



Regular Meeting

October 26, 2023

Meeting minutes of the Open Session of the Board of Directors of Fundy Regional Service Commission held on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at the Fundy St. Martins Community Centre, 69 Main Street, St. Martins.

1. Call to Order

Chair O'Hara called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m.

2. Record of Attendance

Libby O'Hara	Chairperson, Quispamsis
Jim Bedford	Vice-Chair, Fundy St. Martins
John MacKenzie	Deputy Mayor, Saint John
Nancy Grant	Mayor, Rothesay
Brittany Merrifield	Mayor, Grand Bay-Westfield
Bruce Dryer	Fundy Rural District Alternative Representative
Robert Doucet	Mayor, Hampton

OTHERS

Phil Ouellette, Chief Executive Officer, FRSC

Cassie Silhanek, Recording Secretary, FRSC

GUESTS

Mark Porter, Director of Finance, FRSC

Graeme Stewart-Robertson, Policy and Research Manager, FRSC

Marco Sivitilli, Gemtec

Jennifer Hashey, Gemtec

ABSENT

Ray Riddell, Fundy Rural District Alternative Representative

3. Approval of the Order of Business

Chairperson O'Hara called for approval of the agenda.

Motion: To approve the October 26, 2023, Agenda.

Moved: Director Doucet

Seconded: Director MacKenzie

Vote: *Motion Carried*

4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

None.

5. Approval of the Minutes

a. Approval of the September 27, 2023, meeting minutes

Motion: To approve the September 27, 2023, minutes as presented.

Moved: Director Bedford
Seconded: Representative Dryer
Vote: *Motion Carried*

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Community Planning and Building Inspection Report**
- b. CMHC Application**
- c. Envision Saint John Reporting**
 - i. 2024 Budget**
 - ii. Q2 Reporting**
 - iii. Health Practitioner Initiative Report**

Motion: To adopt all resolutions from all reports found within the consent agenda for October 26, 2023:

To receive and file the Community Planning and Building Inspection Report.

To approve the submission of a funding application as described in this October 26th, 2023, report to the CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund on behalf of the Fundy Rural District.

To receive and file the 2024 Budget, Q2 Report, and the Health Practitioner Initiative Report submitted by Envision Saint John.

Moved: Director MacKenzie
Seconded: Director Doucet
Vote: *Motion Carried*

7. Arena Needs Assessment

Graeme Stewart-Robertson spoke to the report, and its creation. The intention of the report has been to unlock the ability of each FRSC member to access RDC funds for arena projects, as a regional needs assessment is now a requirement of the RDC prior to distributing local funding.

With a critical focus on accessibility and inclusivity, the assessment emphasizes the need to bring arena facilities in line with contemporary standards. The report's multi-faceted recommendations, anchored in community-centric developments, propose immediate actions and long-term strategies.

Motion: Adopt the Fundy Region Arena Needs Assessment as presented in the October 26th, 2023, report, and ask the FRSC staff to submit it immediately to the Regional Development Corporation.

Moved: Director MacKenzie

Director Grant proposes an amendment, one reference with retrofitting propose this to be removed, and that the pages be numbered.

Motion: To adopt the Fundy Region Arena Needs Assessment with an amendment made to replace the word “retrofit” to read as “reinvestment”, and direct FRSC staff to submit the final version to the Regional Development Corporation up on completion.

Moved: Director MacKenzie
Seconded: Director Grant
Vote: *Motion Carried*

8. FRSC 2024 Budget

CEO Ouellette noted that there is only one small change to the budget with an additional capital item being the solar pumps. It was noted by CEO Ouellette that the RSSF grant was increased for our area.

Chair O’Hara opened the floor for questions; no questions, concerns or comments were made.

Motion:

- 1) Approve the 2024 FRSC operating and capital budget as presented in the October 26, 2023, open session report.

Moved: Director Doucet
Seconded: Director MacKenzie
Vote: *Motion Carried*

- 2) To direct FRSC staff to examine the actual costs associated with its “per bag” tipping fee and bring forward recommendations prior to the presentation of the draft 2025 FRSC budget on any recommended adjustments.
- 3) To direct CEO Ouellette to apply for the additional RSSF for the increased amount of \$585,898 and apply it towards a reduction in previously projected 2024 member fees.
- 4) To direct CEO Ouellette to finalize the budget with the assumption that there could be more funding provided through the RSSF application and applied to the membership fees.

Moved: Director MacKenzie
Seconded: Representative Dryer
Vote: *Motion Carried*

9. EIA Feedback Summary

Marco Sivitilli and Jennifer Hashey presented on what they heard through the public engagement session that was recently conducted.

The initial engineering consultation with the GNB Technical Review Committee (TRC) has been completed with all questions being responded to. Gemtec has progressed the project to the TRC Iteration 2 stage and the engagement stage, documenting all questions, comments, and responses for the TRC process. The purpose of the public engagement process was to provide opportunities for questions to be asked, answered, and subsequently provided to the TRC for consideration. A virtual

public information session was held on October 3, 2023, and was recorded and posted by the FRSC. A further in-person session with CMEI was held on October 17, 2023. The public engagement process has been completed with no further questions of a differentiating nature being put forward though we will continue to receive questions and comments until the TRC Iteration 2 is complete. All public engagement comments to Gemtec and the FRSC will be provided to the TRC for feedback, corrections, and final responses. There is an expectation of the Minister's approval by the end of 2023, where it would then be turned back to the Board for approval, and hopefully begin work in 2024.

Chair O'Hara opened the floor for discussion.

Director Merrifield spoke up to state that her opinion is that the notification process for the public was inadequate and that an in-person engagement would have been more successful. Director Merrifield continued to assert that, in her opinion, there is no new field work being done on this EIA and it seems to be only relying on the EIA done in 1997, which is not adequate since there are fundamental changes being made. She also asserted that there is likely to be an increase in leachate production due to climate change. Ultimately Director Merrifield concluded that unless there are significant changes, the town of Grand Bay-Westfield would not be able to support this EIA.

Chair O'Hara commented that she will be writing to the Province that to have things posted to the paper is passe, noting that the consideration of digital accessibility is challenging, perhaps this is something for the FRSC to consider in policy moving forward.

Mr. Sivitilli responded on the point that the EIA was a desktop study, indicating that there was engineering done to make sure that the existing infrastructure was able to support the extra weight and capacity changes. This was not included in this summary document, but there are studies that have been done. He also mentioned that there is still no issues to nearby wells, if something went wrong in the future.

Chair O'Hara requested more information to supplement the questions posed by Director Merrifield regarding climate change. Mr. Sivitilli spoke about the leachate capacity and how they considered the increase in rainfall caused by climate change stating that there are measures in place in the active area that decrease the chances of leachate levels reaching a critical point.

Director MacKenzie spoke up noting first that he has no expertise in landfills or engineering, but expressing his concern about the community possibly seeing a failing on the EIA if it is relying on a 20-year-old report. Further noting that accounting for future changes is prudent to show due diligence, and he does not want to rely on a 20-year-old report.

Marc MacLeod, FRSC General Manager, addressed the various concerns raised by stating that there are currently no plans to change the existing landfill system and it is the same footprint, which causes no need for another full study. Mr. MacLeod stated that since the plan would be to change the top from being flat to being tented, it would create more efficiencies in handling rainfall. Further, he explained that the landfill has a state-of-the-art hydro geologic trigger system, that is the first of its kind, which monitors the area. Mr. MacLeod ended by stating that this EIA study is not a desktop study as there was impact testing, and there was significant testing to the current infrastructure.

Director MacKenzie spoke up stating that it is his opinion that there are issues, and that the landfill is not perfect, continuing to say that Mr. MacLeod can say that by going higher it has no impact to

operations, but operations are not perfect right now. Director MacKenzie suggested that an in-person meeting should have been held as there is a need for the community to be able to be there in person to hear the concerns.

CEO Ouellette spoke up stating that he hears that there are board members who are concerned about the process and stated that staff and the contracted services have held the highest due diligence on this project as the FRSC and Gemtec have spoken to the Province on the process and received positive feedback. CEO Ouellette continued stating that the FRSC has taken this entire process seriously and that this is not currently up for a decision yet. CEO Ouellette summarized the discussion stating that there was a need to have further discussions as a team on if there are more touch points that could be used in the process.

Motion: To receive and file this report.

Moved: Director Grant
Seconded: Director Dryer
Vote: *Motion Carried*

10. FRSC Work Plan 2024

CEO Ouellette spoke to the process for the workplan development stating that it has been engaged at the committee level, that the staff planning session is planned, and that there is intent to connect with the Board in early 2024 to give a draft workplan and have it adopted.

Motion: To receive and file this report.

Moved: Director MacKenzie
Seconded: Director Doucet
Vote: *Motion Carried*
Absent: Director Bedford

Director Bedford left the table at 11:51 am and returned at 11:57 am, missing the vote.

11. Adjournment

Chairperson O'Hara called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: To move to adjourn the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Moved: Director Doucet
Seconded: Director Merrifield
Vote: *Motion Carried*

APPROVED (date) _____

Libby O'Hara, Chairperson

Cassie Silhanek, Recording Secretary