



Fundy Ocean Research Center for Energy

Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Meeting

FORCE Visitor Centre
1156 West Bay Road, Black Rock
Tuesday, May 24th, 2016

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Gerard Cormier at 12:17pm, after those present had gathered and settled in with their lunch. The Agenda and copies of the Minutes of the last meeting were circulated; both documents having been circulated previously in electronic format. Present at the meeting were: Gerard Cormier (GC), Carys Burgess (CB), guest Sarah Dawson from Cape Sharp Tidal Venture (SD), Robert Yorke (RY), Lois Smith (LS), Cindy Tupper (CT), Tom MacLaren (TM), John Brownlie (JB), and Mary McPhee (MM). Those gathered gave introductions around the table. Regrets were received from Don Fletcher, Melissa Nevin, and Croyden Wood. Mary McPhee informed the membership that Steven Collinson had tendered his resignation from the CLC earlier in the month.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

GC asked the membership if they had all reviewed the minutes of the last meeting. Hearing from the membership that they had reviewed the minutes, the Co-chair asked for any errors or omissions. GC asked Mary McPhee to clarify the asterisk and notes in the document. MM reminded the members that during the previous meeting, the members had asked to change the order of procedure, allowing for a break and discussion of the Cape Sharp Tidal update earlier in the meeting. LS noted that the dates for the Cumberland Energy Symposium were 22 and 23 September, 2016; LS and MM commented as to the planning already underway for the Symposium. The minutes were approved as circulated.

3. Old Business

a. Membership Update – Co-Chairs and Website

MM told the membership that FORCE staff would ensure updates to the CLC portion of the FORCE website, including membership, minutes. GC welcomed John Brownlie to the CLC membership.

b. CLC Substation Field Trip

GC asked the membership for interest in a visit to the substation. JB identified that he hadn't visited, and TM said that he would go again. SD spoke to tour with DCNS personnel including a substation visit. JB asked about the background of DCNS, and SD informed the members that DCNS was a French group which has 60% ownership of the OpenHydro organization. MM offered that if timing aligned for a period of non-operational work at the substation, a visit could be coordinated.

c. West Bay Road – Site Access & Safety

Members expressed continued concerns for the condition of and maintenance of West Bay Road, as well as the hazards to public visiting the site. MM updated the members that most recent communications with Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal staff provided indications that the roadway would be graded, graveled and repaired by mid-June.

d. CLC Engagement

Members discussed the attendance of the latest FORCE Fishers Liaison Group meeting by TM & GC, in Truro, NS in March, 2016. GC & TM provided some comments on the discussion from the meeting, including questions regarding environmental effects monitoring, and the presentations made regarding the FORCE EEMP. Members discussed the potential for CLC members to attend upcoming events such as public updates, and other regional discussions regarding tidal energy.

4. New Business:

a. CLC Membership 2016

GC reminded the members that the staggered Community Co-Chair term system would result in his term ending in the autumn, requiring discussion towards who would take on the next term. Members briefly discussed the membership roster and potential for new members. There were no concrete suggestions for additional members. The resignation of Steven Collinson and the addition of John Brownlie to the CLC were again noted. JB provided a few comments about his interest in the CLC and information sharing.

b. FORCE Project Update (EEMP, FAST, Electrical Upgrades)

MM described to the members the in-progress status of electrical upgrades at the substation. RY asked if the electrical transformers had been updated. MM indicated that the large substation transformer was on order. MM indicated that Cape Sharp Tidal Venture/Open Hydro electrical equipment was being worked on, as well as overall substation components like potential transformers. MM gave quick updates on the testing for various FAST sensor platforms, indicating successful testing of the large FAST 1 platform within the turbine site, as well as continual testing and data transfer from FAST 2 node platform, which had been deployed to deeper water in February. Members discussed the various instruments including the camera system, physical oceanography data instruments like those for current measurements, and the hydrophones onboard the platform. MM indicated that FORCE had commissioned a third sensor platform, FAST 3, which will advance the abilities of the FAST program and will carry a suite of instruments dedicated to monitoring marine organisms. MM mentioned the developments around the Cumberland Energy Authority and supply chain activities. LS commented to the activities of the Harbour Commission in regards to infrastructure upgrades and the wharf at Parrsboro Harbour, as well as increasing activities of the Cumberland Energy Authority. MM reviewed the details of the new EEMP studies which will be ongoing, including the programs for seabirds, acoustics, marine mammals, lobster and fish. JB asked what kind of equipment would be used for the fish study. MM responded that the survey team would be using down-looking acoustics, high end echo-sounder system, looking at distribution of fish in FORCE site area and control areas. TM asked if the EEMP studies would be gathering more information before turbine deployment. MM indicated the studies were commencing and would be ongoing, and mentioned that the adaptive management approach would include input from DFO and Department of Environment during the process. CB added that these regulators (DFO, etc.) were involved with the application and granting of the EA for FORCE project, in advance of the first EEMP studies. The discussion turned to the EEMP for Cape Sharp Tidal Venture, including how the turbine operates, and how sensors will operate on the turbine. CB described the instrumentation that would be utilized on the turbine and gave details about CSTV's DFO review and letter of advice. Members discussed the testing going on in other test sites. JB asked for confirmation that there was nothing from the various tests to suggest harm to marine life so far. MM indicated that tests in the UK and EU had not observed any ill effects. CB



added that in the OpenHydro deployments in Europe, there had been instances of Pollock feeding near the turbine bases at slack tide and that the fish had been observed moving away as the current picked up.

c. FORCE Visitor Centre 2016 Season

MM described to the members the early season activities and the hiring of students. MM described three student positions (two of 14-week duration, filled by Catlyn McLellan and the veteran student Phoenix Bard-Cavers, who would be assisting with increased capacity in this season, as well as one 8-week position which had not been filled yet). CT asked if there was a high school position. MM responded that no high-school student funding had been awarded this year, saying that even the 8 week position funding was for a more advanced student under programs and project activities. MM stated hope that a local student would be secured for this position in the near future. MM described increasing bookings for tours and told the membership that the hours of operation for the Visitor Centre would continue to be Thursday-Monday 10am-5pm until end of June, then increase to daily operation for July & August; MM indicated that towards the end of summer, mid-September or before, the operations would be reduced again to Thursday-Monday until the end of the season.

d. Big Moon Power

GC provided an overview of general concern for the activities of Big Moon Power in the local community, including the perceived disregard for local community, and relations with stakeholders. Various members posed the questions: 'why was Big Moon Power allowed to operate as they did?' and 'who are they accountable to?' MM responded that Big Moon Power was allocated permission to complete a testing program from the Provincial Government. She added that FORCE staff provided local contact information to Big Moon Power and urged them to contact community leaders, fishers, and residents. MM confirmed that FORCE had received several calls and emails regarding Big Moon Power operations, and they were able to provide contact information to those who reached out to them.

e. Marine Operations & Fishing Activity – Fishers Liaison

GC summarized the recent discontent expressed by some members of the public in media, including CBC. GC noted that there were many references to harm that would come to lobsters and fish such as herring from turbines operation. Several members commented that they had noted inaccurate information in some media sources. There was discussion about two key groups of opposition to tidal power, including one group with a great amount of inaccurate information, and the other group presenting seemingly more accurate citations and information. CT stated that in the community she had heard more so questions from fishers about exclusion from traditional fishing grounds. SD responded, explaining that there was not a case for exclusion, but there was an examination of risk in the area of turbine testing and research. MM added that bordering the FORCE site and nearby areas, there were currently instances of lobster fishing, for example, but that FORCE had engaged fishers to get feedback about a safety zone around the site and cabling to ensure the protection of fishers and their gear as well as scientific equipment. MM described the Cable Safety Zone as a tool to identify risks for fishers who operate near the FORCE site, and told the members that if they received questions from fishers or other community members that FORCE would be happy to address the questions, respond and carry on actively meeting with fishers.

f. CLC Meeting & Engagement Schedule

Members discussed ideas about meeting schedule, including some who felt 4 meetings per year would be desirable. Some expressed that there was no need to meet unless a turbine was going to be deployed.

g. Cape Sharp Tidal Venture Update

SD provided details of community engagement and stakeholder activities which had been embarked upon by CSTV including discussions with fishers. SD told the membership that CSTV expected a deployment this summer and currently turbine A was in Pictou undergoing technical review, adding that the busy summer ahead would include several milestones including the safety program, turbine deployment methodology, and cable connection. SD indicated that the CSTV turbine may depart Pictou early June with the earliest deployment in late June, and the following window being the following neap tides two weeks later. GC asked if the focus for operations would be on neap tides. CB indicated yes. Members discussed the timing of previous marine operations at FORCE, including delays. RY asked which berth within the marine site CSTV turbines would be deployed to. SD responded that Berth D was the CSTV site for turbine deployment. SD informed the members that the CSTV community office would be open approximately one day per week for four months durations in the building which housed “Parrsboro’s Floral Design” on Mainstreet. SD indicated that the hours of operation would be posted, and added that the office would also serve as a home base for personnel during operations. CT asked what would happen after four months in regards to the office. SD indicated that there was no certainty of the tenure in the office, but that it was expected that there would be less questions after deployment and FORCE site would provide some support, including a 3D model of the CSTV turbine being provided for the FORCE Visitor Centre. GC asked if there is an outlook beyond initial two-turbine deployments. SD responded by saying that there is a vision for growth but that must rely on the first two turbines, results of the continued environmental monitoring and the regulators. There was a discussion among the membership regarding the potential for benefits to local economy from tidal industry including the building of turbines, the deployment barge’s utility to industry, port infrastructure, and support industry such as service industry benefits, as well as supply chain development. The discussion moved to maintenance of the test turbines, access to the site from nearby ports, and the technology and skills from within NS being utilized in tidal energy development. Members commented that they had not seen accurate documentation of the project in most major media sources and instead saw dramatization of inaccurate information.

5. Action Items

No major action items were summarized. MM to inform members if an opportunity arises for a substation visit for members. MM and Community Co-Chairs to meet monthly or occasionally to plan for upcoming meetings, and participation in events by CLC members.

6. Next Meeting & Adjournment

Discussion regarding appropriate next meeting timeline occurred with members preferring to gather after the deployment of the first turbine (July-August, pending deployment timeline) and all agreed that the next regular meeting would be best scheduled in early October. Discussion followed that the future meetings should be kept within two-hour time frames. With all in agreement, the meeting adjourned at 14:50.