

Committee of the Whole Committee Report/Updates March – Joint Council / Committee of the Whole 2024

Submitted by: Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton

Submitted to Council for March 18th, 2024).

AMANS (Association of Municipal Administrators Nova Scotia)

As past president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) I serve for the 2023-2024 term on the AMANS Board as an NSFM representative. Meetings are typically monthly (or more frequently as needed). (This month's meeting was on March 15th 2024 with related meeting on Feb 26th).

Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport

Allan J Airport Meeting: No meetings to report on at the time of this update. Next meeting is on March 27th 2024.

(Chair: Brenda Chisholm-Beaton - Town of PH, Vice Chair: Melanie Samson – Municipality of the County of Richmond)

NSFM Board Position

Board Meetings and related Engagement: We continue to be extremely busy our monthly full board meeting as well as executive board meeting(s) on a variety of topics (including regular board business, issues/opportunities as they arise, areas of municipal interest, provincial issues/opportunities as well as reviewing financials). (Meeting dates were February 26th - March 14th and 18th 2024).

Note: As Past-President of NSFM, I spoke at Law Amendments on March 4th in favour of the Bill to consolidate the County and Town of Antigonish.

(Chair: Carolyn Boliver-Getson, Vice Chair: Sandra Snow)

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health (CBSRH)

Our regular CBSRH meeting will be rescheduled due to holiday conflicts.

Note: there is an upcoming meeting of the Strait Area Health Care Steering Committee on March 20th – as a CBSRH executive committee member – I attend these meetings with NSHA and other community steering committee members. Goal is to determine a new health care model for Cape Breton South region to pilot.

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

Port Hawkesbury Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

On March 4th our committee did some virtual research on other municipalities across Nova Scotia and their accessibility pages (on their municipal websites). We were looking for ideas for what we'd like to see included in the development of our own Accessibility page on the Town of Port Hawkesbury website. This work will continue in the next meeting; we are hoping to schedule the meeting and invite Michelle Farrow to attend to assist with webpage development.

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

Destination Cape Breton Association

We met February 21st – virtually; received the CEO report from Terry Smith and reviewed current state of island tourism, trends, issues, and opportunities. Some parts of the island reported better than expected summer outcomes while others reported below expected outcomes. Winter tourism continues to be progressed. Work continues on partnership with Indigenous tourism which the board hopes will result in a joint staff position.

Other related meetings: **Finance Committee:** (as above) the finance committee met February 20th – and report was delivered by chair Marie Walsh.

(Chair: Brenda Chisholm-Beaton; Vice-chair: Robert Bernard)

Strait of Canso Offshore wind Task Force (SCOWTF)

The SCOWTF executive continue to meet regularly. Additionally, the monthly meeting of the entire SCOWTF will be rescheduled due to quorum challenges. At the rescheduled meeting we hope to have attendance and update for Senators from Nova Scotia with an interest in the OSW file.

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

Other Meetings and Mayor-related Activities:

Budget Meeting: Preliminary meeting held to discuss Town of Port Hawkesbury budget and council priorities (next meeting will discuss staff priorities and review) Meeting held February 27th 2024. (Next meeting to be determined).

REAP check-in Meeting: Meeting with some REAP committee members to discuss updates on the rising tide fund must-win battle – held February 28th.

Offshore Wind Centre of Excellence Meeting: Meetings for discussions on the ongoing development for a business plan for an OSW Centre of Excellence. Meeting held March 4th and chaired by EDO Martin Thomson.

Green Hydrogen Sector Development Meetings: Meetings for discussions on the ongoing development for the Green Hydrogen Sector with municipal, NRR staff/Province representatives to ensure the local municipalities in the Strait region are properly preparing and progressing on various files to support this emerging sector. (Specific municipal participants are staff/elected members from Richmond/Town of Port Hawkesbury/Guysborough). Date(s) of meeting at the time of this report (Meeting held March 7th)