

Committee of the Whole Committee Report/Updates

Submitted by: Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton

April and May 2023

Submitted to Council – May 11th, 2023.

Team Cape Breton Strait – Post-MIT REAP

We continue to meet regularly (2nd Thursday of each month) to continue work on our must win battles (Two we continue to keep on our radar are the Rising tIDE fund - lead by Chad Munro, and the Innovation Centre). The meeting request in with the Provincial Department of Economic Development with Minister Susan Corkum-Greek has been postponed for now, however, we are happy to meet with the Minister when and if there is a desire.

As per our must win battle that has a focus on creating an enabling environment for Offshore Wind – several REAP Team members continue to work with the Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Taskforce. (More will be updated as is progress made).

(Chair/Team Champion: Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport

A meeting was held on March 29th - with a focus on the budget. Manager and facilities reports were received, as was the private user report. Meeting chaired by vice-chair Melanie Samson – as I was driving and joining virtually.

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

Budget Deliberations (various meetings)

We've had a series of budget meetings (March 21st, April 12, April 18, May 11th) Which focussed on capital - current and future projects/priorities around critical infrastructure, plans for road/sidewalk work, operational budget needs, and determining what the coming year's trends will look like. We'll continue to meet until our budget work is concluded, a capital budget plan set, and our residential and commercial rates set. At the time of this report – our budget deliberations are not yet concluded.

NSFM Board Position

Provincial Code of Conduct Working Group: municipal consultation continues; we had the opportunity to provide an update at the NSFM Spring Conference (for which I presented). We received great feedback, which was brought back to the Code of Conduct Working Group Committee for consideration on May 10th.

Board Meetings: There was a special board meeting on March 27th, March 31st,

There was an in-person NSFM board meeting the first day of the Spring Conference - May 3, 2023. We discussed key issues impacting municipalities including policing contracts and retroactive payments, as well as the Mass Casualty Report, and we were able to discuss other topics like municipal modernization, service exchange, infrastructure/municipal funding, and more.

Spring NSFM Conference “Exceeding the Vision”: (Held in Digby)

Successful event – with about 130 delegates in attendance. Councillor Aucoin attended. It was a busy Conference beginning the evening of May 3rd and ending on Friday May 5th. It was a busy schedule – as president I presented on the following:

President’s Address – outlining important issues and opportunities for our 49 Municipalities.

Structural Changes for NSFM – brief overview and letting the 49 Member Municipalities know how they can become more involved on either: Advisory Committees and/or moving forward topics to determine priorities under areas of Municipal interest. For example, any council can discuss an issue or opportunity at their council table and move forward items to NSFM for consideration. Additionally, each individual council member in each of the 49 Municipalities can vote for their regional representatives. President and vice president will be elected at large (via electronic voting for all elections). Results will be relayed to members at the Fall NSFM AGM – new NSFM board will be 17 members (from 13) with regional representation.

Code of Conduct – I presented an overview of the code of conduct work done to date by the working group made up of provincial and municipal and staff volunteers. The work can be described in 3 key phases, with the first being a determination of appropriate set of standards of conduct. The second was to create appropriate sanctions that could be applied when a breach of the code was determined. The third phase, that is still ongoing, is the investigation model. Note: all phases have had consultation/feedback from members, and more will be collected before the final phase is completed and a finalized recommendation put forward to Minister Lohr for Provincial consideration. Note: our working group will make recommendations but at the end of the day – the Province will have the final say.

Municipal Success Stories – Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Taskforce (presented with Warden Amanda Mombourquette) to showcase this working group as a great example of municipal and stakeholder collaboration.

Chaired Fireside Conversation with Minister Lohr – who discussed the many files the department is working on currently, and he answered questions around code of conduct,

municipal modernization, and he also took questions from the floor. One notable one was the need for a vulnerable citizens registry that can assist those who need it most during weather emergencies like Hurricane Fiona.

Chaired the Luncheon as well, sponsored by Cox and Palmer.

Additional NSFAM meetings:

As President – Spring Conference Prep meeting on April 12th.

FCM “Future of RCMP in Canada and Rural Forum” meeting on April 20th.

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health

I had the opportunity to work with the CBSRH executive and Gina who did an excellent job on the Community of Care Gala and Awards Ceremony which was held on April 13th – I was happy to assist in the awards ceremony with Warden Amanda Mombourquette who did an amazing job as Emcee. There was wonderful feedback from all who attended, and what I am most proud about is how this event is seen as an important model that can be replicated in other communities as an important tool for medical health care professional retention strategy.

Our small executive continues to reconnect when we need to – and we also had the opportunity as well to reconnecting with NS Health staff regarding the framing of a “reimagining health care in the Cape Breton South region” pilot and what it can look like. We met with NSHA staff on May 8th and 10th – and part of this reconnection included revisiting the community feedback (we gathered in late 2022). We hope to draft a business plan/proposal that we can have ready for funding opportunities in August and/or in the Fall.

Meetings were held on March 23rd and April 27 (was unable to attend the April 27th meeting due to being out of country at Wind Europe).

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

Port Hawkesbury Accessibility Advisory Meeting

Our Co-Chair Matthew is undergoing surgery – so we’ve put digging in to our main project – Granville Green – till he’s able to attend with the rest of the group. The May 8th meeting was spent reviewing the PH Accessibility Plan particularly with the new committee members. The next meeting will be June 5th, 2023.

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

Destination Cape Breton Association

DCBA meetings continue each month, as well as the finance meetings Terry provided a presentation to Council regarding the current Tourism plan as well as the bylaw changes required for the marketing levy. This bylaw change will be something that our council will be considering in the weeks to come to change our current bylaws in order to set an island-wide rate with the other 4 municipalities.

(Chair: Rodney Chaisson; Vice-chair: Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

Strait of Canso Offshore wind Task Force

The SCOSWTF executive continues to meet several times a month – as needed – to work on the monthly SCOSWTF agenda and to complete action items determined at each monthly meeting.

On April 11th - a SCOWTF meeting was held virtually. Both chairs reviewed action items, and member updates were shared, and a quick review of next action steps for the group. Working group/executive met several times to prepare presentations and promotional materials for both the Smart Energy Conference and the Wind Europe Conference.

Note: The Wind Europe Summary will be done separately from this COW report.

On May 9th, we held the monthly SCOWTF meeting (virtually) and reviewed action items and work needing to be done still, as well, Warden Mombourquette did a wind Europe presentation and I reviewed the smart energy conference presentations. We also did a round table.

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

Other work:

2-day Truth and Reconcili-action Event: I've been having several meetings with Jeff Ward as well as other gala participants, and with town staff regarding logistics for the gala on May 19th. I've been working closely with Melissa and Michelle on sponsorship and promotional materials. I'm currently working on a program, and promotional posters. I have an interview scheduled with the hawk May 11 to promote the Gala and flag raising. This has been a tremendous piece of work commitment – but definitely very rewarding and the event is shaping up to be very well attended (we are hoping for close to 200 attendees for the gala). MP Kelloway confirmed attendance for the flag raising. Thanks so much to Councillor Aucoin for assisting with the Indigenous market for May 20th. At the time of this report – our sponsorship

totals should cover our costs and – with the auction items – the surplus should provide great support for Wekoqma'q Family Healing Centre and Leaside.

Stfx University Women in Business Conference: I spoke on a panel with 6 other women on March 24th in Antigonish as part of a Women in Business Conference. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with lots of young women attending Stfx in the business program.

Meeting with Guysborough County: On March 28th, the CAO, new EDO Martin Thomsen, and Richmond warden and CAO travelled to discuss offshore wind opportunity with Guysborough County Council and CAO/EDO.

NetZero Atlantic: This was a meeting hosted by Netzero Atlantic in-person on May 11th to meet and discuss consultation work with new consultant (and to get some feedback from the SCOSWTF).

Green Hydrogen Sector Development Meeting: (April 6th) This is one of several monthly meetings going forward with NRR staff/Province to ensure local municipalities are preparing and ready for this emerging sector. (Specific participants are staff/elected from Richmond/Town of Port Hawkesbury/Guysborough).

Community Roundtable with Federal Minister Qualtrough – Civic Centre: April 13th (as well as an earlier Breakfast meeting with Minister Qualtrough and MP Kelloway). This was a great event – I was able to mobilize close to 20 community members together to discuss affordability and the federal budget. Some of the stakeholders there were from Leaside, community services, small business owners, Chamber of Commerce, Early Childhood, Roc society, and others.

Pitupaq April 14 – was held in Potlotek (attended virtually).

Techsploration: I attended as Emcee for the Techsploration at the NSCC Strait Campus. It was a wonderful event with over a 100 grade 9-12 female high school students there to get mentorship and exposure to technology and trades. Held on April 14th.

Gateway Project: I met with some of the project scoping staff to discuss my ideas on the potential for the gateway project (virtually) on April 14th.

Smart Energy Conference: I prepared two separate presentations during the earlier part of the month of April – one for Municipal collaboration to achieve net zero goals and the other on the work of the Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force and the opportunities in the Strait of

Canso for Offshore wind. I travelled to Halifax to present on April 17 and 18 and also attended other sessions that included green energy solutions for net zero targets (green hydrogen, tidal, offshore wind, onshore wind, solar, electrification, and more).

Everwind Fuels Community Liaison Committee: (reoccurring Monthly meeting) I sit as a community member on the Everwind Fuels Community Liaison Committee, and we met virtually April 19th. We use this venue to share information, and to ask questions regarding their important green hydrogen file. If council has any questions, I can take them to subsequent meetings don't hesitate to ask/contact me. Also, if any citizens have questions, happy to take those forward as well.

Strait Richmond Housing Matters Coalition – Re-visioning Meeting (May 10): This meeting was held in Louisdale and was a 2–3-hour strategy session to discuss the future of the coalition and next steps. The results of the session will be summarized and presented at the next meeting. It was a great turnout – and we were fortunate to have MLA Trevor Boudreau attend.

Port Hawkesbury Development Discussion (May 11): Town staff and some council members with other stakeholders (Leeside, New Dawn, Chamber of Commerce, and Dora Construction representatives) meet to discuss future housing projects and next steps. Some of the outcomes were to take the final housing report (New Dawn) to Council and consider a community think-tank that reviews the report and to consider the future merit of a housing and/or broader non-profit (like New Dawn) for Port Hawkesbury. Also, Terry will follow up with Dora and New Dawn and the Chamber on potential land assets that could begin potential project discussions.