

Brunswick Pipeline Southwest New Brunswick Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Meeting

Minutes

March 16, 2016, 3-5 p.m. St. George Fire Hall

Present for the meeting were

Jim Brown
Ken McLeod
Sean Morton
Wayne Pollock
Donald St. Pierre
Marion St. Pierre

Christian Richard, Emera New Brunswick
Frank Campbell, Emera New Brunswick
Melanie Hartt, Emera New Brunswick
Stacey Pineau, Emera New Brunswick
Andrew Langille, Spectra Energy

Regrets

Jeff Richardson

The meeting began with a safety moment and roundtable introductions.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Company representative provided an overview of the minutes. She raised a question around a mention of a template of the company safety plan and sought clarification as to what committee members' interest might be in that area. Company representative offered to provide a presentation at a future meeting, and members of the committee expressed interest. There were no further comments on the minutes.

ACTION ITEMS

Presentation on pipeline safety program to be provided at an upcoming committee meeting.

PRESENTATION: WATER CROSSINGS AND ATV TRAFFIC

Company representative provided a presentation on water crossings and ATV traffic. She noted that an evaluation of this area was recently completed by the National Energy Board. She spoke about an erosion management plan developed by the company. She then spoke about erosion management

levels and how they are managed, with a level I requiring basic erosion protection measures, a level II requiring moderate erosion protection measures and a level III requiring extreme measures.

Company representative said that last year 126 water courses were surveyed on foot and by air. She said the NEB representative noted the amount of ATV traffic on the pipeline and requested that action be taken at 15 of those crossings. She said that, this year, follow up and mitigation measures to be implemented will be completed. She spoke about various forms of mitigation that have been used and can be used

A community member asked if water crossings are where the pipeline goes across the same water course and the company representative confirmed yes, that is the case. Company representative said that where there is damage caused by ATV traffic along the pipeline right-of-way, we are responsible.

Community member noted there 44,000 ATVs in the province of New Brunswick with roughly 20,000 of those Federation-affiliated. He noted that Service New Brunswick said there are a fair number more that are in operation, but exact numbers are not known.

Company representative said that we will use forms of mitigation including fences and boulders (armour rock) to prevent ATVs and berms, riprap and vegetation planting to mitigate damage of ATVs. A community member asked if we work with the Department of Environment. Company representative confirmed that was the case and noted permits that must be obtained in some cases.

Community member asked if there are examples of affected areas, and company representative showed photos and described them. There was a discussion of the Lepreau River with a community member noting that ATVs do cross the Lepreau River. Company representative described mitigation measures being used in an affected area on that river. Next an image of the Sparks Lake area was shown, with company representative describing the affected area. There was discussion around the area and what challenges exist as well as what mitigation measures are being taken. A community member asked if land in the area is Irving-owned.

Next, the company representative discussed Red Rock Lake, which a community member noted is in the same area as Sparks Lake. Then she showed an image from Route 755, Oak Bay area. She noted that there might be additional vegetation put in place in bare spots close to the water, saying that willow and red dogwood might be used. Community members noted they are familiar with those species. Company representative showed another image showing a berm where there is erosion. She noted that it had been necessary to clean the stream adjacent to the berm in order to remove gravel and sand.

Company representative's presentation concluded and she asked for input from the committee members. A community member said that at club meetings they encourage members to stay away from the gas line and noted that they have developed their trail system to move away from the pipeline. He said they are moving toward Saint John with their trail system. He said they are staying on the rail bed and using Irving and DNR roads. He said you have to reach the ATV clubs with information. He said there are another 30 per cent of ATV users who aren't registered and the only way to contact them is enforcement.

Community member noted the name of the president of the Charlotte County ATV club. She said that most clubs have Facebook pages and information about the pipeline could be posted there as well as on the Federation web page. She said they are constantly telling members to stay away from the pipeline but it is not possible to force people to travel elsewhere. She said that others, who choose not to belong to clubs, are more difficult to reach. She said that it would be good to start with educating members. She noted that a company representative attended a Federation AGM and that was helpful. She said that education is a key component of keeping people off the pipeline. She said that having more enforcement via DNR or others could be helpful as well.

Company representative said technically we can't stop people from traveling along the pipeline route, but we can advise of the risks. He shared a story about an off-road vehicle traveling along a pipeline in another jurisdiction where he worked. Company representative said that part of another company representative's role is educating ATV users about risks associated with traveling along the pipeline route and also ensuring that our right-of-way is not causing any environmental consequence. Company representative noted the cost associated with erosion management initiatives. Community member said while it is possible to educate association members, it will be difficult to reach others – some of whom will care about the environmental damage they might cause and others who will not. He said it will not be possible to stop everyone, but steering ATV traffic away from sensitive areas via trail supplementation and signage might help.

Another community member said he was considering the education part of the issue. He said that young people aged 12-14 are beginning to use ATVs without a great deal of adult supervision. He said it is a good time in the educational process at the school to share information via the science programs in grades 6-7 – not necessarily about the rule of not going through certain areas, but about the damage that can be caused. He suggested showing what siltation does to fish eggs and how it could reduce the trout population for young people who enjoy fishing. He suggested a presentation for that age group, as well as brochures. He said that youth have a very powerful influence on their parents and that could be helpful. Community member noted that children will sometimes share information about fire prevention safety with their parents.

Community member noted that the NB ATV Federation does have a program that involves going into the schools, but there is nothing safety-related and he would recommend getting information about the gas pipeline added into that program. Community member noted that she and her husband are also ATV safety trainers, and she outlined what information they share with people who take part in their programs. She said they have ATV users for four-hours of training and said that participants range from age 6 to adult. Community member said the Federation could have a section in their program. Community member noted it might be possible to work through the curriculum department in Fredericton.

Company representative noted he has not spoken specifically with school-aged children. He said that he has had a good amount of correspondence with ATV clubs. He noted there had been infractions by clubs after information had been delivered to them. He said it is a difficult challenge. He noted that he has had meetings with DNR Trails Council and Trails approval people, as well as Federation representatives. He

said that one club had recently assumed a trail had been approved when it had not, but it was being used and posted as if it was completely approved. He said there is a fair amount of that type of activity, and DNR is aware. He said it is important to be respectful of the audience when sharing information. He said that he would support presentations to the schools.

Community member asked if company representative works with ATV enforcement and if they work together. Company representative said enforcement officials are mostly involved in safety blitzes. He said that they work in areas where complaints are received. Community member said that perhaps they could work on the pipeline. Company representative said this activity will likely continue to be an issue, regardless of what measures we take. He noted his focus would be to work with the larger vehicles that travel the pipeline. Company representative spoke about potential implications of trying to block ATV traffic and how effective various measures might be. He said efforts should be focused on areas where issues are occurring.

Community member asked if consideration had been given to bridging any water crossings. Company representative said that would be a matter of the owners of the assets involved accepting liability for the structures. Community member spoke about the cost of bridges and various types of bridges that are in place.

Community member asked how often we are required, now that this area has been flagged, to go through this type of audit. Company representative said the right of ways are surveyed annually, but these spots will be visited more than that until any identified issues are fully addressed. She said after that we will return to regular practices and procedures unless other action is enforced. Company representative said technicians are in the areas in July, August and September to complete a survey along the pipeline route, which is different from an audit or inspection/repair. He said he has been informed there will be an NEB audit every August.

Company representative noted each pipeline company must audit each of their internal programs as part of a regular cycle. He said the NEB can come in at any time to complete an audit or inspection of any of the programs. He said we self-monitor/self-audit, but the NEB also evaluates.

Community member commented on liability related to use of the pipeline right of way. Company representative said we do not condone, permit or allow ATV, snowmobile or other recreational vehicle traffic on the rights-of-way. He spoke about trespassing regulations being difficult to enforce along the pipeline right-of-way. Company representative noted that the pipeline right-of-way is flown every week. Community member noted that Saint John has an ATV club that is part of the ATV Federation and also active on Facebook. Company representative thanked committee members for their ideas and interest in the presentation and invited them to share additional input via email.

NEW BUSINESS

Company representative asked if there was any new business to discuss. There was none.

PRESENTATION: ACTIVITIES ON THE PIPELINE

An update was provided on activities related to Brunswick Pipeline. Company representative noted that mowing will take place along Route 785 to the St. Croix River in the fall.

Company representative commented on installation of a cathodic protection ground bed, involving one excavation, at kilometre post 24. Company representative noted we are also doing close interval surveys to test corrosion prevention system over the summer.

Company representative noted that next mock emergency will take place in June between the City of Saint John and Red Head, near Crystal Lake. Company representative noted that 43 EPZ resident locations are adjacent to the site.

Community members asked if kilometre markers are apparent on the pipeline. Company representative said they are not, though there is information on test points every kilometre and a half. He also noted there are aerial markers that are sequential from takeoff to the St. Croix River.

Company representative provided an update on Emera's acquisition of TECO Energy.

Community member noted that St. George and Bonny River fire departments are now merged and John Stephens is deputy chief with Sean Morton as primary contact.

Community member asked if there is funding available to support trail maintenance, including new culverts. He noted a rail bed in Musquash as an area in need of work. He said there is a cost of approximately \$1,200 per 24" plastic culvert pipe.

Community member noted that funding from Emera NB had helped with the purchase of a trailer and suggested the next meeting could take place at the Oak Bay Fire Hall to show the group the trailer with decals noting the company's support. The group agreed the next meeting could take place at that location. Another community member noted that Emera had supported a boat for the St. George Fire Department.

There was a discussion around the next meeting date with September suggested as a good date for the group. Community member noted that he appreciates the safety message at the start of the meeting.

MEETING CLOSED