

**Offshore Oil and Gas MOU Working Group
Meeting Summary
Friday February 17, 2006
UBCM Offices
Richmond, BC
9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

In attendance: Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Village of Telkwa, UBCM Community Economic Development Committee
Mayor Barry Pages, Village of Masset
Mayor Herb Pond, City of Prince Rupert
Mayor Carol Kulesha, Village of Queen Charlotte
Mayor Hank Bood, District of Port Hardy
Mayor Gerry Furney, Town of Port McNeill
Chair Brian Lande, Central Coast RD
Vice Chair Rod Sherrell, Mt. Waddington RD
Director Des Nobels, Skeena Queen Charlotte RD

Staff Support: Jean Dragushan, Offshore Oil and Gas Division, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Marie Crawford, Associate Executive Director, UBCM

Absent: Chair Jim Abram, Comox Strathcona RD
Director Harry Nyce, Kitimat Stikine RD

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Sharon Hartwell welcomed working group participants to the meeting and thanked them for coming. Representatives introduced themselves.

BACKGROUND TO THE MOU WORKING GROUP

Ms. Crawford provided the background to the establishment of the MOU on Offshore Oil and Gas between UBCM and the Province. She also outlined the process by which representatives were invited to join the working group.

Ms. Dragushan provided an overview of the provincial context related to offshore oil and gas including; identifying offshore basins of interest, historical overview, results of the recent federal review process and the provincial approach to communities and first nations on the matter. A copy of the powerpoint is appended.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Following the presentation, members considered a draft terms of reference. A brief discussion ensued around the role of the group, whether consideration could be given to involving First Nations, and what forums might be available to bring local governments and First Nations together (ie. Coastal Community Network, Community to Community Forums). It was suggested that if a standard presentation package could be created that provided a balanced approach on the issues related to offshore oil and gas this would be a valuable information / education tool.

PRESENTATION: MARK SHRIMPTON

Mark Shrimpton, Principal, Jacques Whitford Consulting made a presentation to the working group on the socio-economic impacts of the offshore oil and gas industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. A copy of his presentation is appended.

PRESENTATION: MAYOR CHRIS MOREY

Mayor Chris Morey from Fort Nelson made a presentation on the benefits of the oil and gas industry to the northern rockies region of BC. A copy of her presentation is appended.

ISSUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Following the presentations, working group members discussed what issues they wished to address at future meetings. It was noted that “socio-economic impacts” were the focus at this meeting since members had identified this as one area of interest. It was envisioned that the second meeting would carry on with this theme. Members then discussed other areas of interest including:

- what are the environmental impacts.
- possibility of a panel discussion / presentations from academics and scientists to gain broader understanding of the offshore oil and gas. (separate conference)
- further information on the socio-economic / revenue sharing models
- engaging / consulting with First Nations
- research work / scientific studies on offshore oil and gas
- ensuring that the information gleaned from the working group process is shared with other communities to ensure a broader understanding of the issues.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS / NEXT MEETING

Working group members were advised of the procedures for filing their expense claims and discussed potential next meeting date in May. Staff indicated that a follow-up notice of potential meeting dates would be circulated to determine the best option.

CONSENSUS POINTS FROM THE MEETING:

1. Need for additional background information on the process / steps for lifting the moratorium. It was envisioned that a simple one page step by step flowchart which shows the decision points that need to be made, and by whom, which trigger next steps.

With respect to this information, the group was in agreement that it would be helpful to understand that there are decision points that can stop the process. (ie. lifting the moratorium does not immediately trigger offshore oil and gas production, it triggers scientific studies to determine what is there, what are the impacts and risks associated with production.)

2. With respect to the potential socio-economic benefits of offshore oil and gas development, there was agreement that those communities that share in the risk, should share in the benefits.

Attachments include the following presentations:

1. Jean Dragushan – Offshore Oil and Gas Provincial Context
2. Mark Shrimpton – Offshore Petroleum: Socio-Economic Benefits
3. Mayor Chris Morey – Oil and Gas – What's in it for you?

**NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE CONSIDERED DRAFT
UNTIL APPROVED BY THE WORKING GROUP
AT THEIR NEXT MEETING.**