



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session

Standing Committee
on
Resource Stewardship

Bill 211, Alberta Underground Infrastructure
Notification System Consultation Act

Wednesday, January 23, 2019
1 p.m.

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The 29th Legislature
Fourth Session**

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (NDP), Chair
Drysdale, Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UCP), Deputy Chair

Babcock, Erin D., Stony Plain (NDP)
Clark, Greg, Calgary-Elbow (AP)
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South West (NDP)
Fildebrandt, Derek Gerhard, Strathmore-Brooks (FCP)
Hanson, David B., Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (UCP)
Kazim, Anam, Calgary-Glenmore (NDP)
Kleinsteuber, Jamie, Calgary-Northern Hills (NDP)
Loewen, Todd, Grande Prairie-Smoky (UCP)
Nielsen, Christian E., Edmonton-Decore (NDP)
Panda, Prasad, Calgary-Foothills (UCP)
Payne, Brandy, Calgary-Acadia (NDP)
Rosendahl, Eric, West Yellowhead (NDP)
Schreiner, Kim, Red Deer-North (NDP)
Turner, Dr. A. Robert, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)*

* substitution for Erin Babcock

Also in Attendance

Schneider, David A., Little Bow (UCP)

Bill 211 Sponsor

Schneider, David A., Little Bow (UCP)

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1 p.m.**Wednesday, January 23, 2019**

[Loyola in the chair]

The Chair: Good day, everyone. I'd like to call the meeting to order. Welcome to members, staff, and guests in attendance for the meeting of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship.

My name is Rod Loyola. I'm the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie, and I'm the chair of this committee. I'd ask that members and those joining the committee at the table introduce themselves for the record, and then we'll call on those joining via teleconference. We'll start here to my right.

Mr. Drysdale: Wayne Drysdale, MLA, Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Mr. Rosendahl: Eric Rosendahl, MLA, West Yellowhead.

Mr. Dang: Thomas Dang, Edmonton-South West.

Dr. Turner: Bob Turner, Edmonton-Whitemud.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Jamie Kleinsteuber, MLA, Calgary-Northern Hills.

Ms Payne: Good afternoon. Brandy Payne, MLA, Calgary-Acadia.

Mr. Nielsen: Good afternoon, everyone. Chris Nielsen, MLA for Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Koenig: Good afternoon. I'm Trafton Koenig with the Parliamentary Counsel office.

Ms Robert: Good afternoon. Nancy Robert, research officer.

Dr. Massolin: Good afternoon. Philip Massolin, manager of research and committee services.

Mr. Roth: Good afternoon. Aaron Roth, committee clerk.

The Chair: Okay. We'll go to the phones. I believe we have Mr. Panda on the line. No? We'll go to Ms Kazim.

Ms Kazim: Anam Kazim, MLA for Calgary-Glenmore.

The Chair: Thank you.

Mr. Hanson: David Hanson, MLA, Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Mrs. Schreiner: Good afternoon. Kim Schreiner, MLA for Red Deer-North.

Mr. Loewen: Todd Loewen, MLA, Grande Prairie-Smoky.

The Chair: Okay. And I believe we have Mr. Schneider.

Mr. Schneider: Dave Schneider, MLA, Little Bow.

The Chair: Okay. Thank you very much.

I just want to note for the record the following substitution, and that's Dr. Turner for Ms Babcock.

A few housekeeping items to address before we turn to the business at hand, a few operational items. Please note that the microphones are operated by *Hansard*. Committee proceedings are being live streamed on the Internet and broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV. Please set your cellphones and other devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

Up next is the approval of the agenda. Would a member move a motion to approve, please? Thank you, Mr. Nielsen. All in favour of the motion? Any opposed? Thank you. That motion is carried.

We have the minutes from our last meeting. Are there any errors . . . [interjection] Sorry. Who was that that joined us on the line, please?

Mr. Clark: Greg Clark, MLA, Calgary-Elbow.

The Chair: Thank you very much, Mr. Clark.

As I was saying, we have the minutes from our last meeting. Are there any errors or omissions to note, and if not, would a member move adoption of the minutes, please?

Mr. Rosendahl: So moved.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Rosendahl. All in favour of the motion, please say aye, including those on the phone. Any opposed, please say no. Thank you. That motion is carried.

As members are aware, the Legislative Assembly referred Bill 211, Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act, to the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship on November 28, 2018, pursuant to Standing Order 74.1(1)(b). As the committee commences its review of Bill 211, it is important to point out that this bill proposes that a committee of the Legislative Assembly conduct public meetings with various stakeholders and interested parties, make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly with respect to the operations of the underground infrastructure notification system, and improve public awareness.

The mandate of this committee is to review Bill 211 and the proposed consultation and reporting process, not to suggest amendments to the legislation dealing directly with underground infrastructure. As a result, committee members should in their discussions on the bill be focused on the process of reviewing the underground notification system in Alberta rather than on substantive changes to legislation or policy that might be suggested by the stakeholders.

The motion referring the bill requires this committee to report back to the Assembly no later than the week of March 4, 2019, and Standing Order 74.2 gives the committee its direction in proceeding with the review.

When a bill is referred to a standing or special committee after first reading, the committee may conduct public hearings on the subject matter of the bill and report its observations, opinions, and recommendations with respect to the bill to the Assembly. As well, upon the concurrence of a committee report that a bill be proceeded with, the bill shall be placed on the Order Paper for second reading. As this is the first meeting of the committee to deal with the referral of Bill 211, the committee should consider today what steps it would like to take in order to conduct its review.

Before we begin, are there any questions or comments about the process of reviewing bills referred to a committee? I'll open it up for any questions.

Mr. Loewen: If you'd like to put me on the list.

The Chair: Yes. Please go ahead, Mr. Loewen.

Mr. Loewen: Okay. I just want to kind of mention the importance of this review process for Bill 211. We need to ensure that the committee can perform its most important function – that is, to hear from stakeholders – in time to write a report for the March 4 deadline. That deadline, of course, was imposed by the Legislative Assembly when it referred Bill 211 to this committee. In the review

process for Bill 211 that timeline might have to be adjusted so that we can get this done in time.

The Chair: Thank you for expressing your concern, Mr. Loewen.

Would anybody else like to offer their opinions, perspectives, contribute any other issues or concerns? I'm going to make sure that those on the phone have an opportunity to chime in. Okay. Hearing none, we will proceed.

Hon. members, it has been common practice for committees undertaking reviews on private members' public bills to invite the bill's sponsor to present to the committee. I would now like to open the floor to a discussion as to whether the committee wishes to extend an invitation to Mr. David Schneider, MLA for Little Bow, to present either orally or in written form on Bill 211.

Mr. Rosendahl, please go ahead.

Mr. Rosendahl: Well, with that in mind, I'd like to make a motion, Mr. Chair, that

the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship invite Mr. David Schneider, MLA for Little Bow, to make a presentation regarding Bill 211, Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act, at the next meeting of the committee.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Any discussion on the motion put forward by Mr. Rosendahl? Mr. Schneider, please go ahead.

Mr. Schneider: First of all, good afternoon to all the committee members. Thank you for this opportunity to say a few words during this meeting. I always like to recap how I get to a certain point in time, so just indulge me for a moment although the chair has said a lot of this.

On November 28 I introduced a private member's bill, Bill 211, in the Legislature, and as soon as first reading was passed, I stood up to ask the Assembly to consider a motion that pursuant to Standing Order 74.1(1)(b) Bill 211 be referred to the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship in order to allow the necessary stakeholders the opportunity to provide their feedback before we proceed with debate and that this committee then report back to the Assembly, obviously, in the week of March 4.

Now, I'm grateful to all members of the Assembly that this motion passed, and that, in a nutshell, I guess, is what brought Bill 211 before this committee today. I appreciate the fact that the Committee on Resource Stewardship is offering me an opportunity to make a presentation in front of the committee regarding the Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act – that is a mouthful – however, I just stated that my motion suggested that the committee report back to the Assembly by March 4. Today is January 23, so that makes us 40 days out from our report date. I'm not sure how many committee days that might add up to, but I suggest it's not very many.

At any rate, in the interest of time for this committee, I would like to suggest that in lieu of a presentation to the committee in person, I would be pleased to provide a written submission to the committee clerk which will include extra background material for the committee members. I truly believe that this is a good option considering the tight timelines that we're facing, and I'm certainly in favour of the committee spending their time consulting with stakeholders. I sincerely believe that the best voice for Bill 211 is the voice of the Alberta Common Ground Alliance. Since they will indeed be the United Conservative Party's number one pick for recommended stakeholders, I suggest that they would also be an excellent choice to answer questions that the committee might have

with regard to the review of the report that I am prepared to send to the chair as part of this review, should, of course, committee members agree with my recommendation to waive the technical review.

Mr. Chair, that's all, I think, I have to say. Once again, I appreciate the ability to be able to speak in committee today. Thank you.

1:10

The Chair: Thank you very much, Mr. Schneider. From what it sounds like, you would like to, then, propose an amendment to the motion being moved.

Mr. Drysdale: Mr. Chair, I would suggest that we amend Mr. Rosendahl's motion to add that Mr. Schneider would present a written report to the committee instead.

The Chair: Okay. Do we have that captured, sir?

Mr. Roth: Perhaps something like this might fit Mr. Drysdale's intention, that

the motion be amended by striking out "make a presentation" and substitute "make a written submission."

Mr. Drysdale: If Mr. Rosendahl agrees with the amendment.

Mr. Rosendahl: I certainly agree with that, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Perfect. So we will, then, first vote on the amendment, and then we will vote on the motion itself. All those in favour of the amendment, please say aye, including those on the phone. Anybody opposed to the amendment, please say no. Okay.

That amendment is carried.

Thank you.

Any further discussion on the motion put forward by Mr. Rosendahl and as amended by Mr. Drysdale?

Hearing none, then I'll call the question. All those in favour of the motion as amended, please say aye, including those on the phone. Anybody opposed, please say no. Wonderful.

That motion is carried.

Hon. members, Bill 211 touches upon various administrative and statutory responsibilities of particular government ministries, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Energy. In cases where a proposed piece of legislation might touch upon the functioning of existing statutes, committees conducting similar reviews have invited officials from the responsible ministries to provide them with a technical briefing.

Does anybody have any thoughts on this? Mr. Drysdale, please go ahead.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, the same as with the previous agenda item, we need to move this through quickly because our time is limited, and we'd sooner hear from stakeholders on the issue. I know there are some concerns between the different government departments on who really leads this thing and takes charge. So rather than a technical briefing, I may recommend a panel. We could invite the ministries of Transportation, Infrastructure, Municipal Affairs, and Energy to come so that we can ask them questions and clarify who actually is going to be responsible for this piece of legislation. Rather than just having a technical briefing from one ministry, we could waive the technical briefing and have this panel come and present. That is my suggestion.

The Chair: Okay. Any further discussion?

Mr. Kleinsteuber: On the note of technical briefings were we still on another point, though, for section (b) there, or have we moved on?

The Chair: No. We've moved on to section (c), sir.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Okay. With regard to that, then, I think we need to be aware of the scope of this review. I don't feel that a full technical briefing, like we would normally see at these reviews, is necessary. I'd like to ask the committee to consider a written government briefing to the committee to consider the outlines and the status quo and all of the areas or ministries that the issue impacts. That would be appropriate. I think Energy and probably Service Alberta are the ministries that would deal with this issue the most. Perhaps we could have those two ministries co-ordinate with each other and other ministries and provide a written response.

Finally, given that the committee does have limited time to report back and limited resources, a written response would be sufficient, I think, to determine whether the bill should proceed while also being efficient.

With that, I could also make a motion if we're prepared to do that. Or are there any other thoughts on it, maybe?

The Chair: I would suggest that you make the motion, Mr. Kleinsteuber, if that's your intent. Then we'll carry on from there.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Okay. I move that the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship invite representatives from the Ministry of Service Alberta and the Ministry of Energy to provide a written technical briefing on behalf of the government on the impacts of Bill 211, Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act, at the next committee meeting.

The Chair: Okay. I'm just going to check with our committee clerk if he can – I'm sure you'll need him to repeat it.

Mr. Roth: Certainly, Mr. Chair. Thanks.

Just a question. Perhaps "for the next committee meeting" instead of "at the next committee" since it's a written briefing. Would that be ...

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Yeah. Sounds reasonable to me.

Mr. Roth: Pardon me. Just to confirm: Energy and Service Alberta?

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Correct. Yeah.

Mr. Roth: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Okay. You feel you've captured it?
Please go ahead, Mr. Drysdale.

Mr. Drysdale: Yeah. I mean, I'm okay with that. It's just that, as I stated before, there's some confusion about who's responsible. I would suggest that maybe they include Transportation, Infrastructure, and maybe a written briefing that very clearly at the end states who's responsible for this piece of legislation and that they have agreement from all these other ministries as well. You know, it might be well if those two ministers say, "I am," but if the other two ministries all of a sudden want to have some control as well – I've seen where it gets confusing in the end. I just want some clarification. I don't care if they come and present to us. Written is fine as long as it's clear in that written presentation about who's responsible and that they've consulted with all the other ministries as well.

The Chair: I believe that is your intent with your motion, Mr. Kleinsteuber?

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Yeah. I think that those ministries can co-ordinate with the other ones anyway. I'm not sure if Mr. Drysdale is recommending that that be in the motion itself, or is it something that they could do on the side and make sure that ...

Mr. Drysdale: Well, as long as they do it.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Okay.

Mr. Drysdale: I mean, if we need to apply that directly, you know, to the two of them, that they need to state that in their briefing.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: I see.

Mr. Drysdale: I've seen some long briefings that don't commit to anything in the end, and I'd just like it to be clear. A written briefing is fine and well as long as it's clear in the intent.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Okay.

The Chair: Perhaps for the sake of clarity, we could just have the motion read again just so that everyone is clear on it.

Mr. Kleinsteuber: Sure.

The Chair: Please go ahead, Mr. Committee Clerk.

Mr. Roth: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Moved by Mr. Kleinsteuber that the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship invite Service Alberta and the Ministry of Energy to provide a written technical briefing on Bill 211, Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act, for the next meeting of the committee.

Mr. Loewen: It's Todd here. If I could get on the speakers list.

The Chair: Sure. Go ahead, Mr. Loewen.

Mr. Loewen: I think Wayne makes a good point. You know, right off the bat Bill 211 has the word "infrastructure" in there in the title. I just think that if we invited Transportation, Infrastructure, and Municipal Affairs to provide written briefs, too, as well as Energy and Service Alberta – I mean, if they decide that they have nothing to do with this, their brief could be as short as, "This has nothing to do with us; please refer to Service Alberta," whatever. I think that including those three would be helpful and would help clarify some of the issues of who's responsible for what.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Loewen.
Anybody else have any comments? Mr. Nielsen, please go ahead.

Mr. Nielsen: Sorry. Could I just get the motion as it's currently written read out again just one more time?

Ms Payne: Or are we able to get it on the committee internal website? That would also be helpful for the folks on the phone.

The Chair: Just give us a moment here. We're just going to get that up.

Mr. Drysdale: Just for discussion while we're waiting, Mr. Chair, I do know that in the last year or two specifically Transportation has cut the fibre-optic lines to Grande Cache and left that whole town stranded with no communication, no banking, nothing. Transportation didn't think they'd need to call One-Call, that

they're above that. I would like to see Transportation or Infrastructure take some responsibility and say that. I don't care if it's Service Alberta or somebody, and I'm sure Mr. Rosendahl can concur with that.

1:20

Mr. Rosendahl: Yeah. I also concur, Mr. Chair, that it was a huge issue and still continues to be an issue, the fact that construction on roadways and stuff can impact service structure and that kind of thing, so I think it'd be important that Transportation be part of this, too.

The Chair: Okay. Mr. Kleinsteuber, how are you feeling about your motion?

Mr. Kleinsteuber: It's fine. If others would like to amend it, that's up to them.

Mr. Drysdale: I would like to amend that, then, if that's all right.

The Chair: Okay. I just want to let everybody know that it is on the internal website, so people can now take a look at the wording, how it is stated in the motion.

Mr. Drysdale, please go ahead.

Mr. Drysdale: Yeah. I would be fine with it if he would accept the amendment of adding Transportation, Infrastructure, Municipal Affairs, and possibly Ag and Forestry as well for the written technical briefing, to consult with the ministries and have them all in agreement on who is ultimately responsible, if that's acceptable to the mover.

The Chair: Mr. Nielsen.

Mr. Nielsen: Sorry. Mine just hung up here. I was just looking at this. I'm just hearing what some folks are asking in terms of, you know, the different departments. They want to make sure that there is some input in there. I wonder if it's possible to maybe make a friendly amendment where we could add in the words "on behalf of the government" after "technical briefing," to add that in there. I don't know if Mr. Kleinsteuber would accept that as a friendly amendment or if I have to make it formal.

The Chair: You have to make it formal, sir.

Mr. Nielsen: Okay. Then I move
to amend the current motion by adding "on behalf of the government" after the words "technical briefing."

The Chair: Okay. Any discussion on the amendment as proposed by Mr. Nielsen?

Hearing none, I'm going to call the question on the amendment as proposed by Mr. Nielsen. All those in favour, including those on the phone, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no. Great.

The amendment has been carried.

If there is any further discussion on the motion itself, I'll now open it up for that.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Chair, put me down on your list, please.

The Chair: Please go ahead, Mr. Clark.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the committee and all the stakeholders who've been part of this process from the beginning. I know we're potentially at risk of having a long laundry list of different ministries, but this is an issue that really does cross

a lot of ministerial boundaries. When I think about underground utilities and safety generally, I think about the OH and S implications, and I wonder if, perhaps, we want to add Labour as one of our ministries to provide some input on this as well. I'm cognizant of time, and I know we're trying to pull this together as quickly as possible, but I just wonder, in the interest of being thorough, if we would consider including Labour as well. I won't make an amendment at this moment, but I'd just add that, throw that out to the committee for consideration.

The Chair: Just for the sake of clarity, I will say that the way that the motion now stands is that the Ministry of Service Alberta and the Ministry of Energy will be consulting with all the other ministries and will be putting forward a written submission that will consult with all of them, so Labour would be included in that, Mr. Clark.

Mr. Clark: That answers my question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: You're very welcome.

Is there any further discussion on the motion as amended?

Hearing none, I'm going to call the question. Do you mind if we have it read one more time just to be safe, so that everyone is a hundred per cent clear on what we're voting on?

Mr. Committee Clerk, please go ahead.

Mr. Roth: Certainly, Mr. Chair. Moved by Mr. Kleinsteuber that the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship invite Service Alberta and the Ministry of Energy to provide a written technical briefing on behalf of the government on Bill 211, Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act, for the next meeting of the committee.

The Chair: Thank you very much, sir.

I will now call the question. All those in favour?

Mr. Drysdale: Sorry. I still don't think it was very clear there that they consult with those other ministries. You know, I don't want to get hung up here on a stickler, but I would like to see it more specific that they consult with the other ministries and perhaps have agreement or sign off on that.

The Chair: Would you like to propose an amendment, then, sir?

Mr. Drysdale: Well, I would, yeah. I guess I'll make an amendment to the motion as read and add that those two ministries consult with Transportation, Infrastructure, Municipal Affairs, Ag and Forestry, and Mr. Clark's Labour ministry and have a sign-off by those ministries on their report as well. Sorry. I'm just afraid that they'll do this on the side and not have agreement at the end, and we'll have places like Grande Cache again getting cut off by Transportation.

The Chair: Okay. We're just trying to capture the amendment as put forward by Mr. Drysdale, so please bear with us here.

Mr. Roth: Just to clarify, Mr. Drysdale, did you request also Ag and Forestry?

Mr. Drysdale: Yes.

The Chair: Could you please read the motion now as amended by Mr. Drysdale?

Mr. Roth: Certainly. Mr. Drysdale, hopefully, this meets your intention.

Moved by Mr. Drysdale that

the motion be amended by adding “in consultation with the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry” after “the Ministry of Energy.”

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you very much for your indulgence.

The Chair: Did you say Labour?

Mr. Roth: I did, yeah.

The Chair: Okay. Everyone having heard the proposed amendment, is there any further discussion on that?

Hearing none, I will now call the question. All those in favour of the amendment as proposed by Mr. Drysdale, please say aye. Anybody opposed to the amendment, please say no.

The amendment is now carried.

Now we'll go back to discussion on the main motion. Perhaps, Mr. Committee Clerk, if we could have you just read it now as a whole as it's been amended.

Mr. Roth: Certainly, Mr. Chair. I'm just putting it also on the committee's internal website.

The Chair: I'm told that it is also being put up on the committee's internal website as well for the people that want to read and follow along at home.

Mr. Roth: Mr. Chair, the motion as amended: moved by Mr. Kleinstaub that

the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship invite Service Alberta and the Ministry of Energy in consultation with the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to provide a written technical briefing on behalf of the government on Bill 211, Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act, for the next meeting of the committee.

1:30

The Chair: Perfect. Thank you very much.

All those in favour of the motion, please say aye. Anybody opposed to the motion, please say no. Okay.

The motion as amended is now carried.

Thank you very much, everyone.

Mr. Rosendahl, please go ahead.

Mr. Rosendahl: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to propose another motion, please, that the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship invite Mr. Colin Piquette, MLA for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, to make a written submission regarding Bill 211, Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act, at the next meeting of the committee. I'd like to give some clarification on that.

The Chair: Please feel free to add to your proposed motion, Mr. Rosendahl.

Mr. Rosendahl: The reason that I'm suggesting that is that MLA Piquette was also proposing a private member's bill on the same issue, but he was further down on the list of private members' bills and was unable to do so. I feel that he feels quite strongly about this issue, so I think it's only fair that we give him the opportunity to provide a written submission to the committee as well. So that's why I'm proposing the motion.

The Chair: Perfect. Thank you very much.

Is there any discussion on the motion as proposed by Mr. Rosendahl?

Mr. Drysdale: Mr. Chair, just for clarification, is this under invitations for technical briefings, or is this under consultation?

The Chair: Mr. Rosendahl, would you like to answer that question? Is it under consultation, or is it under invitations for technical briefings?

Mr. Rosendahl: I would think it'd fall under consultation.

The Chair: Okay. Perfect. Thank you for clarifying that for Mr. Drysdale and the rest of the committee. Great.

Is there any further discussion on the proposed motion by Mr. Rosendahl?

Okay. Hearing none, have you captured the motion, Mr. Committee Clerk?

Mr. Roth: What I have, Mr. Chair: moved by Mr. Rosendahl that the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship invite Mr. Colin Piquette, MLA for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, to provide a written submission for the next meeting of the committee.

The Chair: Okay. Having heard the motion, I'll just call the question. All those in favour, please say aye. All those opposed, please say no. Okay.

That motion is also carried.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Hanson: Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Sorry. Is that Mr. Loewen?

Mr. Hanson: No. Mr. Hanson. I'd like to get on the speakers list under consultation, please.

The Chair: Okay. I was just going to introduce that section right now, Mr. Hanson, so let me just go through that, and then I will invite you to speak. I'll put you on the list right now, okay?

Mr. Hanson: Thank you.

The Chair: The committee may also wish to consider inviting feedback from stakeholders given that the referral motion requires the committee to report back to the Assembly no later than the week of March 4, 2019. I'll remind hon. members that the mandate of this committee is to review Bill 211 and the proposed consultation and reporting process, not to suggest amendments to legislation dealing directly with the underground infrastructure.

As in other reviews, research services has been tasked with compiling a draft list of stakeholders for the committee's consideration, which could include suggestions provided by committee members. In addition, committees conducting similar reviews have authorized the chair and the deputy chair to approve draft stakeholder lists after the committee has had the opportunity to review them and make suggestions.

Does anybody have thoughts on who the stakeholders are for this review? I'll turn it over to you, Mr. Hanson, since you would like to speak.

Mr. Hanson: Yeah. Thank you very much, Chair and to the committee members. You know, at the risk of pointing out the obvious, I'd like to recommend that the committee work quickly to compile and approve the list of stakeholders to invite to make

written and oral presentations to the committee. I'd like to point out that we've compiled a list of about 50 interested stakeholders that we can provide. This list includes a broad range of stakeholders coinciding with the recommendations of section 3 of Bill 211.

Now, the committee can draft the list now or send its recommendations to the committee staff, but I would recommend that we approve the list by Friday at the latest because of the timeline and that we shoot for oral presentations by the week of February 11 to allow time for the committee to have deliberations and ensure that a report can go to the Legislative Assembly before the March 4 deadline.

Like I said, I think I'm pointing out the obvious, but we need to set some definite timelines and get that list as soon as possible.

The Chair: Thank you very much for your input, Mr. Hanson.

I'm now going to turn it over to Ms Payne.

Ms Payne: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would also echo the previous member's comments about the interest of time, and I think that, yeah, having the committee chair and the deputy chair finalize the list of stakeholders makes the most sense and, I mean, ideally, sooner rather than later. I think, you know, that if it's at all possible to get that done by the end of this week and letters sent out shortly, that's a great idea.

Having not seen the list that Mr. Hanson has compiled, I just wanted to make a suggestion that it would be a good idea to have some of the larger telecommunications companies present orally as their services can be quite impacted by someone severing a telephone line or a phone cable that shuts down banking, that shuts down the Internet, which we all live and die by, it seems, as well as phone communications. It can be quite detrimental, particularly for communities like the one mentioned by Member Drysdale. Like, I'm not sure if they'd be able to bring someone or maybe just have a representative come and sit on the panel to share some of the concerns and answer questions.

I think that maybe in the interest of time, if I may do so, I would like to move a motion that

the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship direct research services to prepare a draft stakeholder list in relation to the review of Bill 211, Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act, including any additions provided by committee members, and that the chair and the deputy chair be authorized to approve this draft list no later than January 25, 2019.

The Chair: Thank you very much, Ms Payne.

Okay. I think that there's general consensus based on the comments that have been made so far. Yeah; I think that I'm seeing a nodding of heads.

Does anybody else wish to comment on the proposed motion made by Ms Payne?

Okay. Hearing none, I will call the question. All those in favour of the motion as proposed by Ms Payne, please say aye. Anybody opposed, please say no. Fantastic.

That motion is carried.

Okay. I'll open it up to further discussion on the matter. Any other comments? Please go ahead, Mr. Nielsen.

Mr. Nielsen: Just a quick clarification if you would. So members can just submit ideas on potential stakeholders, and that will get added to the list, or do we need to make any formal suggestions here at this moment?

The Chair: No. I think that every member is welcome to submit them to our committee clerk.

Mr. Nielsen: Okay. Yeah; I just wanted to make sure.

The Chair: Then Mr. Drysdale and I will review them, and then we'll go from there.

Mr. Nielsen: Perfect. Thank you.

The Chair: In order to be able to move forward with actual invitations, then, I would need a motion for the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship to invite written submissions from stakeholders identified in relation to Bill 211, Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act, with a deadline in February. I heard the end of this week. [interjection] Or for the list? That was for the list. Pardon me.

So for an actual invitation letter to go out, I'm going to just throw out the date of February 20 and see if people agree with that. I'm seeing nodding of heads.

1:40

Mr. Drysdale: I guess that would be enough time to complete it by March 4, because we'll have to have another meeting after that, I would think. I was thinking sooner, but the 20th or before works.

Mr. Nielsen: Maybe I'll rely on our staff here in terms of getting invitations out and getting responses, average timelines.

Mr. Roth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Generally as soon as the list is approved, the turnaround is pretty quick in terms of getting the letters out. Typically it's three to four weeks that is often given for written submission returns. This is on the closer end of that, probably, but it's doable.

The Chair: It's doable. Okay.

Would somebody like to move the motion that I requested someone move?

Mr. Rosendahl: So moved.

The Chair: Okay. Mr. Rosendahl, thank you very much. Just so that everyone is clear on what the motion is, I'll read it again.

Moved by Mr. Rosendahl that

the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship invite written submissions from stakeholders identified in relation to Bill 211, Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act, with a deadline of February 20, 2019.

All those in favour of the motion, please say aye. Anybody opposed, please say no. Okay.

That motion is carried.

Thank you very much.

Although we are in the initial stages of our review, I expect that there are some tasks that research services can begin working on to assist us in our work.

Dr. Massolin, do you have any comments on this? I'll turn it over to you.

Dr. Massolin: Thank you so much, Mr. Chair. I don't know if the committee has any additional research tasks in mind in addition to the draft stakeholder list that research services will contribute to or if the committee simply wants to move forward with consultation with stakeholders. But we're here to help if the committee wants.

The Chair: Thank you for your input, Dr. Massolin.

Do any committee members have any thoughts on this? Okay. We will move on, then.

That brings us to other business. Are there any other issues for discussion before we conclude our meeting? Okay.

If not, the date of the next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

With that being said, I'll call for a motion to adjourn, please.

Mr. Nielsen: So moved.

The Chair: Thank you very much, Mr. Nielsen. All those in favour of the motion to adjourn, please say aye. Any opposed, please say no. That motion is carried.

Have a wonderful afternoon, everybody.

[The committee adjourned at 1:44 p.m.]

