

## **Committee of the Whole Committee Report/Updates April/May – Committee of the Whole**

### **Submitted by: Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton**

(Submitted to Council for May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Committee of the Whole).

### 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). (At the time of this report, I attended meetings on April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> - May 1<sup>st</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> 2024).

### Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport

Allan J Airport Meeting: Meeting held on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2024. Items needing attention were discussed and significant discussion re: runway. Managers report was provided, as well as facilities report. Update on potential for funding discussed. A private users update was not provided at this meeting. We hope to reach out to that member for an update before or at next meeting. (Next meeting is May 29<sup>th</sup>)

***(Chair: Brenda Chisholm-Beaton - Town of PH, Vice Chair: Melanie Samson – Mun 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 at the time of this report were: March 27<sup>th</sup> April 15<sup>th</sup>, April 16, May 1, May 3, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2024). Joint meeting of NSFM and AMANS on May 13<sup>th</sup> but was unable to attend due to work.

**NSFM Spring Conference (Baddeck) May 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>:** Great conference – arrived evening of May 7<sup>th</sup> and following morning was a strategic planning session for the NSFM board with a board meeting that followed for the remainder of the day (to 5:30pm) followed by meet and greet of NSFM membership, and all day sessions May 9<sup>th</sup> and the sessions for the half day on May 9<sup>th</sup> cancelled due to power outage. Overall it was a great Spring Conference with lots of great presentations and networking opportunities.

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

### Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health (CBSRH)

Regular meeting held April 11<sup>th</sup> (virtually). Gina provided her director's report in advance of the meeting.

Note: the Strait Area Health Care Steering Committee– as a CBSRH executive committee member – continue to meet (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. Next meeting is May 28<sup>th</sup>.

In person meeting was held May 16<sup>th</sup> but I was unable to participate due to work commitments. Next meeting date to be determined.

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

## Port Hawkesbury Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

On April 15<sup>th</sup> our committee continued our virtual research on other municipalities across Nova Scotia and their accessibility pages (on their municipal websites). We began to solidify ideas for what we'd like to see included in the development of a Town Accessibility page on the Town of Port Hawkesbury website. This work will continue in the next meeting (to be held on May 27<sup>th</sup>); we are grateful for the assistance Michelle Farrow is providing our committee on this project.

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

## Destination Cape Breton Association

We met April 23<sup>rd</sup> – virtually as a finance committee – and the following day – April 24<sup>th</sup>, was the date of our regular DCBA board meeting. We 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.

**(Finance Committee Chair: Marie Walsh).**

**(DCBA 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 this month (new date for June to be determined).

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

## Other Meetings and Mayor-related Activities:

**Budget Meetings:** Meetings held throughout April and May. (was unable to attend May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting due to work commitments). Next meeting to be determined.

**Everwind Fuels Community Liaison Committee:** (reoccurring Monthly meeting) I sit as a community member on the Everwind Fuels Community Liaison Committee. Meeting dates: March 20<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup>, and May 15<sup>th</sup>). (Note: we use this venue to share information, and to ask questions regarding any updates or information on this important green hydrogen file. If council has any questions, I can take them to subsequent meetings – so please feel free to contact me with these and I can bring them forward. Also, if any citizens have questions, happy to take those forward as well). **NOTE:** I had the opportunity to attend an EVERWIND FUELS event in HRM April 3<sup>rd</sup> – representing the Town of Port Hawkesbury.

**REAP Team Cape Breton Discussions:** (March 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>) to review our REAP team's progress on our must win battles. We'd like to plan an in-person meeting soon. (Note: as a reminder – some of the must-win battles are around the innovation centre, the offshore wind centre of excellence, making Cape Breton/strait region a destination for innovation, and more).

**Urban Mayor Discussions:** Had the opportunity to meet with some of our urban mayors in HRM (March 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>) to discuss opportunities to work together. One idea that we'd like to progress is the development of a municipal app (like Bridgewater uses) and can we pilot this – to be able to provide reliable and quick information to citizens about multiple topics like waste removal changes, water flushing, and more. These discussions will continue again at next meeting in the late spring/early summer.

**Community Network for Energy Transition Discussions:** (March 28<sup>th</sup>) held virtually – meeting to discuss ongoing progress for Nova Scotia and the energy transition to green renewable energy (including tidal power, on and offshore wind potential, and more). Some participants were Net Zero Atlantic, Marine Renewable Energy Canada, ACOA, and others from the SCOSWTF and CBP.

**Offshore Wind Centre of Excellence Discussions:** (April 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>) Held virtually. Conversations continue and progress on these conversations, including an international scan and research presentation on other similar centres/work across the world, including in the North Sea, UK and Europe.

**Strait of Canso Infrastructure Strategy Project Steering Committee Meeting:** (April 4<sup>th</sup> April 16<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup>) Held virtually. Conversations continue and progress on these conversations, including an international scan and research presentation on other similar ports/centres across the world that are participating (some more mature and some recent industry participants) and the infrastructure that supports their industry (scans include ports in the North Sea, UK and Europe and beyond). Knowing what infrastructure is needed in these international ports will help to identify what we have and what we need here in the Strait of Canso.

**Green Hydrogen Sector Development Meetings:** Several meetings to discuss 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 (April 4<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024)

**Housing Non-Profit Discussions:** (April 5<sup>th</sup> and April 23) Held virtually. Hosted by the SACC - Conversations continue on both the development of a Housing Not-for-profit as well as potential for completing a funding application for capacity building/support position to move this non-profit forward to eventually be its own entity with a board to oversee its operations/management/progress. (Next meeting to be held June 1<sup>st</sup>).

**Food Bank Discussions:** (April 8<sup>th</sup>) Held at town office. Met with Chair – Kevin MacEachern regarding the short, medium and long-term goals for the foodbank. Terry Doyle also in attendance. Conversations will continue and progress as the Food bank begins to solidify their plans.

**SACC State of the Strait Conference Briefing:** (April 9<sup>th</sup>) Held virtually. Hosted by the SACC with Iain Sinclair and his team regarding their keynote presentation at the SACC conference (to be held April 11<sup>th</sup>). It was a great briefing that helped share our current stage of development as a region in the offshore wind industry which in turn helped inform Iain and his team with what to focus on for the conference during his keynote.

**CEPI Senior Council Meeting** (April 10<sup>th</sup>) Held hybrid (in person in Eskasoni/also virtually). A great meeting that outlined Cepi's yearly work plans, budget, and current projects. Updates provided by Cepi partners. Great review/update on the success of the two-eyed seeing conference.

**Vision 2024: Business Update and Trade Fair – Energizing our Future:** (April 11<sup>th</sup>) This was a very well-done and well-attended conference hosted by the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce held at the Civic Centre in Port Hawkesbury. Jason MacMillan did a wonderful job presenting on the Landry lake and other joint projects with Richmond County and the Town, as did Martin Thomsen. Some great topics included climate smart initiatives, transitioning power, updates on new projects, networking opportunities, as well as a phenomenal lunch keynote by Iain Sinclair – the Executive Director of Global Energy Group in Scotland

**TECHSPLOURATION 2024:** (April 12<sup>th</sup>) Held at the Nova Scotia Community College Strait Area Campus. I had the honour of serving as the Master of Ceremonies for the Techsploration luncheon with close to 100 girls and gender diverse students from all over the Strait region who participated in a program that introduces them to sciences, trades and technologies as well as role models who help encourage them to pursue these career paths. Most of the students in grades 9 through to grades 11. Role models/mentors attended from all over the province. I enjoy participating in this program each year as a volunteer.

**Department of Emergency Management & Nova Scotia Guard meeting:** (April 12<sup>th</sup>) Mayors Wardens and CAOs in attendance with members of NSMAH to discuss the legislative changes coming for Provincial Emergency Management and the establishment of a dedicated department to better respond to emergencies and to better collaborate with partners.

**Living Library Project – TEC Elementary School:** (April 15<sup>th</sup>) Held in-person at TEC in Tamarac. Hosted by the TEC faculty, this is a pilot which is the first of its kind in the province. Several community leaders and SAERC students came in to talk to various groups of kids from Grade Primary to grade 8 on a variety of topics such as policing, community development, volunteering, careers at sea, SAERC, hockey and more. All topics were repeated 4 times (for different groups of kids) to have an open dialogue – with the idea being that life experience and sharing on these topics would help the kids to increase their knowledge. I spoke about community development and how you can grow the town (like Minecraft). It was a great volunteer opportunity.

**Nova Scotia Offshore Wind Roadmap/Supply Chain Module Discussions:** (May 6<sup>th</sup>) Held virtually. Hosted by the Marine Renewables Canada. Provided some feedback regarding this new emerging industry as it relates to the Strait Region, our current opportunities, and needs, as well as providing a municipal perspective on how best to prepare for this industry.

**Municipal Affairs and Housing Meeting:** (May 10<sup>th</sup>) Held in-person at the Civic Centre boardroom). We had the opportunity to meet with Minister John Lohr and his team on the topic of housing needs and our commercial development zone legislative request. This was a positive meeting that led to several great action items that will be followed up on in the weeks to come.

**Scouts (Port Hawkesbury Chapter):** (April 14<sup>th</sup>) Held at St Marks. Had the opportunity to talk to the boy scouts about local government and what it means to be a “mayor”. The scouts asked some really great questions, and we had great discussions about what they liked about the town and what the town needs. Its so great to get kids interested in local government early! I really enjoy any opportunity to speak with our youth.

**NSCC/Marine Institute (Meet & Greet):** (April 14<sup>th</sup>) Held at Strait Area Campus for new students and their parents. Had the opportunity to be part of the welcome and to participate in the networking event.