

# Community Liaison Committee

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## Meeting #5 Minutes

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| Meeting purpose                    | Cedar Point Wind Power Project Community Liaison Committee   |
| Meeting date                       | December 6, 2016 6:30pm – 8:30pm   |
| Report date                        | December 14, 2016  |
| Location                           | Warwick Hall, 7074 Egremont Road   |
| Attendance                         | 14 community members, in addition to staff and CLC   |
| CLC Members                        | Tomas Burget, Cynthia Cook, John Couwenberg, Sandra deJong, Monica Douglas, Anne Harding (Suncor), Joanne Moore, Ed Vanderaa, Joe Zanyk  |
| Suncor                             | Jody Hood – Director, Wind Development<br>Chris Scott - Sr. Engineer Project Development<br>Mark Kozak – Project Development<br>Anne Harding – Senior Advisor, Stakeholder and Aboriginal Relations<br>Kyle McCoey – Senior Landman<br>Sohail Aslam – Construction Manager |
| NextEra Energy<br>Canada           | Derek Dudek- Environmental Compliance<br>Peter Miller- Operations<br>Dennis Desloges - Operations  |
| Aercoustics                        | Payam Ashtiani – Acoustician   |
| Natural Resource<br>Solutions Inc. | Charlotte Teat – Terrestrial and Wetland Biologist   |
| Facilitated by                     | Curt Hammond-Chief Listening Officer, Pearl Street Communications  |

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### Welcome, Agenda and Goals

1. Welcome: agenda, goals and commitments
2. Introductions
3. Cedar Point II LP Update
  - a. Ongoing community engagement
4. Follow up from last meeting
5. Monitoring Updates
  - a. Bird and bat report
  - b. Sound monitoring update
6. Community benefits
  - a. Grant process
  - b. Recipient announcement



## Cedar Point Wind Power Project

### Introductions

The facilitator welcomed everyone to the fifth Cedar Point Community Liaison Committee meeting. The facilitator provided an overview of the purpose of the CLC, commitment of members of the CLC and community to the engagement process and rules of engagement for the meeting.

The intent of the CLC is to be a forum for the exchange of information between Suncor and representatives from the project community. The facilitator noted that the group also agreed that respecting everyone's time and engaging respectfully are shared values of CLC members and the community.

CLC members were introduced and it was noted that other presenters would introduce themselves before they spoke.

### Cedar Point II LP Update

It was noted that Jody Hood, Director of Wind Development at Suncor was in attendance at the meeting in response to requests at previous meetings to have management be there. Jody provided a short safety moment, reminding everyone to take their time in driving home in the rain.

Jody said that this was the fifth CLC meeting and that it would be the last CLC meeting for the project. He said that the project is committed to ongoing engagement with the community and asked for suggestions on how the project should stay in touch. A CLC member suggested that having the opportunity once a year to meet in person, say at an open house or community meeting, would be useful to bring people together and hear an update in person about the project. A community member agreed with that suggestion.

A community member asked Jody if Suncor intends to be involved with the wind farm for the next 20 years. Jody responded that he knew there had been media coverage saying that Suncor was selling its wind farms in Ontario. He confirmed that in light of the current business environment, Suncor has been exploring a number of opportunities to reduce expenses and generate cash. He confirmed that Suncor will only proceed with the divestment of an asset if they can get strong value in the market and believe it's in the long term interests of the company. Jody confirmed that no decision has been made about the sale of Suncor's stake in Cedar Point II and that if and when a decision is made, key stakeholder groups will be kept informed.

### Complaints Process

Anne reviewed the process for receiving and responding to complaints related to the project. She noted that since the last CLC meeting in March, 16 complaints had been received through the formal process, with the vast majority relating to noise. A CLC member asked if that includes complaints that come to Suncor through the MOECC and Anne confirmed that those were included in the reported number. She also confirmed that when Suncor receives complaints, they are obligated to report those, as well as whatever response occurred, to the MOECC.

A community member asked what specifically happens when a complaint is received. Anne said that when a complaint is received, they ask the stakeholder questions to understand the concern and its relation to the project. Suncor seeks as much information as possible from the stakeholder so that they can compare it to other sources of information, like information from the computer software in the turbines, or conditions at the time of the concern to look for patterns.

The community member asked for an example of if anything has ever changed in the operations of the project because of a community member complaint. Chris Scott provided an example of the software update that was brought in to address noise during curtailment periods. The opportunity for this software update was a result of feedback Suncor had heard through the complaints process.

## Cedar Point Wind Power Project

### Project Updates

Jody shared the following project updates:

- The turbines received a software update, starting in September 2016
- An amendment to the REA was received in July 2016 for a spare transformer
- Road repairs have been completed
- The tree removal investigation is ongoing
- Replanting and remediation is taking place and going well; there have been 6 visits in 2016 to monitor progress and monitoring will continue in 2017

During the discussion about software updates, a community member suggested that the project has a lot of information about the turbine operation at any given time. He asked if that information could be shared with the public. Jody said that it is not feasible to give public access to all the real-time operational data of the project.

A community member asked if there have been any problems with the remediation and replanting. Jody replied that there have been no problems and everything is proceeding according to the remediation plan. Another community member asked what species and size of trees are being planted. Jody replied that the full remediation plan is available on the project website, and the specifics about species of trees could be found there.

### Bird and Bat Monitoring

Charlotte from NRSI provided an update on wildlife monitoring, including the following information:

- Monitoring is conducted in accordance with requirements of the REA and MNRF Guidelines and is required for a minimum of 3 years of monitoring
- Mortality monitoring began May 1st, 2016
- Turbine searches occur twice weekly from May 1st through October 31st, and raptor surveys occur weekly from November 1st through November 30th
- Correction factors are applied in order to calculate overall estimated mortality rates across the project
- Thresholds for birds and bats were not exceeded
- Raptor mortalities were exceeded which will initiate raptor behavioural monitoring in 2017 and 2018
- An annual report is provided to MNRF by March 1 following each year of monitoring, and public summaries will be available early March following each year of monitoring

A community member asked for confirmation on the thresholds for bird, bat and raptor mortality. Charlotte replied as follows: 14 birds/turbine/year, 10 bats/turbine/year, 0.2 raptors/turbine/year. Community members asked for confirmation on exactly how many raptors had been killed. Charlotte replied that the number of mortalities and species will be available in the final report in March.

Community members asked why they can't share the number of mortalities now. They asked for some sense of how many raptors had been killed (i.e. double the limit, triple the limit, etc.). Charlotte said that the number was not double the limit. Charlotte explained the three correction factors that are applied to determine the mortality rate, and noted that those calculations have not been completed yet so the numbers at this point in time are not final. The three correction factors are percentage of area searched, scavengers removal, and searcher efficiency.

A community member asked if crops affect the count. Charlotte said that crops around the areas of study are kept clear. Another community member asked how big the search area is around the turbine. Charlotte said it is 50m around the turbine for all species (birds, bats, and raptors), as per MNRF guidelines. A community member made the point that it's not like a bird will just run into the turbine and drop, they are likely to be caught and flung much farther away from the turbine.

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Charlotte said that if birds, bats, or raptors are found outside the 50m radius, they are still documented. She also noted that the cause of death of any bird or bat found in the study is assumed to be from the turbine.

A community member noted that some turbines are close to the lake, which may mean that migration near those turbines is higher. They asked if turbines closer to the lake have higher water fowl kills. Charlotte said the report will provide this kind of analysis.

A community member asked what will be done now that the raptor mortality has been exceeded. Charlotte explained that additional monitoring will now take place to understand what might be leading to the exceedance. She noted that there are a number of options for mitigation, but that it is hard to know what will be effective without more information.

A CLC member asked how the final report will be made accessible. Anne said that a report would be made publicly available on the project website, and sent directly to CLC members and municipalities in March. A community member asked that the report that is available to the public be the same as the one that is submitted to the regulator, with the same level of detail.

A community member expressed frustration with the monitoring period not being year round. Charlotte explained that it was not determined that year round monitoring was required for this project because of the pre-construction assessment. The community member expressed anger and frustration at this response because they had provided evidence at a previous CLC meeting to show why the pre-construction assessment had been flawed and in their view did not appropriately account for the fact that tundra swans exist throughout the project area.

Jody said that Suncor has confidence in its pre-construction assessment that was done by professional biologists. He also said that the pre-construction assessment is based on habitat rather than counting number of birds. Some community members expressed their disagreement with the methodology and results of the pre-construction assessment, and were extremely frustrated that the assessment had led to the MNRF determining that year round monitoring was not warranted. Community members were adamant that there are tundra swans present throughout the project area and that fact should warrant year-round wildlife monitoring.

Another community member said that the exceedance in raptor mortality shows that the pre-construction assessment must have been wrong for raptors as well. Jody disagreed and said that Suncor has confidence in the experts they hire for the job. Community members said that Suncor should have asked local people to provide input to the pre-construction assessment because they live in the area. They expressed disappointment that the project seems to only be doing the bare minimum required by regulations.

A community member asked how the 14 subset turbines were chosen for monitoring. It was explained that they were chosen before the project was built. Four turbines were adjusted since four weren't built. All areas of the project are represented in the study area. Certain habitats were specifically included (for bats) and approved by the MNRF.

A community member asked what happens when birds or bats are found injured and still alive. Charlotte replied that they are taken to a licensed rehabilitation facility in the local area.

### Sound Monitoring Update

Payam Ashtiani from Aercoustics presented to the community and CLC and shared information about the three different types of sound audits that are being done in relation to the project, as well as initial results:

- Immission audit:
  - 1 of 2 completed
  - Second must be completed by April 2017
- Emission audit:
  - 1 of 3 completed
  - Third expected to be complete by end of December
- Transformer substation audit:



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- Completed September 2015
- Approved by MOECC August 2016

A CLC member asked if a report of the sound audits will be made available to the public. Payam and Anne confirmed that a summary report would be made available on the project website and sent directly to CLC members and municipalities, once all acoustic audits are complete next year.

A community member asked Payam to confirm if Aercoustics was the consultant that was hired to develop the noise compliance protocol. Payam confirmed that Aercoustics was hired through a competitive bid process to develop recommendations for the protocol based on best practice, technical knowledge, public, and industry consultation. The community member asked if Aercoustics recommended the average 1 hour sound limit to the MOECC. Payam said that no, the ministry had already set the limit.

A community member referenced Suncor's earlier comment about the software upgrade that changes what the turbines do during curtailment when electricity isn't being supplied to the grid. They asked if the sound audit includes noise during curtailment, if that's when it was being the loudest. Payam explained that the results presented here do not include curtailment data, and that testing had been done with Siemens (the turbine manufacturer) in the field to confirm that sound during curtailment had decreased as a result of the software upgrade.

A community member said that based on their observations at Townsend line that in 9 out of 10 trips the wind direction was not from the southwest. They asked how locations for measuring sound are chosen. Payam explained that the report provides wind rose of on and off conditions of data collected. He further explained that prime receptors are identified and ranked in order of preference, but the ministry makes the final decision about what receptors are selected. Also, the permission of the landowner where the receptor is being proposed must have agreed to provide access to the site.

Community members asked if infrasound was being measured, as a request had been made at the last CLC meeting to measure infrasound. Payam shared that Aercoustics had not been asked to measure infrasound. He was asked the lowest frequency of sound measured by the microphones. He replied that the microphones used go to 20 hz but no lower.

A community member asked for confirmation about the type of complaints that Suncor had received related to the project. Anne confirmed that of the 16 complaints received, 15 were about noise and one was about shadow flicker. The community member asked if Suncor had received any complaints related to migraines, autoimmune disease, or heart disease. Anne said that to the best of her recollection, none of the complaints received related to personal health issues. The community member said that in court, her group was not able to prove that turbines cause negative health effects but neither was it proven that turbines do not cause negative health effects.

Another community member shared that she had become so fed up with complaining every time the turbines bothered her that the last time she called she had said "put me down for 365 complaints for every day this year".

### Community Benefit Grants

Anne shared the process and results of the recent Cedar Point II Community Benefits Grant process. Between October 11<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the project received 15 grant applications totaling \$157,122 in requests. She was pleased to announce that evening the following grant recipients, totaling \$50,000:

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| Organization                               | Program/Initiative                               | Amount          |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Forest Agricultural Society                | Beautification and environmental improvements    | \$2000          |
| North Lambton Lodge                        | <i>Artful Company</i> program                    | \$2000          |
| Forest Canada Day Committee                | 2017 Canada Day Celebrations                     | \$5000          |
| Forest Curling and Social Club             | Modernization & Accessibility Project Phase 2    | \$7500          |
| Royal Canadian Legion Branch 176           | Tree Carving Sculpture                           | \$3500          |
| Grand Bend & Area Studio Tour              | Summer Sunset Sounds Music Festival              | \$3500          |
| Lambton Area Film and Food Festival        | Youth Film Competition & Animation Workshops     | \$3000          |
| Lambton 4-H Dairy                          | 4-H Club Trip to Dairy Classic                   | \$1000          |
| Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group  | Coastal Wetland Enhancement                      | \$7500          |
| Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation | Educational Interpretive Housing and Programming | \$15,000        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               |  | <b>\$50,000</b> |

A community member congratulated the project on funding these excellent local organizations, and suggested that the project consider the impacts of people in the province whose energy bills have been significantly increased as a result of all the renewable energy development. Energy poverty is a real issue in the community and it was said that it would have been a nice gesture for the project to offset that impact. Anne asked for additional feedback from those in attendance about funding people experiencing poverty in other parts of the province, as the project team had assumed that the community would most want to see benefit dollars from the project stay in the local area. The community member said that there were probably people experiencing poverty in the local area who could be helped.

### General Discussion

CLC and community members were invited to ask additional questions or offer comments.

A community member asked that the minutes accurately reflect the difficult conversations that took place at the meeting, including the frustration and disappointment of community members, instead of what she perceived as always putting Suncor in a favourable light.

Another community member asked if anything was going to be done about turbine lighting from the last meeting, when Suncor was supposed to investigate different options for lighting like some other projects have, specifically those closer to Kettle & Stony Point First Nations. Suncor responded that they investigated options and will not be changing the turbine lighting. The community member shared that they feel they have been discriminated against with this development, because this industrial project was placed around their peaceful property. The community member said they were not against progress but didn't like how this project has affected his rural community.

Jody thanked CLC and community members for being part of the CLC process and continuing to engage with the project. Community members were asked again if they have ideas for how they would like to stay informed about or connected with the project and no new suggestions were offered. Community members are welcome to provide additional suggestions to [CedarPoint@suncor.com](mailto:CedarPoint@suncor.com).

Meeting adjourned.



## Cedar Point Wind Power Project

### Action Items

| Action  | Responsibility |
|---|----------------|
| Draft meeting minutes   | Suncor         |
| Review and approve meeting minutes  | CLC            |
| Meeting minutes and presentations posted on website   | Suncor         |
| Post a wildlife monitoring report on the project website in March 2017 and email copy to CLC members and municipalities                                 | Suncor         |
| Post an acoustic monitoring report on the project website after all audits have been completed in 2017 and email copy to CLC members and municipalities | Suncor         |
| Share any additional ideas with Suncor about how the project can stay engaged with the local community now that the CLC has finished its term           | CLC            |