

## **Valley Regional Services Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Municipality of the County of Kings Council Chamber with Virtual Attendance Option

### **APPROVED MINUTES**

A meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., based in the Municipality of the County of Kings Council Chamber with a virtual attendance option.

#### **Board Members in Attendance:**

<b>Municipality / Town</b>	<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Others in Attendance</b>
Municipality of Annapolis County	<b>Dianne LeBlanc, Warden</b> In Person	Rob Frost, CAO In Person
Town of Annapolis Royal	<b>Amery Boyer, Mayor</b> In Person	Sandi Millett Campbell, CAO In Person
Town of Berwick	<b>Mike Trinacty, Mayor</b> In Person	Jen Boyd, CAO In Person
Town of Kentville	<b>Andrew Zebian, Mayor</b> Regrets <b>Debra Crowell, Alternate</b> Virtual	Chris McNeill, CAO In Person
Municipality of the County of Kings	<b>Dave Corkum, Mayor</b> In Person	Scott Conrod, CAO Regrets
Town of Middleton	<b>Gail Smith, Mayor</b> In Person	Ashley Crocker, CAO In Person
Town of Wolfville	<b>Jodi MacKay, Mayor</b> In Person	Glenn Horne, CAO In Person
Municipality of Digby	<b>Linda Gregory, Warden</b> Virtual	Tyler Pulley, CAO Regrets
Kings Transit		Meg Hodges, General Manager In Person
Valley Waste		Andrew Garrett, General Manager In Person
Kings Transit & Valley Waste		Dan L'Abbe, Director Finance & Corporate Services In Person
Recording Secretary		Andrea Garrett, VWRM In Person
Municipality of the County of Kings		Mike Livingstone, Director Finance In Person

#### **Agenda Item No. 1 – Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Corkum welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:11. a.m.

#### **Agenda Item No. 2 – Approval of Agenda**

**ON MOTION OF MAYOR TRINACTY AND SECONDED BY WARDEN LEBLANC that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approve the January 21, 2026, agenda, as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **Agenda Item No. 3 – Annual Appointment of Board Chair and Vice-Chair**

In following with the Valley Regional Services IMSA agreement, the Board of Directors must annually assign a Chair and Vice Chair.

The floor was opened for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board. Warden Gregory nominated Mayor Corkum, who accepted the nomination. Two further calls were made, with no additional nominations. Congratulations were extended to Mayor Corkum, who will continue as Chair.

The floor was then opened for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board. Warden Gregory nominated Mayor Trinacty who declined the nomination. Mayor Trinacty then nominated Mayor MacKay, who accepted the nomination. Two additional calls were made, with no further nominations. Congratulations were extended to Mayor MacKay, who will continue as Vice-Chair.

**Agenda Item No. 4 - Approval of the Minutes**

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**Agenda Item No. 4.1 – Approval of the Meeting Minutes held December 17, 2025**

**ON MOTION OF MAYOR MACKAY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR TRINACTY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approve the December 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes, as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Agenda Item No. 5 – Kings Transit Authority**

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**Agenda Item No. 5.1 – 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:

- A new mechanic joined the team yesterday, which should help bring the newly purchased buses into service soon. In addition, new drivers are being trained this week.
- The G2 route remains offline. Efforts are underway to get spare vehicles on the road. Bus 61 has returned to service. Bus 59 has experienced an engine failure, and an RFD is attached to the agenda.
- There was a noticeable decrease in ridership in December, likely due to weather-related cancellations and early service terminations.
- Weather-related communications included providing disruption notifications at least six hours in advance to keep riders informed.
- Approval has been received through ICIP funding for the scope change to purchase hybrid buses. Work is underway on drafting a Request for Proposals for posting.
- The name change to *Tidal Transit Authority* has been submitted to the Registry of Joint Stocks, and approval is pending.
- KTA is actively researching funding opportunities through new and existing grant programs.

In response to the question, KTA has received more supportive feedback than complaints regarding winter-related cancellations. In future reports, percentage calculations for successfully completed trips will also be included.

In response to the question, digital notification boards at key locations would be highly beneficial for communicating route delays and KTA is actively seeking funding for this technology.

**ON MOTION OF WARDEN LEBLANC AND SECONDED BY WARDEN GREGORY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors receive the January 21, 2026, Kings Transit Authority General Manager’s Report.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Agenda Item No 5.2 – Request for Decision, Bus 59 Engine Replacement**

As outlined in the circulated meeting package, General Manager Hodges reported that this Request for Decision concerns capitalizing the cost of an engine replacement for Bus 59, which represents a significant expense. Bus 59 has a strong, stainless-steel frame, making the engine replacement a worthwhile investment. Only one specific type of engine is compatible with this model, and a supplier in Dartmouth is able to perform the work. As rebuilding the engine is not advisable, the purchase qualifies as a sole-source procurement under Section 5 of the Procurement Policy. KTA is requesting approval to use the capital reserve to fund this repair.

In response to the question, it was noted that this repair is expected to extend the life of the bus by an estimated 3 - 5 years due to its stainless-steel frame and overall robust construction. This extension will allow the bus to remain in service until the arrival of the new hybrid buses.

**MOVED BY MAYOR TRINACTY and SECONDED BY MAYOR MACKAY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approves the expenditure of \$86,000 for the replacement engine and installation for Bus 59, to be capitalized, and authorize staff to enter into the necessary agreement with the engine manufacturer to complete the work.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Agenda Item No. 6 – Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority**

**Agenda Item No. 6.1 – General Manager’s Report**

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As circulated in the meeting package, General Manager Garrett presented the Valley Waste-Resource Management General Manager’s Report. Key highlights included:

- Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging, Paper and Packaging-Like products (EPR for PPP) launched on December 1 and is now in its sixth week. Operations are running smoothly, with the primary impact being an increase in administrative work for Valley Waste.
- Winter weather conditions have posed significant challenges for curbside collection, resulting in numerous alternate collection days and some roads being inaccessible. Curbside collectors are actively working to catch up with missed areas.
- EFR Environmental has added new compacting curbside collection trucks to some of its regular routes. These trucks can hold three times more material per run and, as routes transition to these new vehicles, two trucks will service each route - one for garbage and one for recycling.
- Valley Waste has purchased a smaller electric loader for use in the Construction & Demolition (C&D) yard, making it the first municipally owned electric loader in Nova Scotia.
- Repairs are underway on the Eastern Management Centre tipping floor wall, where steel plates are being installed to reinforce the structure.
- The Kentville wind turbine has now been officially repaired with assistance from a company based in Prince Edward Island.
- The Tonnage Report indicated a significant increase in commercial C&D waste and four months’ worth of stored ground wood is now ready for transport. Fall cleanup tonnage was also higher than usual.

Appreciation was expressed to the staff of Valley Waste and EFR Environmental for their professionalism and hard work in the recent inclement weather and difficult working conditions.

**ON MOTION OF WARDEN LEBLANC AND SECONDED BY MAYOR TRINACTY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors receive the January 21, 2026, Valley Waste-Resource Management General Manager’s Report.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Agenda Item No. 6.2 – Presentation of 2026-2027 Draft Operating and Capital Budget**

As circulated in the meeting package, General Manager Garrett presented Valley Waste-Resource Management's Fiscal 2026-2027 Draft Operating and Capital Budget.

- It was recommended that the reference to budget *adherence* in the KPI description be replaced with a more appropriate term of *optimizing*.
- A question was raised about flexible budgeting, which refers to adjusting the budget to accommodate unknown tonnages and changing market conditions.
- The proposed plan sets the employer contribution at 60% of the employee benefits plan.
- The Administration Manager position is responsible for a variety of duties, including records and office management, and represents Region 5 as the Regional Coordinator in provincial solid waste discussions.
- The timing of ordering green carts is challenging. Ordering full truckloads is the most cost-effective approach; however, predicting when existing stock will run out is difficult, causing budget fluctuations depending on the time of year that the inventory is depleted.
- Appointments for the Regional Chair and Alternate positions, representing Region 5 on the Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs Committee, are not required at this time.

Chair Corkum thanked Valley Waste and recognized their hard work in this challenging year, managing everything from fires to the transition to EPR for PPP.

**MOVED BY MAYOR TRINACTY and SECONDED BY MAYOR MACKAY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors, in accordance with the Intermunicipal Services Agreement, hereby approves the 2026-2027 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority, as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Agenda Item No. 7 – Correspondence**

No correspondence has been received at this time.

**Agenda Item No. 8 – Next Meeting**

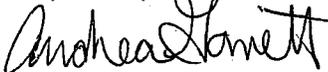
The next Regular Monthly Meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors will be held on **Wednesday, February 18, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** in keeping with the normal meeting schedule.

**Agenda Item No. 9 – Adjournment**

With no further business at the January regular monthly meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors, Chair Corkum called for adjournment.

**At this time, MAYOR CORKUM called that the Valley Regional Services Board of Director meeting adjourn at 11:09 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Garrett

Recording Secretary

Administration Manager, Valley Waste-Resource Management