing of the sensors in laboratory setting, as well as at a fish farm and in-field on the turbine, indicating that the program would look at specific fish species. Using sonar, camera and acoustic technology would allow response to tightening criteria for monitoring. CB indicated that CSTV is working with Acadia University and others for comparison data, and analysis. SC asked CB if metal detection was included in the monitoring. CB indicated that it was not. CB indicated that there was a risk to sensors posed by impact with large debris in the water column. SD described to the membership that CSTV was discussing the opening of a community office in Parrsboro area, and said that they were currently looking at locations. She indicated that the office would be open 1-2 days per week occasionally, up to every second week. SD indicated that CSTV would focus on sharing information with the public at the community office and also utilize it as an operations base.

**5. Action Items**

- 1) MM & GC to meet with Tom MacLaren, hold discussion re. CLC Community Co-Chairs, 2016

activities.

- 2) MM to coordinate updates to CLC page on FORCE website.
- 3) MM to coordinate w/ members regarding tour of FORCE substation.
- 4) MM, GC and Tom MacLaren to meet to discuss CLC future meetings, events & opportunities.

## **6. Round-Table**

GC suggested a round-table query of any final points or questions. GC asked if LS had any news/update on the Parrsboro wharf developments. LS responded that Harbour Commission would be sending letters to investors asking for support & funding. LS added that after consultation of an engineer, there were 3 options available and the Harbour Commission was pursuing a re-building of the wharf, to a shorter, wider structure. GC asked for any additional comments or questions from members. SD (Cape Sharp Tidal Venture) added that she had no questions but was excited for the turbine deployment operations. GC asked SD how soon after deployment the turbines would be inter-connected to the FORCE cabling/electrical infrastructure. SD responded that the turbine cables would be connected than lowered following installation of the base & turbine. SD added that CSTV would be back in the community before deployment to provide updates and liaison, noted that CSTV were working on their deployment communications plan, and were considering opening a community office in Parrsboro.

## **7. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

Membership discussed the potential for an April 2016 meeting, in order to increase likelihood of fisher participation (in advance of heavy fishing activity in spring). Discussion ensued on the use of a calendar update using an online interface for future meetings. April 6<sup>th</sup> was discussed as a potential meeting date. Further discussion included the potential for a change of date in the coming months. MM & Co-Chairs to coordinate.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.