

**INTERIM INTERMUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Valley Waste-Resource Management Boardroom with Virtual Attendance Option**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Interim Intermunicipal Services Agreement Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, May 21, 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:	Diane Le Blanc, Warden (joined 10:28 a.m.)
Town of Annapolis Royal:	Regrets from Amery Boyer, Mayor
Town of Berwick:	Mike Trinacty, Mayor
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:	

**Also in Attendance:**

Town of Annapolis Royal	Sybil Skinner-Robertson, Dep. Mayor & Sandi Millett-Campbell, CAO
Town of Berwick:	Justin Serino, Councillor, and Jen Boyd, CAO
Town of Kentville:	Kevin Matheson, Interim CAO
Town of Middleton:	Ashley Crocker, CAO (joined 10:08 a.m.)
Municipality of the County of Kings:	
Municipality of Annapolis County:	
Town of Wolfville:	
Municipality of Digby:	

IMSA Executive Director:	Dwight Whynot
Valley Waste:	Andrew Garrett, General Manager
Kings Transit:	Meg Hodges, General Manager
Kings Transit and Valley Waste:	Dan L'Abbe
IMSA:	
Recording Secretary:	Brenda Davidson

**Agenda Item No. 1 –Welcome and Call To Order**

Chair Corkum welcomed everyone calling the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

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

**ON MOTION OF MAYOR ZEBIAN AND SECONDED BY MAYOR SMITH THAT THE INTERIM INTERMUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE MAY 21, 2025, AGENDA, AS CIRCULATED.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Agenda Item No. 3 – Approval of the Minutes**

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#### **Agenda Item No. 3.1 – Approval of the Minutes from meeting held April 16, 2025**

**ON MOTION OF MAYOR SMITH AND SECONDED BY MAYOR ZEBIAN THAT THE INTERIM INTERMUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE APRIL 16, 2025 MINUTES, AS CIRCULATED.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Agenda Item No. 4 – Kings Transit Authority**

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#### **Agenda Item No. 4.1 – General Manager's Report**

General Manager Hodges provided the Board with an overview of the Kings Transit Authority General Manager's Report, as circulated and attached to these minutes. Ms. Hodges noted that for the 1<sup>st</sup> time there is a spare bus available, and it is hoped that the bus remains available for use as a float in the upcoming Apple Blossom Festival. It was noted that it remains critical that new buses are acquired due to the aged fleet. Ms. Hodges noted that ridership looks a little lower compared to last year; but that can be attributed in part to the change in the way ridership is now being counted and ongoing issues with the "live tracking" App. Ms. Hodges noted that the team is very excited to be preparing the bus as a float for the parade inviting anyone interested in participating to reach out. Ms. Hodges further noted that careful consideration is being given to how to design the future fleet using the appropriate technologies (hybrid, diesel, hydrogen, electric) to include consideration for micro transit in the more urban areas based on the goal of ensuring that public funds are expended in the most efficient and effective manner.

It was further noted that staff are working with both the provincial and federal governments to confirm if existing funding can be used toward the acquisition of diesel buses rather than the approved use for electric buses. Staff are also taking advantage of the opportunity to have discussions with HRM regarding their successes and challenges as they continue to roll out their electric fleet and that there may be an opportunity to acquire used diesel buses from HRM as their fleet replacement moves forward.

A short discussion arose touching on the comparative maintenance costs between electric buses and diesel buses with it being noted that maintenance costs for electric buses are different, and sometimes lower than diesel buses, however, the costs associated with the required infrastructure to operate electric equipment must be considered as part of any full cost analysis. It was further noted that if there was a complete failure of the battery system in an electric bus, the replacement cost would be in the range of \$600,000-\$800,000.

A short discussion arose regarding the consideration of micro transit with smaller buses in the more urban areas with the use of the larger buses for the core route. Mayor MacKay noted that the Town of Wolfville is exploring micro transit noting that a feasibility study has been completed and it is hoped that a program can be introduced within the Town next year.

Chair Corkum summarized the discussion noting that it is recognized that all technologies and options should be considered prior to moving forward with the replacement of the aging fleet.

On a final note, in response to the question, General Manager Hodges explained that the down-time noted in the Report for some routes was minimal with mechanics able to efficiently address the required repairs.

**ON MOTION OF MAYOR MACKAY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR ZEBIAN THAT THE INTERIM INTERMUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECEIVE THE KINGS TRANSIT AUTHORITY GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT DATED MAY 21, 2025.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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

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**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 May 21, 2025, as circulated and attached to these minutes, touching on the following key items:

- Extended Producer Responsibility – as per the report noting that staff are pleased to see that further consideration being given to the collection of small industrial, commercial and institutional curbside recycling and will be watching carefully for the detail within any proposal.
- Regional Chairs – As per report with emphasis on the request for a meeting with the Honourable Minister Halman.
- Capital Projects – as per report.
- Private Road Collection in Annapolis County – as per Report.
- Education Initiatives – as per report with it being noted that even in very poor weather conditions, the compost giveaways were once again a great success.

General Manager Garrett reported that the annual external financial audit is progressing well. Although some final adjustments may still be made, Valley Waste is expected to close the 2024–2025 fiscal year with an estimated surplus of approximately \$825,000.

Mr. Garrett also noted that this will be Brenda Davidson's last meeting serving as recording secretary for the Board due to her impending retirement. A round of applause was heard.

Finally, Mr. Garrett announced that current employee, Mercedes Herron, has been chosen to fill the position of Communications and Human Resources Manager. As a result, her previous role as Education Coordinator is now vacant, and recruitment for that position will commence shortly.

**ON MOTION OF MAYOR ZEBIAN AND SECONDED BY MAYOR SMITH THAT THE INTERIM INTERMUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECEIVE THE VALLEY WASTE-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT DATED MAY 21, 2025.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Agenda Item No. 6 – In Camera Session in keeping with Section 22(2)(d) of the Municipal Government Act**

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**ON MOTION OF MAYOR ZEBIAN AND SECONDED BY MAYOR MACKAY THAT THE INTERIM INTERMUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MOVE TO AN IN CAMERA SESSION IN KEEPING WITH SECTION 22(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The May Regular Monthly Meeting of the Interim Intermunicipal Services Agreement Board of Directors was called back to open session at 10:55 a.m.

**ON MOTION OF MAYOR MACKAY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR ZEBIAN THAT THE INTERIM INTERMUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES THE IMMEDIATE PHASED-IN IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INCREASE TO THE CURRENT ALLOWABLE MATCHING EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RRSP PLAN FROM THE CURRENT 4% TO 8% FOR ELIGIBLE KINGS TRANSIT AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES,**

**AND FURTHER THAT;**

**THE COST SHARING FORMULA FOR THE PAYMENT OF GROUP BENEFIT PREMIUMS WILL REMAIN AT THE CURRENT 50% EMPLOYEE 50% EMPLOYER SPLIT FOR THE KINGS TRANSIT AUTHORITY,**

**AND FURTHER THAT;**

**THE PENSION PROGRAM AND GROUP BENEFITS COST SHARING FORMULA FOR THE KINGS TRANSIT AUTHORITY WILL BE FURTHER CONSIDERED UPON THE COMPLETION OF A COMPREHENSIVE COMPENSATION PACKAGE REVIEW.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

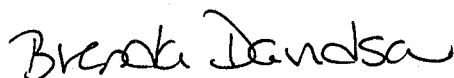
**Agenda Item No. 7 – Next Meeting**

The June Regular Monthly Meeting of the Interim Intermunicipal Services Agreement Board of Directors will be held on June 18, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in keeping with the normal meeting schedule. A meeting invitation will be released as soon as possible.

**Agenda Item No. 7 – Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Corkum declared the May monthly meeting of the Interim Intermunicipal Services Agreement Board adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Davidson  
Recording Secretary  
Administration and Policy Manager  
Valley Waste-Resource Management