



## **2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS:**

No disclosures of pecuniary interests were made by the Committee.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by: Elizabeth Thompson  
Seconded by: Dwight Burley

That the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group adopt the minutes of the last Committee Meeting held January 11th, 2018, as circulated.

**Carried**

## **4. DELEGATIONS**

4.1 Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron-Bruce, addressed the Committee and responded to the questions forwarded to her from the Committee. The Chair, Randy Roppel, welcomed Lisa Thompson to the meeting and noted her new position as Caucus Chair for the PC Party.

The complete question list is attached to these minutes. The following are the responses from Lisa Thompson

### **Question 1**

*What is the PC Party position on the erection of more wind turbines in Ontario?*

Lisa Thompson thanked the Committee for inviting her and remarked that today is "International Women's Day." Lisa said that this Saturday (the date for electing a new PC leader) will start a new chapter for the PC Party.

Lisa then responded to Question 1. She said we don't need wind turbines. Lisa stated that you might see a reference to renewable energy from the PC Party, but that reference is to hydro. Of course we need to refurbish nuclear plants. It is the cleanest, next to hydro, because it has no emissions. We don't need wind turbines.

Lisa asked how long the Ripley wind farm has been in operation. The Committee members from Huron-Kinloss replied between 13 and 15 years.

Lisa Thompson remarked that's nearing the end of their life. There's been no thought on decommissioning. We need to walk through it together with the municipalities. If we form the next government after June 7th, we'll come out and talk to Huron-Kinloss because the Ripley project is the

oldest wind farm. I hope I can use my influence to make a Working Committee going forward. We are committed to looking at every contract.

### **Question 2**

*Will the PC Party permit Municipalities the right to reject approval of wind turbine installations in their municipality? Does the PC Party recognize that granting the right to refusal without changing the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) merely means that municipal rejection will just force another string of OMB appeals that overturn the municipal rejections, in keeping with a PPS that promotes renewable energy systems where feasible, which has been interpreted by the OMB (as in Saugeen Shores) being just about anywhere?*

Lisa replied, I should be meeting with you two months after the new Leader is in place. That's why we need a working group which I will fight hard to get. I think we have to give autonomy to the municipalities. You are the closest to it and we need to work together. We need to have a Working Group not just at the Provincial level, but to include municipalities who have a understanding of the issues.

A Committee member remarked that the configuration of the proposed working group is important as the urban centers and rural areas have different points of view.

Lisa Thompson acknowledged this as an important point.

### **Question 3**

*Will the PC Party be open to granting provision to permit adversely affected citizens impacted by already installed wind turbines to relocate their homes and in the case of farmers, their livelihood, to move their farm operations to a safe location? Alternatively, is the PC Party open to removing wind turbines that adversely impact citizens (which may require payment of a financial penalty) that were approved under previous inadequate regulations?*

Lisa Thompson said we have to wait until Saturday's leadership election to see where we land. We need a proper make up of a working group includes communities impacted.

Randy Roppel stated, as elected officials we represent the health of people we represent. It's also the Provincial Government to respect these issues. Provincial Government has disregarded these complainants.

Stewart Halliday advised Lisa Thompson that Carol Lawrence from West Grey the MOECC went to their Council meeting, Rick Chappell and Andrew

Barton, the same people who attended at our Committee meeting. There are a lot of people who have been suffering. There is no need for noise testing again. There are different problems as well, such as health and financial.

A Committee member asked, "Does the PC Caucus understand how many people are affected here?"

Lisa replied yes they do.

Randy Roppel advised Lisa that Kincardine had noise studies done in Bruce, and we were told that we would have to go through a Freedom of Information request to get the information from the noise studies. I don't want to hear that from any public official. I want to see the study that our taxpayers pay.

Lisa agreed with that.

Gary Fohr from Grey Highlands remarked that he had spoken to Christine Elliott in Collingwood, one of the leadership candidates. When he spoke to her she said 'we need more health studies'. Gary stated we don't need more studies, why do we need to prove this installation is causing problems when they've not proved that they are safe?

Lisa replied we don't need more studies. We need the right people around the table to dissect what has worked and what hasn't. Lisa stated that we can look at Huron County. A resident, Carla Stachura, is saying "I'm not letting you on my land until I get the results."

A member asked if they would consider a rural caucus?

Lisa replied that she has floated that idea too. She stated that we can't be treated the same. The PC Party has been around a long time and has been supported by the rural voters.

Warren Howard suggested that the PC Party look at fixing the economy, fixing hydro, fixing IWTs. The government needs to come at this issue by focusing on the economy.

Lisa Thompson remarked that she and Randy Pettapiece, the MPP from Perth-Wellington, toured a cheese processing plant which is nearing its capacity. When they asked the company where they are considering expanding to, the company replied in Western Canada. Lisa said this plant should be looking at expanding in Southwestern Ontario. Ontario needs to demonstrate we are open for business.

Steve Adams advised Lisa that we are representatives of the people who are being affected by IWTs. I would like to see you back to this

Committee in 3 months to discuss what the PC Party is going to do about decommissioning.

Lisa replied we need to focus on the provincial election first. Lisa stated that Warren Howard brought up a good point, we need to be addressing the economics. Ontario has lost 300,000 manufacturing jobs. Westcast Industries shut down their plant in the summer. They shut down their electric furnaces and sent staff home, due to the high global adjustment charges.

Stewart Halliday suggested to Lisa if she would like any help with creating the Working Group she mentioned, this Committee would consider working with Lisa on it.

#### **Question 4**

*Does the PC Party recognize that the regulations under which wind turbine power developments in Ontario have been approved do not adequately protect citizens? Is the PC Party committed to opening the regulation of wind turbines to consider demonstrated causes of concern?*

Lisa said that regulations should depend on dBa and water quality. She said she would be pushing to the front of the line to the new leader and she will fight hard to get done.

#### **Question 5**

*Does the PC Party recognize that the current mandate of the Environmental Review Tribunal that sets an impossible requirement on citizens to prove in advance of a wind turbine project being erected that the project as approved will cause serious harm to human health, or will cause serious and irreversible harm to plant life, animal life, or the natural environment?*

*Is the PC Party open to reconsidering the terms of the ERT mandate to require the developer instead to prove in advance that the project will NOT cause harm, based on a set of protective regulations?*

Lisa replied yes to the first part of the question. Her response to the second part of the question is that the developer needs to provide no harm. This is another area that we need to get it right. This is the reason we need to have a Working Group.

Gary Fohr remarked that pharmaceutical companies and the automotive industry have to prove their products are safe before they are put on the market. It should be the same with wind turbines.

Lisa agreed.

## **Question 6**

*Is the PC Party committed to determine a more effective, and more just, manner of actually addressing environmental improvement without adversely impacting the economy and people's well-being? Specifically, please comment on the fact that neither carbon taxation nor selling credits can ever be "revenue neutral" due to the bureaucratic infrastructure they require.*

Lisa stated that this issue is complicated. It will take 18 months to get out of cap and trade. We can't pull the rug out of the industries and manufacturing companies. What can happen is that we make it revenue neutral. Perhaps personal income tax credits and then reinvest the money in infrastructure. She stood up against putting price on carbon. With innovation we can reduce emissions.

Patricia Greig suggested some other solutions to Lisa, such as: fight the current legislation; declare that any study costing more than \$25,000.00, the study results must be publicly published; have a government policy on open data; and, all appointments at the deputy minister level must be approved at the committee level.

Lisa replied with regard to legislation appeal, if we could do consulting ahead of time that would help.

Randy Roppel, the Chair stated that we are at the end of the questions we provided to Lisa. We have the responses from Bill Walker, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound which are printed at the bottom of the list of questions attached to these minutes.

Warren Howard stated that he's been working in both the Northern Oakville and Northern Hamilton ridings. With regard to the hydro costs, the urban voter understands this. Days after the last leadership debate, IWTs have become a symbol of everything that's wrong with the government. Hydro costs are the real reason why people won't trust Wynne.

Lisa said we have to bring real people who impact policies so they can sit at Huron-Kinloss and hear what's going on. The Minister should be saying I want to hear from you.

Randy Roppel said that he would like to see the IWTs get re-zoned commercial or industrial and be taxed at that rate.

Lisa replied she is looking forward to Saturday and we are going to win on June 7th. Lisa is also working on Great Lakes Awareness. She said we are not doing enough to promote tourism.

Warren Howard reminded people to keep complaining if they are having issues. Warren said think about West Grey, in West Grey the MOECC committed to speaking to the top three complainers.

Randy Roppel, the Chair, gave Lisa two copies of the Committee's DVD "Impacts of Industrial Wind Turbines" one for her and one for the new PC Leader.

Randy Roppel thanked Lisa for coming and answering our questions and concerns. Some of us could assist with the Working Committee you spoke about.

Lisa Thompson replied that she is looking forward to working with the Committee. Lisa stated that the PC Caucus is not going to give up, please have confidence in the Caucus.

A Committee member reminded Lisa that we need a government who cares about rural Ontario.

The Chair told Lisa Thompson we will follow up with you in a couple of months to invite you back to our Committee to provide an update.

## **5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- 5.1 Further comments on future actions of Committee. The Chair, Randy Roppel said that we should wait until the elections are over and then say where we want to go.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

- 6.1 Nothing was raised at this meeting.

## **7. FOR INFORMATION**

- 7.1 Invoices for the annual fee for the MMWTWG Committee have been sent out to the Clerks of the participating municipalities.
- 7.2 Carol Lawrence from West Grey said that the MOECC Owen Sound District representatives met in chambers at the West Grey Council. It was recorded and will be appearing on the West Grey website Youtube. It was the same presentation as they gave here. They said they are not hearing of any complaints, but in West Grey they said they've had 300 complaints. Carol said she knows they've had more than 300 complaints, as she is aware that one person alone has complained 265 times.

Carol Lawrence asked Warren Howard what his impression of the MOECC presentation was at the West Grey Council.

Warren Howard said that the room was filled with people complaining of IWTs. One of the Councilors got the MOECC to follow up with a complainant and to have testing done on that premises. Warren said that no field visits at all had been done related to this property, except last Saturday, and they were going to Council on Monday. So I think they will put on testing.

Warren Howard said that the MOECC found that the Unifor turbine in Port Elgin is not in compliance. They are to have a mitigation plan in place by March 18th. Warren is hoping that people in Saugeen Shores keep complaining.

Warren reminded Committee members who have IWTs in your municipality and you have been receiving complaints from citizens, please ask the MOECC District Director to come to your Council.

Randy Roppel said that the Ministry's representatives will come in front of municipalities and they say "we don't get any complaints." Randy reminded municipal representatives to tell people to complain to the MOECC.

**8. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Chesley Fire Hall, 211 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. N., Chesley.

**9. RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF (includes appointed Councillor(s) and citizen appointee)**

Not Required

**10. RESOLUTION TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Not Required

**11. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION (if any)**

None

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: Scott Mackey  
Seconded by: Elizabeth Thompson

That the meeting be adjourned to the call of the Chair.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

**Carried**

*Original Signed by*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Roppel, Chair

*Original Signed by*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa Gowan, Recording Secretary