

The draft for the willingness study done, for the municipality of South Bruce, is out to pretend that the residents of SB have a voice. Sifting through the many comments of this study, the South Bruce Community Business Association (SBCBA) is mentioned several times in the willingness report.

Looking through the previous minutes from the SBCBA brings an interesting view of how this organization plays a part in the deep geological repository(dgr) and repackaging plant decision.

Note the following minutes from SBCBA

-Dec 12 2016

NWMO has to give permission for open presentation by Jim Gowland, Chair Community Liason Committee (CLC)

-Dec. 4 2017

“Mark Goetz, councilor, suggested a subgroup of people that would include people from chamber, business association and municipality. Adam Ireland suggested an advocacy group: DGR in our community, promotion rather than information now. An advocacy group would be a guiding force. Jim Gowland, Chair CLC, as elections(2018) are coming up, its up to the community leaders to give recognition and they should make an electorate mandate to make decisions. The process is established, that the elected should move things from there, with dialogue. Jim reiterated, we have to have confidence in the system. Leanne Martin CAO municipality of South Bruce, agreed that advocacy is good and this group is great to promote and share information. Dave Ireland wondered how to convince people? Adam Ireland suggested to meet before the next meeting to discuss further. Adam Ireland, Dave Ireland and Jim Gowland to attend.”

SBCBA , CAO, municipality staff , councilors and NWMO, are busy planning how to position the lobster trap, with bait so the residents of South Bruce are willingly walk into the cage.

“Advocacy, promote, convince, electorate mandate” Is this an open and transparent group of people? These are our community leaders.

These minutes from Dec. 2017 clearly show how a small group of people are busy trying to push the dgr issue to be located in South Bruce. Why was the dgr not a municipal election issue in 2018? Clearly, enough candidates and the moderator Mr. Gowland, Chair CLC were aware of the topic. Were they trying to get all their ducks in a row with elected councilors who are in favour of a dgr?

<https://www.sbcba.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/SBCBA-4Dec2017-Minutes.pdf>

Feb. 2 2022 the office of Ben Lobb MP for Huron-Bruce reacted on a letter from a South Bruce resident with the question : How did the National Government set this up that a tiny group of local politicians should be given the responsibility of dealing with this matter. (DGR site approval in South Bruce)

Response from Ben Lobb's office : So, to actually answer your question, it's pretty counter-intuitive, but legally, yes a small group of municipal politicians have the responsibility of dealing with that.

Reading through the minutes from the SBCBA and the above letter from Ben Lobb's office makes you wonder why the residents of South Bruce are kept "busy" with a willingness study and council will decide.

The plan is to get South Bruce deeper and deeper in the lobster trap. Once you enter, you can't leave. The further in you go, the less likely you can back out.

I asked Saugeen Ojibway Nation for information and they could not share information because they signed a communication agreement with NWMO. The multi-year funding agreement between South Bruce and NWMO also mentions communications with media must be NWMO approved. NWMO is in the driver's seat and has all the control. NWMO must approve how the funds are spent, effectively they control the purse strings. All the funds spent by South Bruce benefit NWMO, either directly or indirectly, photo ops, influencing people with money. The number one way to influence people is to give them something. There is no free money! Who benefits? Someone (NWMO) is expecting something. So far council, you have achieved a deeply divided community with your actions.

After speaking with both Ben Lobb-MP Huron-Bruce and Lisa Thompson MPP Huron-Bruce, fall 2021, they agreed we have the right to a referendum. Mayor Buckle and councilor Mark Goetz know the position from Ben Lobb and Lisa Thompson.

Note here that Lobb and Thompson did not talk about a binding referendum.

*see attachment

People retained by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization are showing up in the minutes from the South Bruce Community Business Association. Andy Keir spiked my interest. He is around from the beginning that the process started between NWMO and the municipality of South Bruce. His name shows up when the Community Liason Committee was formed for the dgr project and he is present in several SBCBA meetings.

In the minutes from the December 12 2016 meeting – Andy Keir, NWMO, brought up municipality to shift gears, get some grassroots support and educate the population but go slow, business groups to support the process, public support. Remember elections in two years coming up. Why did Mr. Keir bring this up in this SBCBA meeting? The NWMO wants to have influence in the outcome of the 2018 municipal elections? Get a council elected that is in favour of the dgr and makes it a smooth ride for the NWMO for the site selection process?

The all candidate meeting in Formosa before the 2018 municipal elections was organized by the SBCBA. The organizers, Jim Gowland-Chair CLC, acted as the moderator. Les Nichols-CLC, acted as the timekeeper and Adam Ireland- Chair SBCBA are involved with NWMO since the beginning.

All the questions for the all candidate meeting had to be handed in ahead of time. The organizers had all the power and control which questions were presented to the candidates. Was NWMO involved behind the scenes? Are we living in a democratic municipality?

I remember clearly that some candidates mentioned that they were sitting on the fence on the nuke dump topic. They needed more information, learn more. I realize that some of these candidates knew exactly where they were standing on this deep geological repository project but pretended that they were not informed. The naked truth is better than a well dressed lie.

Minutes February 5 2018 Andy Keir-NWMO, have a gameplan, are we going to play or win? But game starts now. Who is in the drivers seat of this 24 billion dollar project? A game without clear rules.....definition of willing.....definition of community, this is purposely done by the NWMO.

The Municipality of South Bruce hired an Exploration Team for the proposed DGR who are paid with NWMO wages. This Team only wants to inform the residents about the positive aspects of the DGR and repackaging plant. The dangers and risks are not mentioned for this experiment.

The Exploration Team is housed in our municipal office. Hired as municipal employees and paid with NWMO wages makes for murky boundaries between the two parties. This Exploration Team is pushing the agenda from NWMO. Following the money.

Why does a corporation rent municipal office space when they are wanting to place waste in that municipality?

The Treasurer from our municipality told me it is easier if you have questions to just walk over, this way, there is no trail of messages.

Rita Groen

***Attachment**

Subject: RE: Att'n Huron Bruce MP Ben Lobb - message from South Bruce resident

Dear Ben Lobb, M.P. Huron Bruce,

Thank you for your response to my letter (Feb. 2, 2022) inquiring "How did the National government set this up that a tiny group of local politicians should be given the "responsibility" of dealing with this matter." It certainly is difficult to figure out on my own. I'm hoping to hear that there will be a referendum concerning the proposed nuclear dump in the very near future. Is it OK to share your response with my neighbours and to release it to local council members and newspapers?

- Lynda

Subject: RE: Att'n Huron Bruce MP Ben Lobb - message from South Bruce resident

Hi Lynda,

Thank you for writing our office to express your concern regarding the processes surrounding the determination of whether Teeswater is an appropriate location for a DGR facility. As already mentioned, Ben believes that the question of whether Teeswater/South Bruce is a "willing community" can only be accurately determined through a public referendum on the question.

Regarding your concerns surrounding the municipal process, we can completely understand them. Unfortunately, there is a strange confluence of jurisdictions at play here. The federal government holds jurisdiction over the safety elements associated with the use, transportation, and storage of nuclear material. However whether a community is a willing host to the DGR facility does not fall within the scope of any federal jurisdiction.

Municipal governments derive their authority from the provincial government under the Municipalities Act. While the Election Act (Ontario) governs the handling of provincial elections, and Municipal Elections Act governs the handling of municipal elections. Neither make reference to referenda. All of this to say that there exists no legal framework at either the federal or provincial level to determine how/if/when a referendum in a municipal context, at least as far as I am aware. Lastly, while the doctrine of legislative privilege doesn't explicitly apply to municipal legislatures (as they derive their authority by an act of the Province rather than directly from the Constitution), in general, where specific direction from the Provincial government is not in place, that privilege de facto exists.

So, to actually answer your question, it's pretty counter-intuitive, but legally, yes a small group of municipal politicians have the responsibility of dealing with that.

All the best,

Office of Ben Lobb, MP – Huron-Bruce/Bureau de Ben Lobb, Député – Huron-Bruce
Shadow Minister for Digital Government/Ministre Fantome du Gouvernement
Numérique