



**Board of Directors
Minutes of the Meeting – March 23, 2022
Via Zoom**

In Attendance:

Alma Kilfoil, **Secretary**, LSD, Kent
Arthur Slipp, Mayor, Woodstock
Brian Hayden, LSD, Woodstock
Joseph Trevors, LSD, Peel
Karl Curtis, **Chair** - Mayor, Florenceville-Bristol
~~Lee Reed, LSD, Gordon~~
Marianne Bell, Mayor, Perth-Andover
Michael Allen, Mayor, Bath
Michael Stewart, Mayor, Centreville
Stephen Manuel, LSD, Canterbury
Tanya Cloutier, Mayor, Canterbury
Tom Eagles, Mayor, Plaster Rock

Regrets:

Darryl Demmings, Mayor, Aroostook

Absent:

Brent Pearson, LSD, Glassville
Connie Boone, LSD, Brighton
Graham Gill, LSD, Northampton
Gregory Boone, LSD, Coldstream
Lance Graham, Mayor, Meductic
McKenzie McConnell, LSD - Simonds
Tracy Demerchant, Mayor, Hartland

Staff In Attendance:

Katelyn McGrath, Executive Director
Joan Kennedy, Financial Administrator
Bev Gullison, Office Administrator

Others Present:

Maurice Robichaud, Local Reform Transition Facilitator

Call to Order:

The Chairperson, Karl Curtis called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda:

22-03-01

Motion: Resolved, "that the March 23, 2022 agenda be approved as presented"

Moved: Tom Eagles

Seconded: Brian Hayden

Motion Carried



Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

None

Adoption of Minutes:

22-03-02

Motion: Resolved, “that the minutes of the February 17, 2022 meeting be accepted and approved as presented”.

Moved: Steve Manuel

Seconded: Arthur Slipp

Motion Carried

Presentations:

2021 Audit Report - Lenehan, McCain & Associates – David McCain

David McCain of Lenehan, McCain & Associates thank the Regional Service Commission for the opportunity to provide their services. David McCain presented a summary of the 2021 Audit Financial report and advised that a detailed review of the 2021 Audit Report was presented to and reviewed by the Finance committee last week and stated the 2021 audit report was a clean report.

22-03-03

RESOLVED “that the 2021 audit financial report be approved as presented and circulated”

Moved: Alma Kilfoil

Seconded: Arthur Slipp

Motion unanimously carried

New Business:

Local Reform Updates

Katelyn McGrath advised that several meetings with the Transition and Working Group Committee has occurred regarding the new mandated services and stated that Maurice Robichaud, Transition Facilitator, would provide the local reform update.

Maurice Robichaud advised as a follow-up to the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC) proposal provided by Stephane LeClair during the February 17, 2022 board meeting, that a draft memorandum of understanding from ESIC has been received and reviewed. Maurice Robichaud stated that they hope to have a finalized draft MOU for review by the working group and the transition team and ready to be presented to the Board by the next scheduled Board Meeting on April 27/22.

Maurice Robichaud advised he was notified today by the Department of Justice and Public Safety that a draft term of reference regarding how the public safety committee would be formed within the Regional Service Commissions is now being drafted. Maurice Robichaud stated that the first draft of the terms of reference should be available within the next couple weeks, which will first be reviewed by the Transition and Working group, and if finalized it may be presented at a subsequent Board meeting.

Maurice Robichaud stated that Economic Development is a very important component of the deliverables that will be assumed by the Regional Service Commissions and advised that since he is also the Transition Facilitator for RSC11 (Fredericton), he informed the members that RSC11 is in the very early discussion period with Ignite to



determine if this work could be outsourced to them. Maurice Robichaud stated that the idea of discussing economic development with Ignite with respect to the possibility of offering the services to RSC12 was initially raised by a member at a meeting of the Working Group and the idea was forwarded to the Advisory Committee. Both groups held meetings last week discussing ways that economic development could be managed within RSC12.

Maurice Robichaud advised that an initial breakdown has been received regarding how ONB sees the role that the Regional Service Commission will undertake to be complimentary to the work that is currently being performed by ONB. He further stated that the exact mandates of ONB versus the Regional Service Commission is currently being finalized and should be available in the coming weeks.

Maurice Robichaud stated that since the Western Valley does not have an independent organization such as Ignite within RSC12, the Transition Committee and Working groups are supportive of exploring this option further by requesting a presentation, without any commitment, from Ignite to investigate how their services could be carried out within the Western Valley. Maurice Robichaud advised that the Working group and Transition Committee are requesting Board's approval for a presentation from Ignite be provided.

Marianne Bell advised that she has concerns regarding using a private company to perform economic development services when we have qualified resources within the area that could possibly perform these functions. Marianne Bell addressed concerns with moving too quickly, as it is her understanding that we have not received guidelines from the province on how they see economic development being delivered within the region.

Maurice Robichaud advised that only a few municipalities currently offer any economic development services and stated that the White paper decided that economic development would be carried out by the Regional Service Commissions to deliver these services to the entire region and noted that the regional infrastructure must be in place by January 2023.

Maurice Robichaud reiterated that according to the White Paper there are 3 ways that these 6 additional services can be done which are, directly by the Regional Service Commission, by a 3rd party having performance measures in place, or a combination of the 2. Maurice Robichaud advised that we are exploring the prospect of using an independent organization considered to be hired as a 3rd party service deliverer on behalf of the Regional Service Commission.

Marianne Bell stated that she would want the economic development team to be from the local area, as we have not assessed our local resources.

Maurice Robichaud advised that during the Working Group and Transition and Advisory committee meetings, which consists of region's CAOs, Village Clerks, and Regional Service Commission elected officials, the conclusion was that we currently do not have an option available other than having a dialogue with Ignite. Maurice Robichaud stated that we are not engaging Ignite to perform this work, we are simply requesting a proposal on how these services could be carried out within Western Valley.

Brian Hayden addressed concerns regarding utilizing Ignite to perform these services as Fredericton has never served Anglophone West well and stated that too many things in the past have been transferred from the Upper River Valley to Fredericton. Brian Hayden stated that he felt this decision is too early, as these decisions should be made by the new councils.

Maurice Robichaud advised that the delivery of the 6 additional services to be taken on by the Regional Service Commission will be decided prior to the new councils being elected in November. Maurice Robichaud stated that we, as a group will make recommendations, but the final decision will be made by the Province of New Brunswick.

Maurice Robichaud stated if the Board decides that they wish for the working groups to go back to the table to



come up with a local model, it is your decision but noted we thought that Ignite was a potential ready-made solution that we should consider.

Arthur Slipp advised that during the Transition group meetings the role of the local ONB representative, Melanie Clark, was never discussed and requested clarification on how the province sees the role of the local representative with the Regional Service Commission model. Arthur Slipp further stated that during the Transition team meeting that the members supported Ignite providing a presentation but there was no indication that a decision would be made.

Arthur Slipp said he strongly feels that the new councils should make the decisions on how the delivery of these new mandates should be delivered. Arthur Slipp advised that he has addressed his concerns through the Union of the Municipalities of NB and that a letter has been sent from them to the Province requesting a one-year delay in the implementation of the 6 new mandates.

Maurice Robichaud advised that he is not certain of the status of the ONB local representative but has inquired and will advise when known for certain.

Lee Reed addressed concerns regarding the additional overhead at the Regional Service Commission and would the councils be ready to deal with these additional responsibilities.

Marianne Bell asked for clarification regarding the deadlines and Maurice Robichaud reiterated the 3 ways that services within the Regional Service Commission can be delivered and confirmed by January 1, 2023 the infrastructure must be in place in order to deliver the services. Maurice Robichaud advised that after January 1, 2023 you can determine your primary focus areas will be and those specific details can be sorted out after January 1, 2023. Marianne Bell stated that she believes this is the wrong order. Maurice Robichaud stated that a more detailed report for the Economic Development mandate from the province should be available within the next few weeks and when available we should be able to determine the best option for the region. Maurice Robichaud advised that in the meantime we need to begin to look at all options that we could utilize to deliver these services at a regional level.

Steve Manuel stated he was not aware that some municipalities currently have an Economic Development Officer and that a list should be made available. Steve Manuel advised that he wished to clarify that during the Transition team meeting it was agreed that Ignite provide a presentation but that there was no indication of any commitment being made. Steve Manuel advised that he agreed with Mayor Slipp and Mayor Bell that things are being pushed through too quickly and suggested that some of these mandates should be tabled for at least 6 months.

Katelyn McGrath stated that at this point we are seeking information and asking for a presentation to the Board to make an informed future decision. Katelyn McGrath stated, in response to some of the concerns raised, that she has spoken to every CAO and municipality to determine what economic development activities currently exist within our region and this information is being compiled and will be provided at the next working group meeting. Katelyn McGrath advised that only 2 municipalities have staff involved in economic development.

Tom Eagles stated he is supported of having a presentation from Ignite.

Brian Hayden stated his concerns with the timelines and asked if the other Regional Service Commissions are in favor with these timelines. Maurice Robichaud advised he has not spoken with the other Executive Director but that he speaks with the other Transition Facilitators weekly and noted there are questions raised regarding cost and timeframes. Maurice Robichaud stated he appreciated their concerns but we must operate under the timelines established by the Province.

Karl Curtis advised that we cannot make inform decisions, if we do not have all the information and having Ignite provide a presentation would be worthwhile.



22-03-04

RESOLVED "that a presentation from Ignite be provided to the Board members"

Moved: Arthur Slipp

Seconded: Tom Eagles

1 Nay Vote

Motion carried

In Camera Session:

None

Executive Director Report

Katelyn McGrath advised that the next Board meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and will be conducted in-person at the Western Valley Multiplex on April 27, 2022 beginning @ 6:30pm.

Adjournment:

Motion: The Chair, Karl Curtis called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Moved: Steve Manuel

Recording Secretary: Bev Gullison

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alma Kilfoil", is written over a horizontal line.

Alma Kilfoil
Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katelyn McGrath", is written over a horizontal line.

Katelyn McGrath
Executive Director