

Valley Regional Services Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Valley Waste-Resource Management Boardroom with Virtual Attendance Option

APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., based in the Valley Waste-Resource Management Boardroom with a virtual attendance option.

Attendees:

Board Members

Municipality of Annapolis County:	Dustin Enslow, Deputy Warden
Town of Annapolis Royal:	regrets
Town of Berwick:	Mike Trinacty
Town of Kentville:	Andrew Zebian, Mayor
Municipality of the County of Kings:	Dave Corkum, Mayor
Town of Middleton:	Gail Smith, Mayor
Town of Wolfville:	Jodi MacKay, Mayor
Mun of Digby:	Linda Gregory, Warden

Also in Attendance:

Municipality of Annapolis County:	Rob Frost, CAO
Valley Waste:	Andrew Garrett, General Manager
Kings Transit:	Meg Hodges, General Manager
Kings Transit and Valley Waste:	Dan L'Abbe, Director Finance & Corporate Services
Recording Secretary:	Andrea Garrett, Administration Manager VWRM

Agenda Item No. 1 –Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Corkum welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Agenda Item No. 2 – Approval of Agenda

ON MOTION OF WARDEN GREGORY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR TRINACTY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approve the October 15, 2025, with the amendment to Agenda Item 6 to include two parts to the *In Camera* session: Kings Transit discussion under sections 22(2)(c) and (e) and Valley Waste discussion under section 22(2)(e) of the of the Municipal Government Act.

MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda Item No. 3 – Approval of the Minutes

Agenda Item No. 3.1 – Approval of the Meeting Minutes held September 17, 2025

ON MOTION OF MAYOR SMITH AND SECONDED BY MAYOR MACKAY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approve the September 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Kings Transit Authority

Agenda Item No. 4.1 – General Manager's Report

As circulated in the meeting package, General Manager Hodges presented the Kings Transit Authority (KTA) General Manager's Report. Key highlights included:

- Bus 64 has officially retired, slightly ahead of schedule. Bus 63 is scheduled for retirement in November. Bus 61 is currently undergoing structural repairs at a local welding shop.
- The first Grand River Transit Nova LF bus is scheduled for inspection, with additional buses preparing to enter service.
- Live-feed camera systems are being installed on buses to enhance safety and operational efficiency.
- October ridership may be impacted due to ongoing service disruptions that began last month.
- Due to a shortage of operators and buses, half of Route 2 service is suspended until further notice affecting service frequency in Port Williams and Grand Pre. A long-term solution is being developed.
- The registration process for the new Tidal Transit Authority is underway. The legal team requires a copy of the approved minutes from the September Board meeting.
- KTA is partnering with AVCC and Valley REN for the Immigration Fair on November 1st in Wolfville.
- Acadia University's Economics and Environmental Science departments are collaborating with KTA staff on term projects.
- KTA staff recently held a meeting in Cornwallis Park, followed by a tour of the proposed transfer station site.

ON MOTION OF MAYOR MACKAY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR TRINACTY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors Receive the October 15, 2025, Kings Transit Authority General Manager's Report.

MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda Item No. 4.2 – Kings Transit Authority – Request for Decision, ICIP Phase 2 Scope Change

General Manager Hodges and Marilee Sulewski from Collier's Project Leaders presented information from the report attached to these minutes and the Request for Decision as circulated:

- Colliers Project Leaders bring experience working with other transit organizations.
- Their task was to examine KTA's transition to hybrid or fully electric buses and recommended the best path forward.
- The key issues identified were
 - The current fleet is unreliable, placing strain on operations.
 - Mechanics are overburdened due to aging fleet.
 - Office building lacks sufficient space to accommodate future growth.
 - Overall staff capacity is stretched, with opportunities to improve operational efficiency.
- Recommendations are to acquire new buses, recruit and train additional mechanics and administration staff to support operations.
- Colliers has prepared the ICIP amended application to support the purchase of hybrid buses, as included in the meeting package.

In response to the question, a cost analysis showing potential savings from purchasing new buses has been completed but was not included in the presentation. It will be shared during the upcoming budgeting process.

It was clarified that the Colliers report is a needs analysis, and a full strategic plan is still required.

In response to the question, if the scope shifts from fully electric to hybrid buses, the ICIP funding application amount will remain unchanged. Hybrid buses offer the advantage of not requiring electric charging infrastructure, unlike fully electric buses.

In response to the question, external repair options are limited, as the current buses are complex and not favored by outside mechanics. It was suggested that KTA continue engaging with NSCC to explore apprenticeship opportunities for mechanics.

In response to the question, KTA recommends shifting the scope to hybrid buses to gain experience with electric systems without committing prematurely to infrastructure that may not be ready. Hybrid buses would also allow KTA mechanics to begin learning electric systems.

In response to the question, there are currently two hybrid bus manufacturers in Canada, with more options available internationally. Procurement processes will need to be established.

ON MOTION OF WARDEN GREGORY and SECONDED BY MAYOR MACKAY,

Whereas the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors is committed to reducing carbon emissions and investing in reliable and sustainable rural public transit; and

Whereas the proposed scope change affects only two components of the existing project, with all other elements remaining substantively the same;

Be it resolved that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approve a scope change for Project 05-23-0022 ICIP Phase 2 to amend the project scope to include the purchase of seven (7) hybrid electric buses and two (2) hybrid electric supervisor response vehicles.

MOTION CARRIED

Agenda Item No. 5 – Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority

Agenda Item No. 5.1 – General Manager's Report

General Manager Garrett provided the Board with an overview of the Valley Waste-Resource Management General Manager's Report, dated October 15, as circulated and attached to these minutes. Key highlights included:

- The launch of December 1st for EPR for PPP is approaching.
- The Curbside Recycling Contract agreement with Circular Materials is pending receipt of insurance certificates from our collection contractor. Once received, the contract will be signed.
- Negotiations for Post-Collection Services are ongoing, including discussions around utilizing both the Eastern and Western Management Centres.
- A province-wide contractor for residential recycling processing has been announced.
- Western Management Centre Compaction Equipment: Nova Millwrights was awarded the contract to supply a new hydraulic compactor. The total project cost came in under budget.
- The Request for Proposals deadline for the Expansion of Eastern Management Centre has been extended to October 23 at the request of proponents.

- Partnerships continue with Port Hawkesbury Paper and Scott Farms, both actively purchasing wood waste.
- Staff delivered presentations to fire departments in Kingston and Greenwich as part of fire prevention week focusing on lithium battery hazards and proper disposal to prevent fires at solid waste facilities. Additionally, information booths on battery recycling are being held at malls and grocery stores.
- A screening of the film "This is Garbage" held at the Wolfville Legion on October 16 as part of Waste Reduction Week.
- Staff will participate in the Community & Immigration Fair at Acadia University on November 1
- Material tonnage continues to fluctuate. For example, fall cleanup was delayed this year but not reduced. This will be the final six-month bulky item cleanup. Starting April 2026, Valley Waste will transition to allowing two bulky items per regular collection day.
- A notable change is the decline in shingle tonnage, likely due to increased use of private C&D facilities or a shift to metal roofing. NSECC has approved the use of ground shingles on-site.
- Divert NS will be holding their annual Mobius awards for Environmental Excellence. Valley Waste nominated three groups for their waste reduction efforts: Scotian Shores, Annapolis Valley Frugal Moms and the Kentville Community Park and Gardens.

In response to the question, Valley Waste will actively promote the bulky item collection change through regular communication channels and targeted outreach to groups such as investment property owner associations.

In response to the question, the previous pilot project using ground shingles on trails could be revisited. The issue of nails left behind was a learning opportunity, and the new grinder includes a magnet to remove metal debris.

ON MOTION OF MAYOR SMITH AND SECONDED BY MAYOR MACKAY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors receive the October 15, 2025, Valley Waste-Resource Management General Manager's Report.

MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda Item No. 6 – In Camera session in keeping with Sections 22(2)(c) and (e) of the Municipal Government Act

ON MOTION OF MAYOR TRINACTY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR MACKAY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors move to an In Camera session in keeping with sections 22(2)(c) and (e) of the Municipal Government Act at 10:54am.

MOTION CARRIED.

The October Regular Monthly Meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors was called back to open session at 11:14 a.m.

There were no motions to bring forward from discussion in the In Camera session

Agenda Item No. 7 – Next Meeting

The next Regular Monthly Meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors will be held on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** in keeping with the normal meeting schedule.

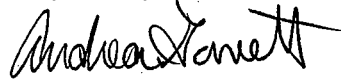
Agenda Item No. 8 – Adjournment

Being no further business, the October regular monthly meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors, Chair Corkum called for adjournment

MOVED BY MAYOR MACKAY and SECONDED BY MAYOR SMITH that the Valley regional Services Board of Director meeting adjourn at 11:15 a.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Garrett

Recording Secretary

Administration Manager, Valley Waste-Resource Management