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COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE
Meeting #: 6
Date: Sept 22, 2025
Time: 7-9:00 pm
Location: 4 Valleys Fire Hall, Maryvale

Meeting Minutes

Overview of Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes
3. Project Updates
4. Action Item Review and Discussion
5. Questions and Round Table Discussion
6. Next Steps and Meeting Details

Attendees: Andrew Woods, Mike Murphy, Keith Martin, Trent MacDonald, Marcie MacQuarrie, Jonathan Mackenzie, George DeRabbie, Mary MacLellan, Harriet Ritchie, Ian MacDonald, Colin MacInnis, Dave MacDonald

Regrets: Donnie O'Brien, Jeremy Landry, Catherine Fraser, Clyde Teasdale, Daniel McLellan

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1) Welcome & Introductions

- Meeting called to order; land acknowledgement delivered.
- New member introduced: Trent; accepted invitation to join and support the CLC

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2) Review/Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes

- Approved Agenda
- May 26, 2025, Draft Minutes: Reviewed.
  Motion: Approve the May 26, 2025, minutes. Result: Carried (moved/seconded from floor).
- Outstanding actions: None flagged as requiring discussion at this meeting.

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3) Project Updates

3.1 General

- Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was signed with NSPI in June for the project

3.2 Environmental Assessment (EA)

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- Status: EA led by CBCL continued through summer; most field surveys on track to complete by late fall/early winter, after which the EA Registration will be
- for provincial submission (Q1 2026).
- Studies noted: Avifauna/bats, wetlands/watercourses, lichen/old growth, receptors/dwellings verification, etc. Additional electromagnetic interference study underway to confirm no conflict with microwave/radio links (incl. DND/first responders).
    - Two new cell towers are proposed for the area (Arisaig & Malignant Cove) – RES will inform the group whether they included in the EMI study.
- Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS)/heritage: Preliminary feedback indicates very limited features/impacts; identified historical use (e.g., winter hunting grounds). Ongoing collaboration with local knowledge holders to understand areas of cultural significance in the project area.
- Public review window (post-registration): Province conducts 50-day review with a 30-day public comment period. Project intends to host an open house prior to registration to support informed feedback.

3.3 Community Engagement

- Open Houses: Planning for November 18 in James River Fire Hall to better reach residents along the transmission corridor who may be less familiar with the wind project and November 19 in Arisaig Community Hall.
- Summer engagement was lighter; team ramping up communications (website updates, potential radio/TV, local events presence). CLC invited to help amplify.
    - There is an ATV Rally October 18th, last year approx. 500 participants involved. It could be a good opportunity to provide some additional information and outreach for the community during the event.

3.4 Project Layout & Infrastructure

- Layout: Current public map remains the reference; micro-siting changes are expected to reflect survey and EA constraints. A revised public layout is targeted for November (aiming to align with open houses).
- Geotechnical (GEO) program: Target October start (subject to final layout/survey data and contractor scheduling). Scope includes boreholes at turbine pads and in-situ testing to inform foundation/road/collector design. If not achievable pre-snow, work defers to spring (winter testing not suitable for some methods). Landowners are to be contacted by RES Land Manager for access.
- Drone survey: Small UAV flights this week focused only on transmission line terrain reconnaissance for engineering.
- Transmission Line (T-Line) Summary : 20–25 km from project substation to NS Power 230 KVL; routing not finalized. Active landowner engagement continues; complexity increases off-mountain (smaller parcels/development potential/titles). NS Power provides standards/templates for

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easement agreements, but RES is fully responsible for land acquisition. Exploration of purchase options for certain parcels noted as possible but not typical.

- Access/Trails interplay: Community interest in allowing trail use along the T-Line corridor where feasible; recognition that permissions depend on private landowner consent and NSP policies. Request to coordinate early so clubs can plan.
- Turbine Navigation Lighting: Vendor not yet selected (Nordex is a leading candidate; turbine purchase ~1 year out). Lighting mitigation options to be revisited once technology is locked.
- First responders: Desire to coordinate with local fire/EMS on layout, phases, and potential water sources on the mountain for wildfire response.
    - George brough up the previous conversation with 4-Valley Fire Department about possibility of having road access to water source (Vincent Lake) on mountain; to be reviewed with engineering and design team.
        - RES team committed to continuing the conversation but could not commit.
- Clarification to public: Recent forestry clear-cutting near the site is not project construction. Community observed ~100acre (estimated) harvested by private operators; concern about timing/visibility acknowledged.

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4) Action Item Review & Discussion (from prior meetings)

- No carried items required updates at this session.

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5) Questions & Round Table

Trail Users (Eigg Mt. Trails Association) / Snowmobile club ("Sno-Dogs")

- Past winter trail disruptions from other projects noted; request that geotechnical work be completed before sled season and that any changes be promptly communicated. Team confirmed Geotech planned pre-season or deferred to spring if necessary. Requested that all municipal permits be subject to conditions that would prevent trail interference during the snowmobile season.

Transmission line routing & community use

- Interest in future trail permissions along T-line and potential easement "check-box" with landowners to facilitate club outreach. RES to explore practicality with NSP and within private easements; acknowledge mixed landowner preferences.

Compensation / proximity discussion

- Jonathan asked to overlay a 3 km radius around turbines (comparative example from another county) to understand potential households near the project.

Community Benefits & Governance

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- Community Benefits Fund (CBF): Mike confirmed the Fund is tied to a 150 MW project size; administered by the Municipality with a three-person distribution committee (Municipal rep, CLC rep, RES rep). First intake expected ~2029 (one year after COD). CLC will consider creating criteria/scoring and may consider applications beyond a 5 km "local" definition at its discretion. Possibility for cause-based allocations and wider district benefits discussed.
    - RES team committed to having the CBF as a standing item at future meetings.

Information management & contacts

- Ian proposed setting up a SharePoint (or similar) private folder for CLC documents (e.g., CBF agreement, minutes).
- Discussion on publishing CLC member emails on the project website to facilitate two-way communication. Opt-in approach preferred; project to request consent before publishing.

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6) Next Steps & Meeting Details

Agreed Action Items

1. Confirm November Open House details (dates, venues, format, advertising) and circulate to CLC; aim to present updated layout if feasible.
2. Geotechnical campaign notifications: Contact affected landowners; advise Snow Dogs (and Trails Assoc) if timing changes that affect trails.
3. Transmission line & trails: RES will continue to engage NS Power on policies. Consider adding a trail-permission interest checkbox within landowner outreach (subject to owner consent/liability/insurance). RES team committed to continuing the conversation with both Trails Assoc. and Snodogs about how to support improved access to T-line
4. CLC document hub: Stand up a private SharePoint and populate key documents (CBF agreement, ToR, minutes). Mike committed to following up internally to confirm which system is most feasible.
5. CLC contact visibility: Review best means of ensuring community can coordinate with CLC members if they have questions, concerns, or comments about the project. Mike will send an email to confirm the CLC is comfortable with posting contact details.
6. Resident Density Map (3 km overlay): Keith noted this could only be done after the layout is finalized but there was no commitment to conducting a density map.

Tentative Next Meeting

- Target: Mid–late February 2026 (specific date to be set; similar time/location).

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7) Adjournment

- With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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