
Committee of the Whole Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Berwick Town Hall Council Chambers

6:30 pm

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. April 22, 2025 COTW Minutes
- 4. Review of Action Items**
- 5. New Business**
- 6. Department Reports**
 - a. Fire Department
 - b. Community Development
 - c. Public Works
 - d. Finance
 - e. CAO
- 7. Committee Reports**
 - a. AREA
 - b. Accessibility Committee
 - c. Audit Committee
 - d. Diversity Kings County Committee
 - e. Interim IMSA (Kings Transit/Valley Waste)
 - f. Kings Point to Point
 - g. Planning Advisory Committee
 - h. Police Services Advisory Committee
 - i. Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee
- 8. Mayor's Report**
- 9. Adjournment**

Berwick & District Vol. Fire Dept. May 2025

May 21, 2025

Training: We have recently visited the Berwick Campground property again for a refresher of the area as we enter the new camping season. We have another practice scheduled for July when campers are on site. We also include our neighbouring departments so they too can familiarize themselves with this complex property.

Equipment/ Repairs: No major repairs to our fleet or equipment.

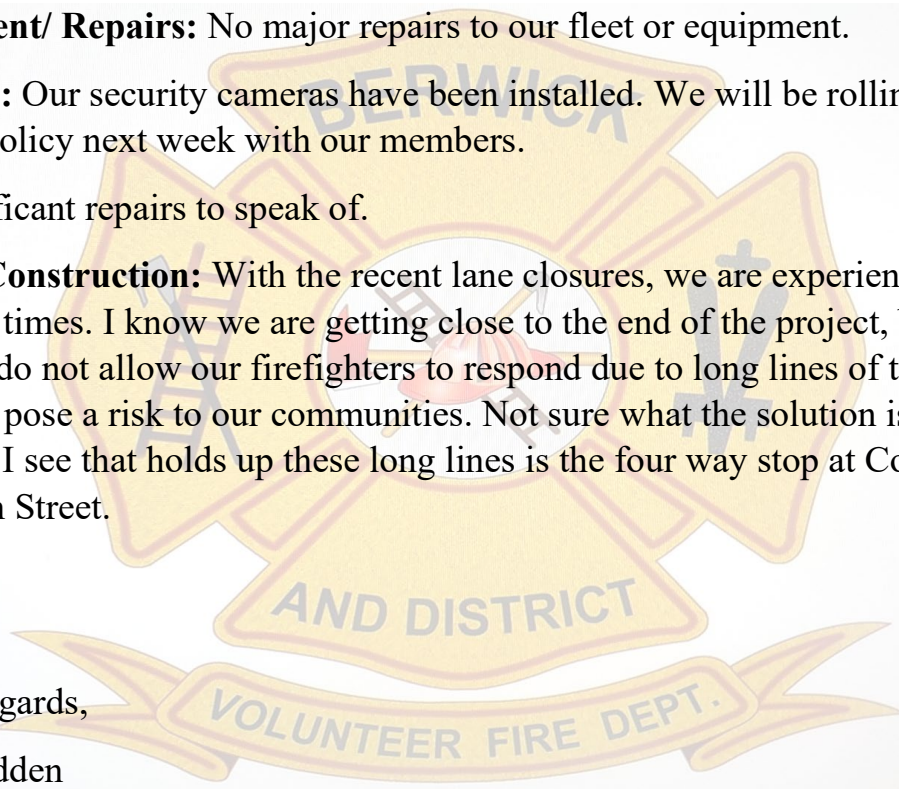
Building: Our security cameras have been installed. We will be rolling out our camera policy next week with our members.

No significant repairs to speak of.

Bridge Construction: With the recent lane closures, we are experiencing longer response times. I know we are getting close to the end of the project, but these lane closures do not allow our firefighters to respond due to long lines of traffic, and this does pose a risk to our communities. Not sure what the solution is for this, but one item I see that holds up these long lines is the four way stop at Commercial and Main Street.

Kind Regards,

Luke Redden



Committee of the Whole Monthly Report



Department: Community Development
Date: May 2025

Key highlights

- The Berwick Gala Days Committee continues to meet monthly; staff attend meetings and support the committee where possible.
- Staff attended the Kings County Food Links Symposium on May 7th and attended sessions on Basic Income, Media Training, Food Security and made valuable community connections.
- Staff attended the Anti-Racism in Recreation Summit on May 15th.
- Supporting Berwick and District School Middle Level Advisory Group with their Seeds of Kindness Project.
- A beginner drop in Pickleball session is now running each Tuesday afternoon from 1-3pm until the end of June.
- The next Active for Life Program is halfway through its Spring session. Will end in June and pick up again the Fall.
- Approved Boxcar repairs are moving forward with work scheduled to begin in the coming month. The first project will be repairing the existing doors.
- The Department of Natural Resources and Renewables has followed up regarding the potential leasing or purchase of the Heritage Station Park property. Staff will provide all required documentation and continue to keep Council informed of any developments.
- New content for the business section of the website has been created and will be published by the end of the month. This update will provide enhanced information on local business resources, along with links to commercial properties available for sale or lease.
- Positive feedback was received from residents regarding recent business posts on our Facebook page. Moving forward we intend to post more regularly and have also updated our process for welcoming new businesses to include recognition through social media.
- Parks Maintenance lead started on May 12th and is well-underway working in the parks, playgrounds and ballfields.
- Washrooms are now open for the season in Rainforth Park.
- Staff continue to support the Sports Hall of Fame Committee with planning and preparation for the June 14th event.
- The Summer Concert Series line-up has been selected; staff are waiting for one further confirmation before publicly sharing the line-up. The new method of advertising for acts was very successful, with over 40 entries for 8 spaces.
- The weather for the Easter Trail Adventure was cold and rainy but the event was a success, with families enjoying the different format.

- Bases have been installed to support beautification elements near the bridge, including lamp posts that will feature banners and hanging baskets. We are currently awaiting the delivery of the lamp posts, which will be installed upon arrival.
- HUBS project in partnership with Cycle Nova Scotia will be hosting engagement sessions and focus groups from June 5-7. Engagement sessions will begin in council chambers from 10-11:30 am and 1:30-3:00 pm. Pop-up engagement sessions will take place at Rainforth Park on June 6th and in front of Town Hall on June 7th.
- An annual \$1000 grant was secured to plan a Trail clean-up day with the school; the cleanup will take place on June 6th from 1-2:15 pm.
- TrailFlow has completed maintenance on Chute Park, the park is now open and being used.
- Summer Day Camp registration opened on May 21st. All camps for ages 4-7 are full, there are still spots remaining in aged 8-12 day camps.
- Staff are working on creating an SOP for dealing with acts of vandalism and mischief in parks and public spaces.
- The Berwick Fitness Centre has welcomed a new personal trainer to their staff, Tommy Daniels.
- We are hosting a Recycle your Bicycle week in the Town of Berwick. Community members can drop off bikes they wish to donate at Town Hall between June 2-6.
- Day Camp Staff will be completing their Valley Recreation Summer staff training day on June 26th in Greenwood.
- The Legion reached out to the department regarding support for a Remembrance Day Banner project. This is a great community initiative in which the Legion is seeing great demand and success.
- Staff attended a virtual meeting regarding the Built Environment Accessibility Standards released in March. The presentation was highly informative and is expected to be made available more broadly in the coming months, as efforts continue to share this information widely.
- The Valley REN continues to work with municipal staff to evaluate and establish the next steps for developing tourism in our region.

Next Month Priorities:

- Preparing and submitting an application to the Active Communities Fund.
- Launch of our Summer Equipment Loan Program and return of playboxes in our parks and play spaces.
- Installation of downtown banners and hanging baskets.
- Summer staff training
- The splash pad, which officially opened last year on June 19th, is scheduled to open earlier this season. With warmer temperatures expected, we anticipate having it

Committee of the Whole Monthly Report



operational during the first week of June.

Upcoming Dates of Significance:

- We will continue to include key dates from our equity calendar in COTW reports to support information sharing and community awareness. While each date is meaningful, recognition may vary. We encourage Council and community members to review these dates and reach out to our department for more information, resources, or local opportunities.

Date	Day/Month of Significance
June: All month	National Indigenous History Month
June: All month	Filipino Heritage Month
June 2-6	AVRCE Pride Week
June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day

Department: Public Works
Date: May 2025

Council Priorities

Asset Management: Ongoing.

- Brightly Software configuration began on 23 April.
- Follow-up meeting 28 May.
- Next Steps:
 - Approximately 12 weeks to implement Brightly Software.
 - Receive training on QGIS from AIM Network.
 - Update AM plan re: 2024/25 vector / CCTV work and findings.

Storm Water Management: Ongoing.

- Providing support to CBCL as needed for the stormwater management plan.
- Surveyor in Town during the month of May for field measurements of culverts and open waterways and ditches.
- Next Steps:
 - Install galvanized culvert grates for the storm culvert near Eden Valley, once built (ongoing).
 - Work with property owners to construct a swale between civics 134, 136 Foster St to manage storm runoff from street.

WWTP Upgrades – Aeration & Blowers: Ongoing.

- 23 Jan sign contract (Gary Parker Excavating Ltd, Town of Berwick).
- 14 April lagoon 2 aeration materials arrived from Nexom.
- New Blower pad, conduit install underway.
- Blowers on order; estimated arrival end of summer.
- Next Steps:
 - Begin work on Lagoon 2; install new blowers in ~ Sept.

WWTP Upgrades – Tertiary Filtration: Ongoing.

- 31 Jan Notification sent to selected proponent.
- 1 April Final agreed terms and conditions of payment and intellectual property.
- Next Steps:
 - Veolia to complete design work (ongoing).
 - Dillon to complete design work (ongoing).
 - Draft tender for construction.

Sidewalk Upgrades – Maple Avenue: Ongoing.

- 19 Jan Concept Design Report received from CBCL.
- Next Steps:

- Report to council at a later date.

Key Highlights

Operations:

- Continue to fill potholes.
- Completed street sweeping operations.
- Completed brush clean up; 8 bins emptied to date. Bin will remain accessible until month end.
- Parks maintenance operations begin; Daniel Iannuzzi Parks Labourer.
- Set up ball fields and begin the ball season.
- Paving work awarded to Howard Little Excavating Ltd.
- WW Treatment:
 - Drum screen failures have occurred multiple times since November 2024; repairs performed as needed (new chain to be installed in drum screen #1).
 - Continuing to troubleshoot performance issues with Blowers (electrical failure).
 - Removed trees in vicinity of blower & drum screen buildings for improved accessibility with heavy equipment and reduced risk of electrical failure due to branches in lines.
 - Upgrades to wastewater pre-treatment at Eden Valley complete; process improvement underway.
- WW Collection:
 - 21 March met with Evangeline Excavators to assess potential for HDPE fused pulled-through repair on Commercial Street.
 - 27 March met with Howard Little Excavating to assess potential for working with Evangeline Excavators for a pull-through option. Quote expected 17 April.
- Solar Garden:
 - Started grounds work in May (very wet and difficult to mow).

Capital (e.g. not already mentioned):

- Accessible Customer Service
 - 24 March Renovations begin.
 - Anticipated completion end of April.

Next Priorities:

- Traffic Line Painting.
- Summer Asphalt work.
- Complete Brightly Training; begin compiling data for Asset Management Software.
- Replace crosswalk hardware on Commercial / Main St (1 April damaged by tractor trailer).
- RFQ for Vactor / CCTV with Village of New Minas and Village of Port Williams.
- RFP for Solar Garden Construction Electrician.
- RFP for WWT Laboratory Testing.
- WWTP upgrades progression.

Department: Finance
Date: May 2025

Key Highlights

Berwick Electric Commission (BEC)

- **Maritime Municipal Electric Utility Alliance (MMEUA):** The MMEAU is leading a cyber security penetration test and all members of the MMEAU are participating. Our scope includes both the utility and the town. The penetration test will identify risks within our IT infrastructure and provide solutions to implement to ensure our organization is protected and minimize our exposure and level of risks relating to cyber security.
- **Factorydale Turbine:** We are anticipating five (5) tenders on the project. A separate RFP is being completed for the removal of the turbine as directed by the insurance company. Hysovent is working on a design for the trash rack. The application has been submitted to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for this project, which includes a grant portion and provides a low interest loan, with rates comparable to Municipal Finance.
- **Solar Garden:** Responses to the NSEB's Information Requests relating to the 2024 Annual Operation and Output of the Solar Garden were submitted. Reconciliation of capital project costs is ongoing with AREA. The external legal council has prepared the capital application for the NSEB, however the capital and operating costs, and anticipated annual output need to be complete before the application may be submitted. Regular meetings are occurring with AREA and our financial consultant met with the AREA bookkeeper in attempt to reconcile the solar garden outstanding issues.
- **Solar Garden HST Recovery:** Doane Grant Thornton (DGT) has been engaged to complete a HST recovery exercise for the Solar Garden. This will ensure all eligible HST is recovered and treated properly. It became known upon commission and conclusion of the Berwick project in December 2023, that the HST was not fully recovered as it should have been. The review will take significant resources to complete, resources which we do not have capacity to conduct internally. Although DGT is conducting the review, this will still take considerable staff time to provide the information and will also require timely information from AREA as they managed the finances for the Solar Garden project.
- **2025/26 Budget Preparation:** Staff are flushing out the power portion of the operating budget and finalizing the capital budget, to present for the Commission's consideration next meeting.

- **Audit Preparation:** Staff are continuing to prepare for yearend. Outstanding items from AREA will need to be reconciled and agreed upon as part of this process.

Town of Berwick

- **Finance Team Update:** We held interviews for the Finance Clerk vacancy and are conducting reference checks on two potential candidates.
- **Audit Committee:** The audit committee met on April 24th. The external auditors presented the 24/25 audit plan and finance provided a status update on the department.
- **Audit Preparation:** Audit preparation is underway. Communication with our auditors is plentiful and things are progressing well.
- **Insurance Claim- Flood at Public Works/BEC Shop:** The claim is partially complete, and partial payment has been received for building damages. The loss of contents is still under review with the adjuster.
- **CUPE Collective Bargaining:** Bargaining continued, however no agreement has been reached to date.
- **AREA Board Meeting April 30th:** Attended the AREA Board meeting.
- **Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia (AMANS) Spring Conference:** Attended the spring conference from May 7-9th, attended excellent sessions on topics including proposed changes to Public Sector Accounting Standards, leadership tips, economic updates and tariff implications, financial software options and had excellent networking opportunities which benefit both the Town and BEC.
- **Eden Valley Poultry (EVP):** Attended a meeting with EVP on May 13th, to discuss our wastewater capital plan and their potential options for wastewater treatment.
- **Department of Municipal Affairs:** Met with senior staff from Municipal Affairs on May 14th, 2025.

Next Month Priorities:

- **Audit Preparation**
- **AREA Board Meeting:** May 27th
- **MMEAU:** Attend AMI kick-off meeting in Saint John, May 29th.
- **BEC Budget Finalization**

Department: CAO and Administration
Date: May 2025

Key Highlights

Berwick Electric

- **NRCan EIP Smart Meters** – BEC, Town of Mahone Bay and AREA have been invited to Saint John Energy May 28 for a planning workshop for the NRCan Smart Grid project. This important kick-off meeting workshop will assist with identifying the separation and integration of work for the procurement, implementation and continued operation of the new AMI smart meters, customer portal, asset management and rate design requirements.
- **NSPI Annually Adjusted Rates (AAR's)** –The Board has approved the energy and demand rates as anticipated and deferred some other elements in the matter to 2026, when there is a likelihood of a NSPI General Rate Application. What is not clear is whether AREA/MEU's have the latitude to increase their approved BUTU contract demand up to 22.4 MW as NSPI had previously proposed. This single issue is the substance of the various scenarios outlined in AREA's budget deliberations during last month's Board meeting. AREA's regulatory advisor has been engaged to seek clarity and then meet with Nova Scotia Power
- **NSPI 2025 Fuel Adjustment Mechanism (FAM) AA/BA Rider** – The NSEB decided the OATT MEUs are responsible for the payment of costs related to NSPI Maritime Link Inc.'s \$500 million regulatory asset as part of the tolls, rates and charges they pay to NS Power. As with all NS Power customers, responsibility for these payments will depend on the costs included in the rates set in the tariffs under which these customers may take service in the future. The impact of this decision will be known when NSPI next applies for increases to the Municipal Tariff
- **Solar Garden Capital Application** – The MEU's, with help from AREA and our solicitor are preparing the capital applications for the solar gardens projects and are on track to meet the deadline of June 1. Assuming BEC staff are comfortable with the solar garden reconciliation that is on-going.
- **Solar Garden** – The transformer has been inspected and there is a broken connector on the tap-switch that will be replaced. The repairs should occur next week and hope to have the transformer back within a month.

Town

- **AREA Strategic Planning** – AREA Board members and CAO's participated in a full day strategic planning workshop to review and comment on the draft strategic roadmap for AREA following consultation with the individual Towns/MEUs. Berwick representatives further reviewed the updated draft and provided comments as we

work towards a final document that can be used to identify resourcing and focus for AREA moving forward.

- **AREA Board Meeting** - Attended the AREA Board meeting on April 30.
- **Interim IMSA Board** - The CAO's from municipal units involved in the Interim IMSA Board have been meeting weekly to finalize draft documents. The goal is to have them for the June 18th IMSA meeting, if not before.
- **Eden Valley Wastewater** – The Mayor, CAO and Directors of Finance and Public Works, met with Eden Valley senior staff to follow up on the new sewer rates, and pre-treatment upgrades.
- **CUPE bargaining** - Bargaining continues, however no agreement has been reached to date. The contract expired April 1, 2025, and any agreement will be retroactive.
- **HR Needs Assessment** – There was a soft kick-off meeting to discuss the approach for the needs assessment as we await a decision on the MIP grant application.
- **MPS Review** – First reading of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw will take place on June 10. July 7 has been identified for the public hearing and second reading. A mail drop, text alerts, emails to those who attended the April 23 session, kiosks posters, electronic sign, social media and the website will be used to advertise the public hearing.
- **Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia (AMANS) Spring Conference** - Attended the spring conference from May 7-9th, sessions included topics such as planning for council transitions, examining the changing environment of US trade, navigating the AI landscape, rethinking housing, safety and policy in Nova Scotia, and leadership. Pre-conference there was an in-person AMANS Board meeting attended by the CAO.
- **Department of Municipal Affairs** - Met with senior staff from Municipal Affairs on May 14th, 2025 and discussed Berwick's priorities related to municipal affairs.

Next Month Priorities:

- CUPE bargaining
- BDCA Agreement
- Solar Garden Capital Application and Reconciliation
- Interim IMSA – new IMSAs
- Committee of Council process review

Committee Report



Committee Name: AREA

Meeting Date: April 30/25

Submitted by: Mike Trinacty

Key Agenda Items:

- **Finalize RELC loan agreement**
- **Budget update**
- **Update on wind expansion**
- **Prepare for the Minister's meeting**

Key Discussion or Decisions:

Loan agreement has been finalized for Approval by the Riverport Electric Commission to repair AREA outstanding account.
The budget numbers to date are projecting a surplus of \$182,000
Potentia has returned to the table with a PPA agreement amount. The GM is reviewing other options for purchasing wind power.
A discussion was had on flow of the meeting with the Minister of Energy

Respectfully Submitted
Mayor Mike Trinacty

Committee Report

Committee Name: AREA

Meeting Date: May 27

Submitted by: Mike Trinacty

Key Agenda Items:

- **Budget update**
- **Update on wind expansion**
- **Solar Garden Cost Reconciliation**
- **Strategic Plan review**
- **Minister's meeting Follow up**

Key Discussion or Decisions:

**The budget numbers to date are still projecting a surplus of \$182,000
The GM has follow up meeting with Potentia and RES to review wind purchase agreements.**

All hands have been on deck to help complete the solar garden reconciliation to at least be able to have the numbers for the application deadline May 30 to the Energy Board.

The Strategic Plan draft was reviewed with updates provided. The GM will provide a resourcing document for the June meeting.

There has been no follow-up from the meeting with the Minister of Energy. The chair will send a letter thanking the Minister, asking for follow up and offering to provide information on municipal energy outages and the costs related to the regulatory process.

Respectfully Submitted
Mayor Mike Trinacty

Committee Report

Committee Name: Accessibility Committee

Meeting Date: May 26, 2025

Submitted by: Johanna Kwakernaak

Key Agenda Items:

- Round table discussion on Groups specific accessibility issues.
- Discussion on potential ways to ensure effective support to ensure true engagement by the community on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- Grant opportunities
- Committee Reports
- Community Engagement and relationship building.
- **Berwick Core AT Network – Phase 2 Kick Off**
- **Access Awareness Week**
- **Accessibility Report Card**
- Issue of Concern re lighting and safety
-

Key Discussion or Decisions:

- All members present participated by sharing accessibility that they encountered in the past week. Issues raised included the state of sidewalks in various parts of town and how they impeded safe walking and general ability to be active
- Need for visual and tactile ways of indicating changes in grade on sidewalks such as changes for entrances to driveways and parking lots.
- Some adaptations to improve accessibility only address the needs of a specific category of users. Example raised seats for loss of flexibility and/or wheelchair users creates a barrier for individuals shorter than the average.
- Need to consider unseen disabilities such as lack of literacy, and vision loss as well as hearing loss and inability to manage in noisy or chaotic environments
- There is a great benefit from hearing from a broad section of the community as often together. We can come up with a better solution.
- Importance of communicating in many different ways
- Discussion on planning for a multi cultural event in September has started and many options are being considered. Food is an important aspect of culture, and it is hoped that food will be part of the event.
- There was a great discussion on how to engage the community in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work. The committee suggested various ways and agencies to help identify community members interested in this work. As well there is intention to invite participation broadly and to ensure that transportation and child care is not a barrier. Taylor is developing this plan.
- Information was shared on the continuation of Berwick Core Network Phase 2. A number of Stakeholder sessions are planned for Next week. There is an all-day session broken into 2 parts on June 5th at the Berwick and District library and a

series of pop up sessions

- Friday June 6 5:30 – 8:30 in Rainforth Park and
- Saturday June 7 10;00-1:00 at the Library.

Access awareness week is this week and while we have not received the Access Flaag for a flag raising we are all encouraged to watch for information regarding all aspects of access.

- Accessibility Report Card – it was agreed by consensus that the report Card shared by the Municipality of Richmond is a clear very understandable and appropriate report Card for the Town of Berwick Accessibility Committee and we will be adopting this format for the Accessibility Report Card.
- The issue of lack of lighting at a the intersection of Margeson and Maple is a Safety Issue and a concern has been filed with the Berwick Electrical Commission from the Accessibility Committee.

Committee Report

Committee Name: Audit Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: April 4, 2025

Submitted by: Councillor Jamieson

Key Agenda Items:

- Audit Plan
- Finance Department Update

Key Discussion or Decisions:

Audit Plan:

Jessica Clahane and Victoria Ells from Doane Grant Thornton gave an overview of their Audit Plan for the 2025/26 fiscal year for the Town of Berwick. Ms. Clahane clarified the Asset Retirement Obligation and Group audits components of the audit plan and their impact on the financial statements.

Finance Department:

Finance Director Buchan gave an update on the finance department. Recruitment is ongoing to fill the Intermediate Finance Clerk position, with interviews held during May 12th. In the interim, a part-time resource has been hired to support accounts payable, and the financial consultant continues to focus on AREA reconciliations and other key tasks. This allows the accountant to concentrate on bank reconciliations and audit preparation. All bank reconciliations are now current. HST recovering support has been procured from Doane Grant Thornton. They will complete a review and refile of the HST related to the Solar Garden. Their work is funded by a percentage of the recovered amount.

Respectfully Submitted
Councillor Derrick Jamieson

Committee Report

Committee Name: Diversity Kings Committee

Meeting Date: May 5, 2025

Submitted by: Johanna Kwakernaak

Key Agenda Items:

- Multicultural Festival – Presentation by the Planning Committee
- May Observance Days Update
- Work plan Discussion

Key Discussion or Decisions:

- The Kentville Multicultural Festival will be August 24th from 10:00 to 4:00 in Kentville CentreSquare. Rain date will be September 9th. This annual event continues to grow. It is a celebration of culture through food, art, and music, an opportunity to experience and learn about our diversity.
- May Observation days were noted. The noted days highlighted are based on the staff's understanding of the Kings County Community,
 - Asian Heritage month
 - Jewish Heritage month
 - May 5th was Red Dress Day, a national day of awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people.
 - May 15, Moose Hide Campaign Day a grassroots movement aimed at ending violence against women and children.
 - May 17, International Gay Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia.
 - My 26=31st is Anti-Racism Week
- The work plan discussion reviewed progress on the work plan to implement the Strategy of Belonging. The circle process with a "talking stick" ensured all committee participants were heard.

Committee Report

Committee Name: Interim Intermunicipal Service Agreement Board

Meeting Date: 21 May 2025

Submitted By: Councillor Serino

Key Agenda Items:

Kings Travel Authority GM Report.

Valley Waste Management GM Report.

Incamera session

Key Discussion or Decisions:

- Bio waste moving to port Hawkesbury
- New Loader purchased for the Valley Waste and staff are pricing a smaller EV loader for consideration if it fits within the approved budget
- Compost giveaway was successful
- Valley Waste participated in the Kentville home show
- Kings Transit Authority is at full staffing levels
- New bus tracking software has been implemented with temporary issues, though staff managed rider communications effectively
- Bus replacement looking at all options (value for money)
- Discussed possible micro transit system
- Ridership up

Committee Report



Committee Name: Police Service Advisory Committee

Meeting Date May 20 2025

Submitted by: Councillor Serino

Key Agenda Items:

RCMP Report
PAB Staff Update

Key Discussion or Decisions:

RCMP Update:

545 patrols 8.9/day avg

Discussion on police reports addresses public presentation on off highway vehicle on public streets and roads and trails act by DNR Date TBD

Staff Update:

Bruce waiting for finalization of position oath-taking next meeting

All acts of vandalism will be reported to RCMP

Update on security cameras installed at Carol's Place

Privacy and surveillance discussed

Verbal harassment near basketball court

PPSA Training:

Date TBD

Bylaw Review:

Staff indentified by laws for review 5-member subcommittee. Was proposed to handle review and recommendations

From: Dan Stovel, Kings REMO REMC
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025
Subject: Kings REMO Special Regional EM Advisory Committee Meeting, Wednesday, April 22, 2025

The Kings REMO Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Key issues of discussion included:

Presentation: [Team Rubicon](#)

- Team Rubicon is a veteran-led humanitarian organization that serves global communities before, during, and after disaster and crises
- More than 180,000 volunteers across North America
- Team Rubicon serves communities affected by disasters and humanitarian crises by harnessing the skills and experiences of veterans, first responders and skilled civilians to help people prepare, respond, and recover
- Team Rubicon involved in the following activities:
 - Incident Management
 - Debris Removal
 - Disaster Mapping & Work-Order Management
 - Hazard Mitigation
 - Expedient Home Repair
 - Spontaneous Volunteer Management
 - Mobile Medical Testing
 - Food Insecurity & Supply Delivery

Kings REMO ECC Activation

Reference: 2025-03-05 NS DEM Minister's Letter

- "When a significant event is likely to impact a municipality, the ECC will be activated at least to a monitoring level" and
- "When local impacts are imminent or emergency, and the Province has activated the Provincial Coordination Centre (PCC) to a level 2 or higher, municipalities in the affected areas will also increase the posture to their ECCs to support First Responders, facilitate the critical flow of information, and lead the coordination of incident management to better protect residents."
"Later this year, the Province will consult with stakeholders on a set of standards (including activation standards) for REMOs which will help to further inform activation protocols and will stand up and staff regional offices which will help to provide more support to municipalities and REMOs in meeting those standards."

Alert Ready

Reference: 2025-03-10 NS DEM Alert Ready Letter

- "[NS DEM] Staff have been in discussions with their provincial counterparts across the country to identify best practices and evaluate the feasibility of implementing some of those practices here."
- "[NS DEM] has identified the alerts portal and training program from Alberta as one that Nova Scotia could leverage. We will have more to share on that soon."

Kings REMO Regional EM Plan, Change 4

REMC summarized the changes being put forward in Change 4 to the Kings REMO Regional Emergency Management Plan

- Foreword – amended signature block to chair of Kings REMO REMAC
- Section 5.2 Risk Analysis Matrix updated from the recent HRVA conducted in December 2024 and approved by Kings REMO REMAC January 2025
- Section 8.1 Declaration of a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) – organization name update for NS Department of Emergency Management (NS DEM)

- Section 9.2 Plan Maintenance & Responsibility – annual reviews updated and plan revisions amended to March 20, 2025 with approval on April 22, 2025
- Section 10.0 Plan Distribution – amendments to organization names
- Annex A – Updates to organization names
- Annex C – ECC Activation Flowchart & Triggers
- Annex L – Volunteer Registration – Assumption of Risks & Waiver Liability form included as approved at Kings REMO REMAC meeting 2025-04-15
- Annex M – NS DEM Duty Officer contact telephone number updated

MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE KINGS REMO REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE CHANGE 4 TO THE KINGS REMO REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN, DATED MARCH 2025

Kings REMO Winter Storm Preparedness & Response Plan, Change 1

REMC summarized the changes being put forward in Change 1 to the Kings REMO Winter Storm Preparedness & Response Plan

- Administrative – map updated with REMO & municipal logos
- Administrative – Foreword signature block amended to Chair of REMAC
- Section 2.9 Winter Storm Organizational Structure – Key ECC activation triggers outlined in Annex D
- Section 3.2.2 NS Department of Emergency Management – administrative organization name change
- Section 3.2.3 NS DPW & Engineering Departments – administrative organization name change
- Section 3.3.8 NS Department of Public Works (NS DPW) – administrative organization name change
- Section 5.2 Plan Review & Maintenance – updated to include dates of reviews and Plan Revision (Change 1)
- Section 6.0 Distribution List – administrative organization name changes
- Annex D ECC Activation – Key Triggers to consider during a Winter Storm

MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE KINGS REMO REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE CHANGE 1 TO THE KINGS REMO WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN, DATED MARCH 2025

2025 Wildfire Season

- Nova Scotia Wildfire Season March 15 to October 15
- Kings County has seen an average of 20 wildfires per year over the last 19 years
- Kings REMO issued a 2025 Wildfire Season Awareness News Release on March 14, 2025
- The [NS Burn Safe Map](#) is updated daily at 2:00 pm

Comfort Centres

www.kingsremo.ca/Comfort-Centres

- 27 Comfort Centres (as of 2024-01-23)
 - Coldbrook Lions Community Centre removed from list of active Comfort Centres – generator repairs being investigated
 - Centreville Community Centre removed from list of active Comfort Centres – generator repairs/replacement being investigated

Pending Additions (Provincial & Municipality of the County of Kings Generator Program Funding):

- Salvation Army Church (Kentville)
- Morden Community Centre (Morden)
- Bethany Memorial Baptist Church (Aldershot)
- Valley Community Learning Association (Kentville)

Community Outreach

2025 Presentations: 12 as of 2025-04-22

- 2025-01-14 Village of Port Williams
- 2025-02-10 Horton Community Centre
- 2025-02-19 Wolfville Legion
- 2025-02-22 Burlington Community Centre
- 2025-03-05 Kings Central High School - Grade 12 Class
- 2025-03-11 Kingston Area Seniors Association (KASA)
- 2025-03-18 Berwick Legion
- 2025-03-19 Canning Community Group
- 2025-04-01 Kids Action Program
- 2025-04-02 Senior Home Care by Angels (am presentation)
- 2025-04-02 Senior Home Care by Angels (pm presentation)
- 2025-04-09 Booker School (Gr 6-8)

Kings REMO Social Media

- Social media offer the opportunity to connect and cooperate with the networked public, take advantage of the capabilities and innovations of virtual volunteers, and to reach people quickly with alerts, warnings, and preparedness messages
- Kings REMO actively uses Social Media to increase community awareness:
 - Facebook followers – annual increase:
 - 9,636 2024-04-15 + 4,709
 - 11,844 2025-04-22 + 2,208
 - 'X' account cancelled and replaced with Bluesky (@kingsremo.bsky.social)

Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) Program

www.kingsremo.ca/VPR/

- Registrations:
 - 2023-01-16 32 registrations
 - 2024-01-15 47 registrations
 - 2025-01-22 55 registrations
 - 2025-04-22 56 registrations
- Kings REMO working to develop a 'Community of Champions' to increase awareness of the VPR Program
- Strategic partnerships developed with Family 1ST Medical & Seniors Homecare by Angels

Training & Exercises

- 2025 Training Schedule:
 - BEM
 - 2025-03-13 (Thu)
 - 2025-06-26 (Thu), 2 registered as of 2025-04-22
 - 2025-09-25 (Thu)
 - 2025-12-11 (Thu)
 - ECC
 - 2025-02-20 (Thu)
 - I100
 - 2025-03-12 (Wed)
 - Additional courses as required
 - I200
 - 2025-04-23/24 (Wed/Thu), 24 registered
 - I300
 - 2025-10-15/16/17 (Wed/Thu/Fri), 19 registered

- 2025-04-03 NS DEM Evacuation Workshop
 - Workshop Overview:
 - Causes of Evacuation
 - Who is at Risk?
 - Community Behaviour in Evacuations
 - Evacuation Requirements
 - Evacuation Communications
 - Re-Entry
 - Evacuation Planning
 - A well-attended workshop in Kings County with 26 Municipal Staff & Agency Representatives in attendance
 - Information from Workshop will be support Change 2 to the Kings REMO Regional Emergency Evacuation Plan being put forward for review/approval: June-REMPC/July-REMAC

- 2025 Exercise program for Kings REMO:
 - 2025-05-20/21 NS DEM EMC Workshop
 - Emphasis on priorities for NS DEM & evolving relationship between REMOs, new REOCs & PCC
 - 2025-06-10 NSEMO Exercise Nova Charlie
 - Focus on educating participants about and testing new lines of communication created with establishment of new NS DEM functions
 - 2025-07-17 (Thu) Hurricane-ECC Activation TTX
 - 2025-11-20 (Thu) Winterstorm – Shelter TTX

Roundtable Discussion

Dan Stovel, Kings REMO REMC

Emergency Preparedness Week, May 4-10, 2025. This year's theme is "Be Prepared, Know your Risks." News release prepared to be sent out May 1st to highlight emergency preparedness. As part of EP Week, Alert Ready system will be tested in Nova Scotia Wednesday, April 7th at 1:55pm

Councillor Howard Williams, Town of Wolfville

Table 1 of Section 5.3.1 Blizzards and Heavy Snowfalls, indicates location of "National, except North of 20". REMC to investigate and confirm Environment & Climate Change Canada's location for Blizzard Warnings.

Section 10.0 Plan Distribution includes Acadia University but not NSCC. REMC highlighted that the distribution of the plan was to membership of the Regional EM Planning Committee

Mayor Corkum, Municipality of the County of Kings

The meeting provided a better understanding of Regional Emergency Management issues

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 2025

MAYOR'S REPORT

FROM May 13 _____ TO May 27/25 _____

Date	Lead	Purpose
May 12	BEC	Regular board meeting
May 13	Eden Valley Check In	Continue relationship building and focusing on the waste water upgrades and Eden Valley costs
May 13	Council	Regular meeting
May 14	Valley REN Newcomers Coffee and Chat	Hosted by the Valley REN and open to the public to hear about and discuss their newcomer program
May 20	PSAC meeting	Did not attend
May 21	IMSA regular meeting	Attended virtually
May 27	AREA board meeting	Regular virtual meeting
May 27	COTW	
May 30	Councillor survey	Deadline to submit
June 10	Council Coffee Session -Lets Talk budget?	

Council Coffee Chats

Schedule 2025-26

Format – Morning sessions open to the public at the Berwick Fire Hall. Starts at 930AM and ends at 1130 AM. Hosted by the Mayor and includes a short presentation(s) from staff and a specific topic followed by a question time and discussion. Following are the dates, topic and staff involved:

June 10/25 -Let's Talk Budget!

The CAO and Director of Finance will give a presentation on the Five - Year Plan and Provincial Indicators and an overview of the 2025/26 budget. Department Heads will be available for questions on their budgets. Due to the bridge construction this will be held at the Anglican church.

Sept 9 – Let's Talk Energy!

The CAO will present on the BEC projects in place. The president CAO of AREA will present on developments with AREA.

November 18 – Let's Talk Development!

The Planner will provide an overview of the MPS and LUB documents. Staff will provide and update on various developments and the development report to date.

February 17/2026 – Berwick's Strategic Plan!

The mayor and staff will provide highlight of the Strategic Plan for the upcoming 4 years.