

# County puts hold on wind turbines

**-by Rankin MacDonald**

On Thursday, Inverness County Council agreed that council "not permit development for small or large scale wind turbines for a period of six months while the Municipality reviews its Wind Turbine bylaw. And upon that motion that Council consider additional time deemed necessary to complete that review process and possibly consider to extend that period by a further six months if necessary."

At Thursday's session of County Council, CAO Keith MacDonald informed council that staff had been in contact with the Eastern District

Planning Commission about a potential moratorium on wind mill permits. He reported that EDPC Director John Bain will attend council's next Planning Advisory Committee meeting to outline next steps.

While District #4 Councillor John MacLennan said he supports wind power, Deputy Warden Catherine Gillis described the Community Wind proposal for the Judique-Creignish area as a "large scale industrial" project with 16-18 turbines, as high as 200 metres or more. Because the current bylaw, which was written in 2011, defines large scale wind turbines as up to 115 metres, it is weak and needs

to be updated to protect citizens, she said.

Gillis is also concerned about responsibility for the decommissioning and from any damage of the development. Pointing to the environmental impacts, Gillis said an assessment is needed, but because this is one of the largest projects in Atlantic Canada, she questioned whether the province has the resources to conduct a full review. The Deputy Warden is also worried the project will undermine attempts to promote Inverness County

as the Musical Coast.

"Our municipality is the lab rat," said Councillor Gillis.

She also pointed to the health of the citizens and its effect on the tourism industry.

All details will be discussed with the Planning and Advisory Committee for now and the future of such wind turbine developments.

Council voted for the moratorium with Councillor John MacLennan voting against it.

The Annex