

East Kintyre Renewable Energy Group (EKREG) Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday December 16th, 2019

Present: Alasdair Bennett ('Chair'), Jerry Barnes and Rob Lee

Venue: Erinvore, Argyll PA28 6QT

1. Apologies for Absence

- Rhona Elder

2. Minutes and actions agreed at previous meeting (Thursday 28th November)

Actions outstanding/carried-over:

- Draw down of additional insurance quotes – to be in place preMarch 2020 [JB]
- Liase with Eric Tough (ET) once Mems and Arts merged [JB]
- Revise d.o.b for RL entered at Companies House [JB]

3. Correspondence with Wind Farm Operators/Developers

- Correspondence positioning was reviewed on a case by case basis

Actions:

Position with regard Stewartfield to be discussed/clarified with MP [AB]

Position with regard Willow to be clarified with developer and 'sale' to be explored [JB]

4. BaT 3 - SPR: CSO Update

- Latest position/correspondence was reviewed along with timelines proposed

Action:

To be chased early New Year over meet dates proposed and response to due diligence requested [AB]

LES/CARES

- Progress with ongoing dialogue over grant aid was discussed along with documentation received to date. Gaps had been identified in the LES/CARES funding road map which would need further clarification from them. Tender documentation/procedures had been received and reviewed – whilst cumbersome it was judged fit for purpose
- A key question over CBS variants being able to participate directly in JVs with developers had been asked of HMRC and OSCRS (and RWE). Feedback awaited.

Actions:

Discussion to be extended to clarify gaps identified and aspects of procedure [RL]

FALCK Scottish 'green' community-oriented developer – can we learn from them in terms of experience and procedure/paperwork ? [JB to establish contact and introduce EKREG]

5. Killean - CSO discussions with RES

Action

Chase RES over feedback on action points from previous meeting aka Killean [AB]

6. Narachan - CSO discussions with EK

- Chased - response awaited aka meeting/technical information

7. High Constellation/Cour - Blue Energy/Octopus Investments

- High Constellation – nothing to report.
- Cour – Octopus Investments had agreed to pay the accrued/outstanding regional CBF payments from March 2017 to present. The accrued sum to be paid amounts to ~£150K and this will be paid over the next few years with much greater transparency promised with regard process and dissemination of funds.

Actions:

Chase written confirmation aka Cour CBF accrued/backlog [AB]

Once received use this 'win' to secure positive PR for EKREG [RE]

8. Clachaig Glen - RWE Renewables/Abundance

- Chase RWE over outstanding due diligence engagement for Clachaig Glen [RL]
- Proposed meeting agenda for scheduled Dec. 19th conference call with Abundance (RWE's Financial Advisor) was discussed and it was agreed that the RL & AB would participate. Dependent on the outcome of the discussions EKREG might seek to undertake further due diligence on Abundance with a view to using them as a potential financial consultant downstream in other CSO.

9. MOUs

- Following a meeting with Campbeltown Community Council a memorandum of understanding had been signed enabling EKREG Ltd to act on behalf of CCC in parallel with EKCC, WKCC and SKDT
- During the following it was clarified that CCC was the recognized signatory body for JV discussions and SKDT a potential avenue for the dissemination of funds.

Actions:

EKREG Ltd website wording to be updated to reflect the latest MoU sign off with CCC [RE]

10. Community Asset Transfers - FLS - Hydro/Wind - RL's Hydro Report

- The Directors congratulated RL on the report he had produced and it was agreed that this should be posted on the website.
- Discussion principally focused on whom to target to raise the issue with a view to Scottish Govt review of local hydro subsidy/feedin issues – see Actions outcoming from issue 13

11. CBS Model Rules/ Legal Vehicles/ Interactions

- Latest dialogue with James Proctor at CSS was discussed, and the options available to pursue the amalgamation of DTAS and Somerset model rules and achieve the objective in the timescale required to service tabling at, or shortly after, SPR-Bat3 meet were discussed

Actions

Tax-related aspects associated with CBS share offer to be clarified with accountant and his knowledge of CBS details clarified [JB] Isla McCulloch to be asked same question [JB]

Chase CSS over models/legals – James Proctor [RL]

12. NDA Update

Dialogue ongoing in the background.

13. EKREG Engagement Strategy (Local/Regional/National)

- Local/Regional/National influence/EKREG awareness was discussed

Action:

In the New Year – to establish a meet with local MSP Mike Russell and in parallel undertake research on which government committee should be approached with regard subsidy question to open up local hydro opportunities [RE]

14. Communications & Marketing - Briefings/Website

- It was agreed that EKREG should broker a ppt briefing Jan w/c 20th Jan possibly to be hosted by CCC for one or two representatives EKCC, WKCC, CC, SKDT, CCT – Mid/late Feb – premeet/briefing - aimed at representatives who will attend SPR meeting one each from EKCC, WKCC and CCC agenda: set a clear agenda for March meeting over Bat3 opportunity and subtending issues that maybe raised in meeting with SPR

Actions:

Date and venue to be established for Jan briefing [AB]

Presentation to be developed for Jan Community briefing [All]

Website updates proposed were discussed. There was enthusiasm for interactive elements proposed to provide updates on progress with specific projects as these develop

Actions:

- Develop an engagement/PR strategy [RE]

15. AOB

Nothing to report

16. DONM

10.00 Waterfoot, Mon Jan 6th