

EKREG Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday April 20th, 2020

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

Venue: Remote working: video conference via Zoom

1. Apologies for Absence

- None applicable

2. Minutes and actions agreed/outstanding at previous meeting (Monday, 6th April)

- No actions remain outstanding

3. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

- Nothing to report

4. CSO

- Model Rules - FCA Update and IP Discussion

Positive feedback was reported from the FCA and, subject to some minor modifications as directed, 'Rob's Rules' to underpin multi-community BenComm's could be submitted for approval and registration, subject to the payment of the £950 fee levied by the FCA. The manner in which EKREG could pay this fee and retain IP ownership of 'Rob's Rules' was discussed. It was agreed that, based on feedback from LES/CARES that the ITT arrangements under the grant award gifted IP ownership jointly to the Scottish Government and EKREG, that the charging of this sponsorship fee to the LES/CARES grant was likely the most prudent way forward, as well as being costed for in the Grant application. Feedback from DTAS was awaited prior to opting for this course of action.

- Funding Streams

No updates to report

- FLS/MCS Update

RL reported on correspondence exploring the viability of local scale hydro/VPWN. Discussions with Energy Local – a Welsh-based operator were proving particularly informative. It was looking unlikely, based on present knowledge and the current financial climate, that a local installation would be financially viable unless either grants could be secured to achieve the majority/full costs of the installation and distribution network or a VPW with storage capacity large enough to ensure all off-peak electricity could be sold during peak hours was used.

5. BaT3 - LES/CARES Grant

- VAT Registration

The matter of VAT payments in connection with the invoicing of suppliers' services associated with the approved LES/CARES grant was discussed. It was believed that the approved LES grant was valued at £25K and incl payment of VAT to suppliers who were VAT registered. It was agreed that this understanding should be confirmed/cross-checked in the approval documentation [**Action:** RE/JB].

- **Tender Documents**

Documentation underpinning the tender for advisors had been submitted to LES/CARES for approval, and was currently under scrutiny by recently engaged former FCA-staff.

- **Reporting Requirement**

The requirement for the submission of monthly and financial year-end reports, adopting the format requested in the grant approval/acceptance, was noted

- **CC Charitable Bodies**

CCs represented by EKREG had been alerted to the FCA's view that the multi-community BenComm Rules were at a stage where they could be submitted for registration and key elements thereby with which to comply when considering the establishment of the respective charitable bodies for fund dissemination.

8. **Clachaig Glen (RWE/Abundance)**

- **Action:** AB to contact Abundance/EoN to explore C-19 impacts on timelines

9. **Tangy IV**

- **Action:** AB to contact SSE to explore C-19 impacts on timelines

10. **NDA Update**

Contact had been re-established and brief, but positive, feedback received.

11. **Communications & Marketing**

- **Marketing**

A modified logo for the company was approved, and would be applied to all applicable correspondence here-on-in.

- **Engagement Strategy**

Nothing to report

- **Briefings/CC MoUs**

Correspondence with S. Knapdale CC was ongoing, and an outline MoU (requiring further updating prior to sign off) had been dispatched for their consideration. Contact with Gigha CC had also been instigated. No further correspondence from T&SDT had been received.

- **Website**

Website was up-to-date and news items reporting FCA feedback and LES/CARES grant approval posted.

12. **EKREG - Revised Articles**

In the knowledge that the the Articles of Association posted on the Companies House website have been truncated, the board considered a proposal to submit a set of revised Articles of Association. It was agreed this task be completed at such time as is deemed prudent downstream.

13. **AOB**

- Planning permission applied for by SPR for a meteorological mast to be sited on FLS land between Skipness and Tarbert, probably to underpin a scoping study for a windfarm development designated as Earraghail was discussed. If consented this would be visible from Carradale and would potentially mean turbines covering the

spine of Kintyre along the Carradale horizon in the future. An objection over the visual impact of such a development at Erraghail had been filed by EKCC.

- It was proposed, and agreed that, since financial transactions are on the horizon, EKREG minutes should routinely incorporate a brief Treasurer's report moving forward. It was agreed that AB should act as Treasurer temporarily until such time as the duties of the Treasurer become uncomfortable workload-wise. At such time the appointment of a Treasurer would be reconsidered.

No other matters were tabled at this meeting

14. **DONM**

Tuesday May 5th, 10.00 via Zoom [JB to host]