

Alton CLC Minutes Summary – 2018

Meetings held: March 19, June 19, October 15

March 19

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

The province's [Guide](#) regarding Community Liaison Committees (CLC) suggests an annual review of objectives, mandate and membership. Members of the Alton CLC reviewed and discussed the Alton CLC [Terms of Reference](#). Further discussion of the Terms of Reference will take place at the next meeting.

A project update was provided to CLC members.

A CLC member asked about the benefits of natural gas storage. An Alton representative explained that storing natural gas during low demand season (typically summer) means in periods of higher demand (such as the winter) the stored gas can be released into the market. The cost of natural gas is passed along to customers, so any savings in the price of the fuel with storage are passed along to the customer.

An Alton representative also explained that because natural gas is cleaner than fuel oil or coal, it will help the Province of Nova Scotia to meet its greenhouse gas emissions targets.

A member of the CLC thought the pluses of natural gas storage should be actively conveyed to the general public. The general benefits of natural gas storage are listed on the Alton website.

Routine maintenance activity will take place in the lead up to the brining process which is anticipated to begin in 2018. A new infographic on the Alton website explains the brining process and provides context for the volume of brine expected to be released into the Shubenacadie River estuary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

June 19

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Members of the Alton CLC reviewed and discussed the Alton CLC [Terms of Reference](#). The Terms of Reference were confirmed.

An Alton representative said the project continues to respond to inquiries from the public, potential vendors and organizations interested in sponsorships. The project is also continuing to have discussions with members of the Mi'kmaq community.

An Alton representative shared the project is working toward a start date for solution mining/brining. The plan is to proceed with 2 caverns initially, with further development depending on market demand. The mud will need to be removed from the channel before brining can begin and a plan to do that will be provided to the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to obtain their feedback. Information on the mud in the channel is available on page 2 of the September 2017 community newsletter.

The first stage of the toxicity study at Dalhousie has been completed. The results are encouraging and confirm assumptions that young Striped bass have good salinity tolerance. The tests were not required to start until brining starts, but the testing helps advance knowledge before brining begins. It was suggested in the discussion among CLC members that the project also continue to share information about other fish and organisms that have been studied in the fish fact sheets to help answer questions from the public.

An Alton representative discussed protections for fish and fish habitat that the project currently has in place or planned.

An Alton representative said in the latter half of 2018 the project will also turn its attention to the conservation plan for the pipeline and finalizing of the routing through Crown land. Conversations will be taking place with the provincial Department of Natural Resources and conservation groups with goal to start construction in 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

October 15, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm.

An overview of natural gas distribution in NS was shared, including highlights from a [recent report by Gardner Pinfold measuring the economic and environmental benefits of natural gas distribution in NS.](#)

An Alton representative said the project is working toward an inservice date of 2022 for the caverns to be receiving natural gas. The project is working on a plan for solution mining/brining, but a firm start date has not been set. The plan is still to proceed with 2 caverns initially for natural gas consumers in Nova Scotia, with further development depending on market demand.

An Alton representative said the project would like feedback from the CLC on pipeline planning as that process takes place.

Maintenance work will be taking place as required at the Alton sites.

It was suggested by a CLC member that having information on storage cavern safety and geology in one place on the Alton website would be helpful for the public as it was felt this aspect of the project is not well understood.

Another CLC member said infographics are a helpful way to explain project information to the public.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.