Western
New Brunswick
Service Commission

Board of Directors
September 18, 2026
Unit XIII Restaurant, Hartland
11:15 a.m.

Board Members In Attendance:
Chair, Andrew Harvey, Mayor of Carleton North
Tammy Titus-McPhail, Mayor, Village of Southern Victoria
Tracey DeMerchant, Mayor, Hartland
Jeff Wright, Mayor, Woodstock
Laurie Barry-Kinney, Deputy Mayor, District of Tobique Valley

Regrets: **Absent:**
Greg Grant, Mayor, Lakeland Ridges
Lynn Hambrook, Chair of Western Valley Rural District Committee

Staff In Attendance:
Katelyn McGrath, CEO
Andrea Callahan, Director of Operations (Recording Secretary)
Emily Clark, Director of Economic Development and Healthcare Collaboration

Visitors:
France Rousel, Genesis Reciprocal Insurance Exchange
Ken Costain, Terry Burpee and Ryan Kennedy, members of the Carleton Ground Search and Rescue.

Call to Order:
Chair, Andrew Harvey called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

No conflict of interest was proclaimed by those in attendance.

Motion to Accept Agenda as amended
26-0-29
Moved: Tracey DeMerchant
Seconded: Jeff Wright
Motion Carried.

Motion to accept August 14, 2026, minutes
26-0-30
Moved: Tracey DeMerchant
Seconded: Tammy Titus-McPhail
Motion Carried.

Business arising
Chair of the Board, Andrew Harvey reported that the Minister of Natural Resources is due to visit the region on October 7 to discuss trail development.
Jeff Wright mentioned that some representatives are coming to host an open forum on mining. He will let the other municipalities know the date of this meeting once it is finalized.

Cell Coverage
Cell coverage will remain on the agenda for discussion at the next Board meeting.

Genesis Reciprocal Insurance Exchange Presentation
France Rousel gave a presentation about CANOE insurance and the benefits of the Genesis Reciprocal Insurance Exchange of which UMNB is a client as well as some of the municipalities in the region.
This organization grants donations to various groups each year and this year the recipients are Ground Search & Rescue groups throughout the country. Carleton Ground Search and Rescue is the recipient of $5000 for 2026. France read the award letter and presented the cheque to Ken Costain. Terry Burpee and Ryan Kennedy, members of the Carleton Ground Search and Rescue.

Youth Career Forum
Emily Clark has been organizing a Youth Career Forum for all grades 11 and 12 students in Anglophone School District West. Approximately, nine schools, 1200 students, will travel to the Ayr Motor Centre in Woodstock to participate in this career day. Emily asked the Board members and any of their Councillors who may be interested, to join us at the event. Emily will send the schedule, the list of attendees and the details to the Board members.

Motion to sign Product Care Contract
Katelyn McGrath presented the Product Care Contract to the Board.
2026-0-31
Moved: Jeff Wright
Seconded: Tammy Titus-McPhail
Motion Carried.

Motion to send letter of support for Valinor Retirement Home Proposal in Bath, N.B.
Katelyn asked if there are any suggested changes to the letter that she circulated. She will amend it to include data/numbers from Hotel Dieu Hospital in Perth-Andover and send the letter on Monday.
2026-0-32
Moved: Tracey DeMerchant
Seconded: Laurie Barry-Kinney
Motion Carried.

Motion to send letter of support to Horizon Health Authority and the Minister of Health, Dr. Dornan, regarding the Board's support for the proposed Diversion Clinic that is planned for Upper River Valley Hospital.
2026-0-33
Moved: Tammy Titus- McPhail
Seconded: Tracey DeMerchant
Motion Carried.

Motion to break
Motion: Tracey DeMerchant
Seconded: Tammy Titus-McPhail
Motion Carried.

Motion to go back into session
Moved: Jeff Wright
Seconded: Tracey DeMerchant
Motion Carried.

Regional Trails
Katelyn McGrath distributed the draft terms of reference for the Western New Brunswick Regional Trails Advisory Committee that she had previously sent to the Board by email.

Motion to approve Term of Reference for the WNBSC Regional Trails Advisory Committee as amended
2026-0-34
Moved: Jeff Wright
Seconded: Tammy McPhial-Titus
Motion Carried.

Motion to appoint Jeff Wright to the WNBSC Regional Trails Advisory Committee
2026-0-35
Moved: Tracey DeMerchant
Seconded: Tammy Titus-McPhail
Motion Carried.

Motion to release 2027 Draft Budget for 45 days
2026-0-36
Motion: Tracey DeMerchant
Seconded: Tammy McPhail-Titus
Motion Carried.

Solid Waste

The Board discussed some of the issues that have surfaced with the rollout of the new carts and the new collection schedules.

CEO Report

Training

Katelyn McGrath mentioned that there are training sessions being organized with the provincial Ombud's office for CAOs and staff as well as sessions for all councils with the Local Governance Commission. These sessions will be scheduled for early 2027.

Cell Coverage

A letter will once again be sent to the appropriate ministers regarding the very poor cell phone coverage in the region/province.

Motion to invite the two First Nations in our region to become ex-officio members of the WNBSC Board.

2026-0-37
Moved: Jeff Wright
Seconded: Tammy McPhail-Titus
Motion Carried.

Motion to Adjourn at 2:55 p.m.

Moved: Jeff Wright
Seconded: Tracey DeMerchant

Signed: _____ _____

Chair, Andrew Harvey Secretary, Tammy Titus-McPhail

Healthcare Discussion:

Several discussions on the topic of healthcare have been mentioned throughout the meeting. The Board discussed the importance of supporting healthcare initiatives within the region. Mayor DeMerchant mentioned that they are still seeing struggles everyday with the lack of communication from Horizon, even with their own physicians. Onboarding is not going as smoothly as it should, and the issues are not addressed in a timely manner before the new physicians arrive to begin work.