

EKREG Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday March 16th, 2020

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

Venue: Waterfoot, Argyll PA28 6QX

1. Apologies for Absence

- Rhona Elder

2. Minutes and actions agreed at previous meeting (Monday, 24th Feb)

JB reported on progress with two matters outstanding/carried-over: The combining and relaunch of Mems and Articles (with sanity check by ET) and the draw-down of additional insurance quotes.

RL/JB reported on their meeting with Energie Kontor aka Narachan CSO offer. Failings with EKs existing model were highlighted and it was left with EK to discuss at an executive level and feedback to EKREG.

No other actions remain outstanding

3. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

Nothing to report

4. CSO Model Rules, Legal Vehicles & Interactions

Feedback from CSS/DTAS feedback on RL's first draft of multi-community rules had been received. Some issues had been raised mainly in connection with the 'Community League' proposed

Subsequent interaction with the FCA over the first draft of model rules had proven positive and direction received that assisted the evolution of 2nd draft – focusing on replacement of the Community League with differing share categories, achieving the same result via the introduction of an 'Anchor Member' category which consist of Community-based Charity(s). Based on feedback received, RL had redrafted revised the model rules and the 2nd draft has been resubmitted. Given the financial year end, feedback is expected from FCA within 3-4 weeks.

Sponsorship (£ 950) for the adoption of the approved rules as a generic Scottish tool for communities in a similar position to the communities in Kintyre was discussed. Possibility: Cour windfarm fund (deadline 30th April) – to be explored

Funding Streams

SNIB – RL had instigated positive dialogue with SNIB over the potential for significant capital investment. Co-investment preference to provide shared risk and due diligence. Dialogue continuing.

EIF – about to be merged into SNIB but believed that £20m p.a. gap funding pot held by EIF will continue to be administered in a not dissimilar manner to that already in place. But this remains to be confirmed..

Triodos Bank dialogue 'on hold' awaiting SPR detail for BaT3

Actions outcoming:

- Dialogue over model rules and capital draw down to be pursued [RL]

LES/CARES Grants

Await forthcoming discussions with SPR then submit grant

Actions outcoming:

- email Mark Proctor at LES – update him on meet with A&BC and their desire to progress on a 50% funding basis [JB]

FLS Update

Clarification had been received as to why Clachaig Glen development was required to offer 49.5% equity ownership opportunity for the community, but not BaT3 because of 2009 legislation. Tangy IV situation remains to be clarified.

PWLB Opportunities

AB/JB reported back on their positive meeting with 3 members of A&BC executive on 13th March, where their appeared to be an appetite for further exploration of the opportunity from both parties

Actions outcoming:

- One page executive summary to be drafted [JB]
- CC's local development plans to be formulated and transferred for A&BC evaluation of added value delivered in legacy projects therein [AB]

5. BaT3

Pre-meet on March 16th for CC representatives had been cancelled due to COVID-16 concerns, and replaced by a 13:00 pre-meet in advance of what would now be a tele-conference with SPR.

Initial SPR Documentation had been received by all parties concerned in advance of the forthcoming SPR consultation (two-way dialogue) meeting 18 March. One of many issues to be addressed therein was the proposed 'cap' on CBF payments to 10 years rather than lifetime of windfarm (as per previous consultation) and the involvement of South Arran CC in CBF negotiations. No answers had yet been forthcoming from SPR on any of the question posed to them over BaT3 by EKREG.

6. Clachaig Glen (RWE/Abundance)

Due to FLS rules the communities impacted would have to be afforded an equity stake in the development and not shared revenue which makes the proposition even more attractive.

Actions outcoming:

Presentation to T&SCT 1st April T&S [AB/JB]

Presentation date to be established with S. Knapdale [AB]

7. Tangy IV

Nothing to report

8. NDA Update

Nothing to report

9. Communications & Marketing

- Engagement Strategy - Mtg MR,MSP
MR to retire. Contact to be made with his successor
- BEIS CfD input
RL was thanked for the response he had drafted on behalf of the Kintyre community councils that EKREG represent and which was now lodged with Government
- Website
Rebranding as EKREG should be reflected throughout on website [RE]
Rebranding to be reflected in update to letterhead etc. [RE]

10. AOB

RL had chased HMRC, and JB had rechecked accountant, on the question of the registration eligibility of the resultant BenComm(s) as a charity. Few informative or definitive answers had been received to date from either party. But it was becoming clear that the issue of community shares in the resultant BenComm would be more difficult if the BenComm was registered as a charity. Given feedback from accountant on key accounting principles the present view was that there were few, if any, and possibly negative, benefits in the resultant BenComm(s) advancing charity registration status.

The frequency and workload pending on the Board of the resulting BenComm(s) was discussed and it was concluded that given the level of activity required, once established, quarterly meetings of the Board would likely be sufficient to meet and manage the workload generated.

11. DONM

Monday April 6th 10:00 Waterfoot