

Valley Regional Services Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Valley Waste-Resource Management Board room with Virtual Attendance Option

APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., based in the Valley Waste-Resource Management board room with a virtual attendance option.

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Agenda Item No. 1 –Welcome and Call to Order

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

Agenda Item No. 2 – Approval of Agenda

**ON MOTION OF MAYOR GREGORY and seconded by WARDEN LEBLANC that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approve the May 20, 2026, agenda, as circulated.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Agenda Item No. 3 - Approval of the Minutes

Agenda Item No. 3.1 – Approval of the Meeting Minutes held April 15, 2026

**ON MOTION OF MAYOR MACKAY and seconded by MAYOR GREGORY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approve the April 15, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Agenda Item No. 3.2 – Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes held April 22, 2026

**ON MOTION OF MAYOR MACKAY and seconded by MAYOR ZEBIAN that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approve the April 22, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Agenda Item No. 4 – Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority

Agenda Item No. 4.1 – General Manager’s Report

As included in the meeting package, General Manager Andrew Garrett presented the Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority General Manager’s Report. Key updates included the following:

- Final diversion credit calculations and annual regional disposal data have been finalized. Based on 2024-2025 data, the Authority will receive \$592,606 in diversion credits for F2025-2026. The Valley Region disposal rate was 349 kg per person compared to the provincial average of 457kg per person.
- Draft revisions to the Solid Waste Bylaw have been circulated to the CAO Committee for review prior to presentation to the Board.
- Valley Waste participated in the Kentville Home Show, provided information on bi-weekly bulky waste collection and recent changes to residential recycling programs.
- The Annual Compost Giveaway, held May 9 at the NSCC campuses in Kentville and Middleton, was well attended.
- Registration is open for the NS Adopt-A-Highway/ Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up program. Registered volunteer groups will receive collection bags and tipping fee exemptions to support litter cleanup activities.
- Several capital projects are underway:
 - The RFP for a cardboard baler was awarded to Eastern Compactor Services of Moncton.
 - Fork attachment for the loaders was purchased from Toromont CAT through CANOE Procurement.
 - Submissions for the Western Management Centre tipping floor expansion and the warehouse RFPs are under review.
 - Submissions for the purchase of a ½-tonne and a ¾-tonne pickup truck are under review.
 - Roscoe construction has begun work on the expansion of the Eastern Management Centre tipping floor building.

In response to Board questions:

- The timing of downtown core collection will be reviewed to help prevent traffic issues.
- Diversion rates vary across the province due to factors such as industrial waste volumes, major demolition projects, and differences in municipal bylaws and share services (ex. HRM’s C&D diversion bylaw).
- Volunteer litter pickup groups are eligible to receive collection bags and free tipping fees. The option of providing payment to volunteer groups for litter cleanups may be considered in next year’s budget.
- There are current vacancies at the Management Centres and existing staff will continue to manage on-site litter in the interim.

ON MOTION OF MAYOR MACKAY and seconded by WARDEN LEBLANC that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors receive the May 20, 2026, Valley Waste-Resource Management General Manager’s Report. MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda Item No 4.2 – Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority - Sharps Letter to Minister Halman from NS Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs Committee

As noted in last month’s update, General Manager Garrett shared a letter from the Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs Committee addressed to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Timothy Halman. The Committee has requested a meeting with the Minister to discuss the need for provincial

regulatory oversight of sharps (needles). Several regions have submitted letters of support, highlighting the importance of a regulated program.

Warden Gregory added that the volunteer program operated by the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia is facing challenges. As a result, municipalities, such as CBRM, are increasingly required to provide additional sharps collection services. Some municipal units are also submitting their own letters to the Minister.

In response to Board questions, Valley Waste will develop a communications campaign outlining sharps disposal options and will explore supplementary sharps collection opportunities.

A letter of support from the Valley Regional Services Board was proposed, with the option to also forward the letter to the NSFPM Public Safety Committee.

**ON MOTION OF MAYOR ZEBIAN and seconded by MAYOR MACKAY that the Valley Waste-Resource Management Authority sends a letter to the Minister of Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, requesting a provincially regulated stewardship for sharps.
MOTION CARRIED.**

General Manager Garrett left the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Tidal Transit Authority

Agenda Item No. 5.1 – General Manager’s Report

As circulated in the meeting package, General Manager Meg Hodges presented the Tidal Transit General Manager’s Report. Key highlights included:

- Yesterday, Tidal Transit received notification of \$8 million in federal funding. This development will affect the recommendations for Agenda Item 5.3, *Request for Decision, 40 Foot Hybrid Electric Bus Purchase*.
- There is steady progress bringing buses online and the organization is on track to add more buses to the active fleet.
- The rising price of diesel remains a concern, with prices approximately 70% higher than last year.
- Ridership is following regular trends. While overall ridership was down, this was largely due to buses being out of service, winter cancellations and delays caused by road construction.
- Planned actions to address declining ridership include a newly designed schedule to launch August 4, 2026, reinstating four buses within the “core”, improving bus tracking technology, education about how to ride the bus and installing updated signage and shelter infrastructure.
- A “Ride the Wave” summer radio campaign will run on AVR, Magic, and Rewind.
- The transition to Tidal Transit launched successfully and digital fare sales are going well.
- New bus stop signage has been introduced, with colour-coded routes and numbered stops.
- The RFPs for hybrid buses and hybrid-electric service/supervisor vehicles closed on May 14 and May 15, respectively
- Staff met with LINK NS to discuss inter-municipal transit connectivity to HRM, and an Expression of Interest is required from Tidal Transit to move forward.
- Tidal Transit will have a float in the Apple Blossom festival parade May 30th, and any Board members are welcome to walk with them.

- The Devil’s Half Acre has expressed interest in purchasing the shell of a retired bus for use in a stunt show, at a price equivalent to scrap metal value.

In response to questions from the Board:

- Accessibility was considered in selecting route colours and the design and meets standards for colour blindness.
- The Expression of Interest contains general information about Tidal Transit’s operation, such as fleet size and age.
- Buses are currently designed to meet peak demand periods (mornings, evenings, and Saturdays). Smaller “micro buses” may be considered in future route planning, with potential for increased service frequency.

ON MOTION OF WARDEN GREGORY and seconded by MAYOR ZEBIAN that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors authorize Tidal Transit to submit an Expression of Interest to LINK NS for the purpose of inter-municipal transit connectivity.

MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR GODDARD and seconded by MAYOR MACKAY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors receive the April 15, 2026, Tidal Transit General Manager’s Report.

MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda Item No. 5.2: Tidal Transit Authority – Request for Decision, Mobile Bus Lift Purchase

As circulated in the meeting package, General Manager Hodges highlighted the need to purchase a bus lift for maintenance and repairs. It was noted that Tidal Transit’s procurement policy differs from Valley Waste, requiring Board approval for purchases exceeding \$10,000.

In response to the comment, it was acknowledged that this policy requires updating and work is underway with the CAOs to revise procurement policies.

ON MOTION OF WARDEN GREGORY and seconded by MAYOR ZEBIAN that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approves the purchase of a mobile bus lift system through CANOE, for a cost not exceeding \$78,000 (plus HST) as approved in the 2026/27 TTA capital budget.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Boyer abstained.

Agenda Item No. 5.3: Tidal Transit Authority – Request for Decision, 40 Foot Hybrid Electric Bus Purchase

General Manager Hodges advised that, following the announcement of \$8 million in federal funding, the Request for Decision (RFD) circulated in the meeting package requires reevaluation. GM Hodges provided a presentation to the Board, highlighting the following key points:

- There is an urgent need to replace buses
- The new funding provides additional options to remain within budget
- A revised RFD will be presented at the June Board meeting.

In response to questions from the Board:

- Tidal Transit will engage with the successful proponent to discuss available options
- The CAOs support GM Hodges' recommendation to conduct further analysis and present options to the Board and will participate in reviewing these options
- The analysis will include consideration of any impacts related to delaying or modifying existing projects to prioritize bus procurement

Rob Frost and Ashley Crocker left the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Agenda item No. 6 – In Camera Session for Tidal Transit and Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authorities in keeping with Section 22(2)(c) of the Municipal Government Act

ON MOTION OF WARDEN GREGORY and seconded by WARDEN LEBLANC that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors move to an In Camera session for Valley Waste-Resource Management and Tidal Transit in keeping with section 22(2)(c) of the Municipal Government Act at 11:18 a.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Andrea Garrett, Meg Hodges and Dan L'Abbe left the meeting at this time.

The May regular monthly meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors was called back to open session at 11:45 a.m.

ON MOTION OF MAYOR MACKAY and seconded by WARDEN LEBLANC, that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approve the Executive Director Policy.

MOTION CARRIED. 6 in favour, 2 against.

Agenda Item No. 9 – Correspondence

No correspondence at this time

Agenda Item No. 10 – Next Meeting

The next Regular Monthly Meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors will be held on **Wednesday, June 17, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** in keeping with the normal meeting schedule.

Agenda Item No. 11 – Adjournment

As there was no further business to bring forward, moved by WARDEN GREGORY, seconded by MAYOR ZEBIAN that the May 20, 2026, regular monthly meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Garrett

Recording Secretary

Administration Manager, Valley Waste-Resource Management