

**Board of Directors
Minutes of the Meeting – June 2, 2022
12:00pm - Via Zoom**

In Attendance:

Alma Kilfoil, **Secretary**, LSD, Kent
Arthur Slipp, Mayor, Woodstock
Brent Pearson, **Vice-Chair** LSD, Glassville
Brian Hayden, LSD, Woodstock
Joseph Trevors, LSD, Peel
Karl Curtis, **Chair** - Mayor, Florenceville-Bristol
Lee Reed, LSD, Gordon
Michael Stewart, Mayor, Centreville
Stephen Manuel, LSD, Canterbury
Stewart Fairgrieve, Deputy Mayor, Hartland
Tanya Cloutier, Mayor, Canterbury
Tom Eagles, Mayor, Plaster Rock

Regrets:

Darryl Demmings, Mayor, Aroostook
Graham Gill, LSD, Northampton
Marianne Bell, Mayor, Perth-Andover
Michael Allen, Mayor, Bath

Absent:

Connie Boone, LSD, Brighton
Gregory Boone, LSD, Coldstream
Lance Graham, Mayor, Meductic
McKenzie McConnell, LSD - Simonds

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 12:05 p.m.

Karl Curtis stated that during today's meeting two proposals for the delivery of regional economic development will be presented, one from Dan Dionne and one from Ignite. Karl Curtis advised that each presenter will be admitted when it is their turn to present and will have 30 minutes to conduct their presentation followed by a 15-minute question and answer period. Karl Curtis stated the presenters will be asked to exit the meeting after their presentation and question session has been completed.

Karl Curtis further advised that after each question session a 5-minute pause will occur to allow board members to reflect on the presentation and complete the evaluation form that was provided to all members previously. Karl Curtis informed the members that after the presentations and evaluations were completed the meeting will enter an in-camera session.



Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

None

Adoption of Agenda:

22-06-01

Motion: Resolved, "that the June 2, 2022 agenda be approved as presented"

Moved: Tom Eagles

Seconded: Stephen Manuel

Motion Carried

Adoption of Minutes:

22-06-02

Motion: Resolved, "that the minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting be accepted and approved as circulated".

Moved: Arthur Slipp

Seconded: Brent Pearson

Motion Carried

Presentations:

Regional Economic Development Proposals

The following Economic Development Proposals were presented:

1. Dan Dionne and Justine Waldeck (attached as Exhibit A')

During the question-and-answer session, Brian Hayden asked for clarification regarding the Recreation and Tourism portion of the presentation, as the infrastructure for Recreation and committees currently exist within the Western Valley, and he sees that portion of the presentation as a duplication of services. Dan Dionne advised that Recreation was included in his presentation as a business model example only for Tourism and Economic Development.

Brian Hayden questioned the Economic Development experience that Dan Dionne mentioned in his presentation, such as car businesses and bringing infrastructure development to the Perth-Andover area. Brian Hayden stated that those areas mentioned are currently being performed by either the CAOs or the Village Clerks and asked if that was the experience he was referencing.

Dan Dionne stated that would apply for all municipalities and advised that they work together to promote our region and noted each specific municipality would continue to encourage development in their community regardless of the model accepted.

Brian Hayden stated that the presentation began by referencing 'the group' and asked Dan Dionne who is part of the group that he is referencing. Dan Dionne advised that the individuals who had input into the presentation consists of the Administrators and support staff and stated that a meeting was conducted in Centreville where 7 mayors also had input into this model. Brian Hayden stated that he is concerned, as an LSD representative, that there was no Local Service District input into this presentation as the LSDs represent 64% of the population.



Dan Dionne confirmed that the Local Service Districts were not represented and noted because of local reform the existing LSDs will be rolled in with the municipalities and advised they are concerned about the cost impacts to the LSDs, as they see the impact on taxes much more significant for the LSDs than the municipalities. Dan Dionne stated going forward he would like to see the Local Service District Manager involved in this process and noted that the Ignite proposal also did not have LSD representation.

Brian Hayden inquired if the final cost of Dan Dionne's proposal was \$270,000 for 1.5 - 2 people performing the full Economic Development scope. Dan Dionne advised that is a flexible number and would need to further investigate specific details and noted the \$270,000 was inserted as a starting point depending on the budget given by the RSC.

Brian Hayden asked Maurice Robichaud how the cost through the RSC would be calculated. Maurice Robichaud advised that the cost is based on tax assessment and stated it would cost \$.01 on a tax rate of \$264,000.

2. Ignite - Larry Shaw and Sarah Corey-Hollohan (attached as Exhibit 'B')

During the question-and-answer portion following the Ignite presentation, Arthur Slipp asked if the employees to be hired would live in the community, as a local on-site office was mentioned during the presentation. Larry Shaw confirmed that employees would live within the Western Valley region. Larry Shaw stated what Ignite would bring is the leadership, guidance, and 20+ years' experience in Economic Development to the Western Valley.

Brian Hayden asked Larry Shaw how confident he was that the \$250,000 funding from PETL would be provided. Larry Shaw stated that until a contract is finalized you can never be 100% certain but stated going on past experiences with PETL he is very confident that funding will be available.

Brian Hayden requested confirmation that the cost to the RSC for this proposal would be \$250,000 (+\$250,000 from PETL) and that the net cost to the RSC would be approximately \$.01 on tax assessment to generate \$250,000 and Maurice Robichaud confirmed that was correct and could equate to a little less than \$.01 of tax base.

Business Arising:

Economic Development

In Camera Session:

Katelyn McGrath requested a motion to go in-camera to discuss the Economic Development proposal presented today.

22-06-03

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors go in-camera.

Moved: Arthur Slipp

Seconded: Brian Hayden

Motion unanimously carried



22-06-04

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors return to open session.

Moved: Stephen Manuel

Seconded: Tom Eagles

Motion unanimously carried

22-06-05

BE IT RESOLVED to direct the Senior Staff and the Transition Facilitator to engage with Ignite to develop a mutually acceptable MOU on regional economic development services to the Western Valley Regional Service Commission, and to bring that MOU back to the board for a recommendation.

Moved: Brian Hayden

Seconded: Alma Kilfoil

On the question, Brent Pearson asked if budgeting needed to be addressed today. Maurice Robichaud stated that is a valid point but given the time duration of today's meeting he would recommend having the budget discussion when the MOU is brought back to the table.

Motion unanimously carried

22-06-06

BE IT RESOLVED to direct the Senior Staff and the Transition Facilitator to engage with the working group and the Advisory Committee to develop a local delivery model for the provision of regional tourism promotion in the Western Valley Regional Service Commission.

Moved: Brian Hayden

Seconded: Arthur Slipp

On the question, Arthur Slipp asked to confirm that Tourism has been removed from the approved Ignite proposal. Katelyn McGrath confirmed that the first resolution deals only with Economic Development and stated that the motion on the floor deals solely with Tourism.

Arthur Slipp addressed concerns regarding the pending Bremnar report, and another Tourism Heritage & Culture report prepared by Rose Arsenault relating to a Tourism plan for the Upper Saint John River Valley. Arthur Slipp stated there are too many unresolved issues to decide how to handle Tourism. Arthur Slipp stated he is concerned about existing municipal staff who are currently working on tourism and does not want to impede any decisions that they will make with the province. Arthur Slipp also mentioned a Laurel Reid report that was created years ago, and Karl Curtis confirmed that some great observations were included in that report.

Katelyn McGrath inquired if Arthur Slipp could provide a copy of the Laurel Reid report as it would be of interest to the Board but advised that she has been advised that the tourism project undertaken by Tourism Heritage & Culture has been suspended indefinitely.

Karl Curtis asked Katelyn McGrath if the motion should be tabled and Katelyn McGrath advised that she believes a better option would be to direct Maurice Robichaud and herself to come back to the table with a local option, as she does not want to sit and wait. Katelyn advised we are probably not going to meet our deadline on this file, but we must move ahead, as budgeting must be completed by the fall.

Motion unanimously carried

3143 Main St.
Centreville, NB
E7K 3E8



Executive Director Update

Katelyn McGrath advised that June 15, 2022 at 6:30pm via zoom is the next scheduled Board meeting and asked members to mark their calendars.

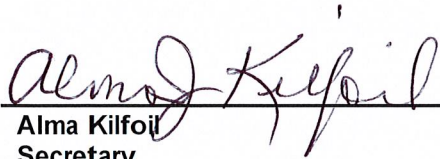
Adjournment:

Motion: The Chair, Karl Curtis called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Moved: Brent Pearson

Recording Secretary: Bev Gullison

In-Camera: Katelyn McGrath


Alma Kilfoil
Secretary


Katelyn McGrath
Executive Director