



Farmington Community Working Group Summary Notes

Date: June 11, 2019

In Attendance:

Director Len Hiebert Area D, Peace River Regional District
James O'Hanley, Vice President, Applications, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Chris Pasztor, Executive Director, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Maria Reschke, Manager Stakeholder Relations, Public Working Groups, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Laura-Lea Gibson, Community Relations Assistant, Public Working Groups, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Corey Quinton, Community Member
Kim and Rod Strasky, Community Members
Pat and Jim Strasky, Community Members
Barry Critcher, Community Member
Toby Handfield, Community Member
Hugh Craig, Community Member

Summary of Discussion:

Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Director Hiebert opened the meeting, thanked James O'Hanley for coming and introduced Chris Pasztor, the Executive Director, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR). He noted on June 20, 2019 the Agricultural Land Commission will be hosting a workshop with the PRRD and providing a tour of the Farmington area.

Maria Reschke provided the following updates to the Farmington Community Working Group (FCWG):

- The Pilot Project is still under review; input from the FCWG and the PRRD is being considered with a final decision pending.
- The Lighting Guideline is currently being reviewed by industry and will be shared with the FCWG once finalized.
- Concerns brought up at the last meeting regarding black smoke have been discussed within the Internal Working Group and the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission). The Commission is considering ways to address, and we will report back as progress is made.
- Tony Wakelin, Air Emissions Specialist, will be attending the August meeting to provide information on a number of monitoring programs the Commission and the Ministry of Environment have in place. Tony will demonstrate how to use the Commission Air Tool (CAT), a new air monitoring tool available on the Commission's website

As a follow up to previous discussions on Consultation and Notification (C&N) James O'Hanley provided updates to work taking place to improve the C&N process and stated the C&N Regulation is currently under regulatory review. Ideas were exchanged on how to make the written submission more efficient. Concerns

sometimes included in the written submissions are not relevant to the application review process while items of most relevance, which get to the heart of the matter, are not included by land owners. James suggested modifications to the form with prompts to specific issues and opportunity for land owners to elaborate on the items that would benefit review staff considerations. It was also noted it would be helpful to include a section where concerns covered by different ministries can be added.

The FCWG expressed frustrations about receiving multiple C&N letters and feeling overwhelmed with responding to all. As discussed in previous meetings, the content of C&N letters does not provide adequate detail on what they can expect when permits are issued. Community members suggested the Commission limit how many amendments can take place in a given timeline. James indicated the Commission is assessing the format of the letters and although we have limitations on what we can require, we are able to provide suggestions for describing the activities.

Chris Pasztor provided a brief description of his role with MEMPR and the structure of MEMPR's decision making process. He gave some background on the process of granting subsurface tenures, beginning with referrals, the tenure going up for bid, bids being considered and then awarded with title document posted publicly and notification also going to First Nations and local government. Due to recent changes to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, MEMPR is not permitted to directly contact the land owners. However, a disposition map is made available to the PRRD for comment. MEMPR is working to incorporate a system that allows land owners to see current subsurface activities taking place.

The FCWG communicated their concerns on the sale of tenures as it relates to their work on the land and the frustrations they face regarding placement, compensation, compliance, Schedule B's and liens put on their property due to dissolved companies. Chris said MEMPR does realize there is a challenge with overlapping industries, such as oil and gas and forestry. MEMPR is developing ways to see the cumulative effects of tenure sales and forecast upcoming subsurface activities.

Community members asked if MEMPR ensures a company is in good standing before a subsurface tenure is awarded. Chris assured them this happens as there is an internal review of a company's history operating in British Columbia, including a review of a company's board of directors, both current and past, when a company name changes. MEMPR is unable, under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act, to award a tenure to a company in poor financial standing with the Government of British Columbia. Chris also noted that based on drilling results MEMPR receives from industry, they are able to get a better idea of the potential for future drilling activity in a particular area. He summarized their primary concerns and committed to take them back to MEMPR for consideration. He understood the value of a more adequate notification tool to land owners at the time of selling tenures and believes consideration needs to be given to translating the subsurface planning information to those who live on the land. He also understood the financial liabilities faced by land owners due to subsurface tenures being sold, and acknowledged some resolution needs to be brought to the difficulty land owners are facing with liens.

Next Steps: The FCWG closed the meeting with some discussion on future meetings and commented they would like to see a representative from the Surface Rights Board, Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission come to a community meeting. Maria informed the group Steve Dowling from the Ministry of Transportation has agreed to attend our July meeting.

Next Meeting: July 9, 2019