

Committee of the Whole

Committee Report/Updates – Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton

September 20/2022

Submitted to Council

One Nova Scotia – REAP Project

Our team continues to meet bi-weekly and as needed to progress several must-win battles (two that council may have interest in is regarding Apaq't Place and the establishment of an Offshore Wind Research Centre here in the Strait). We have submitted and successfully secured a joint proposal for \$60K (\$40K will be invested in Apaq't Place at the Port Hawkesbury Waterfront) (\$20K for Rising tIDE fund development which will take the form of a hack-a-thon this Fall or Winter) via Onside (submitted June 10th). I attended an innovation tour at MIT in Boston from June 28-30th which completed the REAP MIT component of our project. The next steps will be to work with NSCCs across the province to continue to work on innovation in the 5 regions (Strait Cape Breton included). I've included our executive summary for Council review, please let me know if you have any other questions.

I travelled to Boston for 3 days as part of an innovation tour hosted by MIT, which generated lots of interest and ideas for the future development of Apaq't Place as an innovation hub at the Port Hawkesbury Waterfront.

At this point our program with MIT is concluded – however – our team plans to continue to move forward the Must Win Battles we have outlined in our executive summary. The team champions and managers will be doing a 1-day workshop with NSCC at the lead near the end of the month (report to follow), to see how they can support further REAP team progress.

(Chair/Team Champion Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

Allan J MacEachern Regional Airport

There wasn't a quorum for the meeting on September 12th – and a new date is in the works for later in month. I do what to update on a meeting that resulted from the letter to Minister Susan Corkum-Greek Meeting from our Council re: airport and needed partnership from the Province to invest in its future. (Note: the Allan J MacEachern Regional Airport Committee also sent a letter to the Minister, therefore the original meeting was with the Minister and the two Town representatives on the committee (Myself and Deputy Mayor Aucoin), and the Minister was happy to also accommodate the vice-chair of the airport committee as well (Deputy Warden Melanie Samson). It was a zoom meeting scheduled on September 13. It was a positive meeting. I outlined a bit of the history of the airport and reviewed the strategic session

outcomes and opportunities. Erin (as acting CAO) outlined some of our capital challenges (runway and lighting). The Minister acknowledged that the airport was an important transportation asset to the region and that she, her Deputy Minister, and her team would explore any programs or assistance that may be possible to assist with ongoing development and growth of the airport. On September 15th, I followed up via email to send the Minister a copy of the Allan J Airport Strategy report, meeting notes, and that we'd follow up at a later date when we had a report of what work was needed to the runway.

(Chair: Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, Vice Chair: Melanie Samson)

NSFM Executive Board Meetings

Provincial Code of Conduct working committee meetings continues – we reviewed feedback from the broader NSFM membership on the draft code. Next steps are to discuss potential around sanctions.

On the NSFM Board side, I sit on the organizing committee for the Fall Conference and am happy to report that registrations are open and there seems to be a great early rush of registrations. Board meetings continued monthly and when needed throughout the summer – and a Special Meeting of the Members was held virtually on Sept 7 to decide on the structural changes for NSFM. However not a lot of progress was made and the membership voted to table the remaining decisions at a later date. We hope to have another thorough presentation of the structural changes at the Fall Conference and depending on the wishes of the membership, move to set another Members meeting to complete the process.

(Chair/President – Mayor Amanda McDougall – CBRM Vice-chair/Vice-President Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, Town of Port Hawkesbury).

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health

The executive members continue to meet with NS Recruiter/Navigator Victoria MacAulay to discuss joint projects for retention/recruitment. I am also part of a special committee working with members of NSH on brainstorming solutions for our region regarding health care delivery and community health and wellness. Gina is doing great hands-on work too in the community and working with both NSHA and our local professionals to better understand and implement recruiting strategies. (Newsletter is attached). With regard to the general committee – our next meeting is scheduled for September 22rd.

(Chair – Juanita Mombourquette, co-chair – Amanda Mombourquette)

Accessibility Advisory Meeting

Our PHAAC meeting for September 12th is being rescheduled to September 26th. The plan will be to have staff review the accessibility work that was accomplished over the summer (from our Plan) and to determine some tangible next steps for the next year of our work-plan.

(Co-chairs: Matthew Higgins and Brenda Chisholm-Beaton).

Unity Drive: Joint Industrial Park Commission

We did not meet during the summer, and our next meeting date is not yet set.

Destination Cape Breton Association

We continued to meet monthly throughout the summer. From all reports shared, Cape Breton Tourism has definitely rebounded and for some, has exceeded 2019 numbers. Online engagement continues to grow. Some of the challenges that arise fairly consistently is around housing for seasonal workers in the tourism industry, shortage of workers as well which has impacted hours of operation for some businesses.

(Chair: Bruce Morrison, Victoria County)

Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network Liaison Committee

There were no meetings throughout the summer, however, our next meeting is scheduled for September 28th (report to follow).

(Chair: Bruce Morrison, Victoria County)

Pitu'paq

We met several times over the summer. One of our meetings were held at Friends United in Cleveland. One special project that we are working on currently is around treaty education and truth and reconciliation work that we might organize and offer to councils and others. We are currently working on a survey to distribute to find out what interest there may be for participation (tentative for Spring 2023).

(Chair: Shirley MacNamara)

Offshore wind Task Force

The task force continues to learn more about offshore wind, and connect with key stakeholders. We hold regular meeting times for the task force (each first and third Tuesdays

of every month). We are continuing to prepare a proposal to establish an offshore wind research centre here in the Strait Region. We've attended multiple meetings with stakeholders (when needed) and presented to Potlotek, and are planning to present at Victoria County Council and Paqtnkek in the future.

(Co-Chairs: Amanda Mombourquette and Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

Other work:

CBU Leadership Dinner: (June 22) I attended this dinner in support of CBU, it was well attended and had support and attendance from all 5 municipalities across the Island. It was held in Halifax and hosted by Membertou.

Strait of Canso Superport Days (July 7-8) I attended this session, and it was a fulsome agenda that outlined all of the current developments happening in the Strait of Canso. Deputy Premier Allan MacMaster gave an amazing keynote and the emerging hydrogen and offshore wind industries were some of the key themes discussed.

Marine Renewables Conference: I attended a Marine Renewables Conference on August 11, which provided a lot of great information on offshore wind potential as well as other green renewables for the Province of Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada.

Coady Institute International Women's Workshop: I helped to coordinate and host a workshop held at Friends United on August 19 for 28 International women attending the summer program to share the work of FOCUS which included the leadership school for women and women's leadership mentorship programs, as well as work done with First Nation Grandmother Elders.

Mayors and Wardens CAO's NSFAM Zoom: (August 24) I chaired a session open to all Mayors, Wardens and CAOs to get an update on the Province's work to date on the housing file.

Funding Announcement: I was thrilled to take part in a funding announcement with Mike Kelloway and Allan MacMaster for the Waterfront. (held at Apaq't Place on August 3rd).

Everwind Fuels: Besides being in regular contact with Everwind leadership, and had a few meetings to meet new staff. I had the opportunity to attend their industry update on August 31st and again for their "open house" in early September.

Port Hawkesbury Paper: I had the opportunity to meet Allan Eddy's replacement – Geoffery Clarke. He will step into files that his predecessor was a part of – like the REAP file and the Offshore Wind Task Force.

Richmond County: I had the opportunity to join in a meet and greet to meet the new CAO of Richmond County on August 31st (Troy MacCulloch).

NSCC Student Welcome: I attended the Campus orientation and provided a welcome to students on behalf of Town Council in three different sessions on Sept 6.