Valley Regional Services Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 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, September 16, 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 the County of Annapolis	**Diane Le Blanc, Warden**	Virtual	Rob Frost, CAO	Virtual
Town of Annapolis Royal	**Sybil Skinner-Robertson, Deputy Mayor**	Virtual	Sandi Millett Campbell, CAO	Regrets
Town of Berwick	**Mike Trinacty, Mayor**	In Person	Jen Boyd, CAO	In Person
Town of Kentville	**Andrew Zebian, Mayor**	Virtual	Chris McNeill, CAO	Regrets
Municipality of the County of Kings	**Dave Corkum, Mayor**	In Person	Andrea Hyslop, Deputy CAO	In Person
Town of Middleton	**Gail Smith, Mayor**	In Person	Kevin Matheson, Acting CAO	Virtual
Town of Wolfville	**Jodi MacKay, Mayor**	In Person	Glenn Horne, CAO	In Person
Municipality of Digby	**Linda Gregory, Warden**	Regrets	Tyler Pulley, CAO	Virtual
Tidal Transit			Meg Hodges, General Manager	In Person
Valley Waste/ Acting Executive Director VRS			Andrew Garrett, General Manager	In Person
Tidal Transit & Valley Waste			Dan L'Abbe, Director Finance & Corporate Services	In Person
Recording Secretary			Andrea Garrett, Valley Waste	In Person

Agenda Item No. 1 –Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Corkum welcomed everyone. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda Item No. 2 – Approval of Agenda

ON MOTION OF MAYOR TRINACTY and seconded by MAYOR SMITH that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approve the September 16, 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 July 15, 2026

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

Agenda Item No. 3.2 – Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes held August 6, 2026

ON MOTION OF MAYOR MACKAY and seconded by MAYOR TRINACTY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors approve the August 6, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes.
MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Tidal Transit Authority

Agenda Item No. 4.1 – General Manager's Report

Deputy Mayor Skinner-Robertson abstained from all motions pertaining to Tidal Transit.

As circulated in the meeting package, General Manager Meg Hodges presented the Tidal Transit Authority General Manager's Report. Key updates included the following:

- Diesel costs remain higher than anticipated and continue to negatively impact on the budget.
- Bus 67's new engine has arrived and is expected to be operational shortly. Baseline federal funding of 40% is available toward the cost of the bus repairs.
- The new Nova Bus 76 is now operational.
- The new transit schedule is working well. Positive feedback has been received from riders as well as drivers, who noted the effectiveness of the new schedule.
- Ridership remains below previous levels but is expected to increase.
- Provincial approval is pending for a scope change to reduce the planned bus purchase from seven hybrid electric buses to six. Once the municipal TBRs and scope change are approved, the purchase order can be issued. If ordered soon, the Hybrid buses could be delivered as early as October 2027.
- Staff continue to actively pursue available provincial and federal funding opportunities.

In response to questions from the Board:

- Ridership numbers provided in the update will be corrected to reflect the accurate ridership.

ON MOTION OF MAYOR MACKAY and seconded by WARDEN LE BLANC that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors receive the September 16, 2026, Tidal Transit Authority General Manager's Report.
MOTION CARRIED.

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

Agenda Item No. 5.1 – General Manager's Report

As outlined in the meeting package, General Manager Andrew Garrett presented the Valley Waste-Resource Management Authority General Manager's Report. Key highlights included:

- Diesel prices are also impacting operating costs for Valley Waste through the collection contract and their fleet.
- A serious fire occurred at the Western Management Centre (WMC) on July 30. All evidence points to a Lithium-Ion battery discarded in the garbage. Evaluation continues to determine the cost of repair vs replacement.
- Since the WMC fire, four additional fires have occurred within the region. Lithium-Ion batteries, such as in vapes and other electronic items, have been identified and/or suspected in all incidents.

- Staff met with Call2Recycle to discuss opportunities for battery education and public awareness. Organizations interested in becoming battery drop-off locations are encouraged to participate.
- The Eastern Management Centre (EMC) tipping floor expansion remains on schedule.
- The policy review with ATN Strategies is underway and has proven more complex than originally anticipated. A scope change has been proposed.
- Divert NS will be hosting the Mobius Environmental Awards the evening of Thursday, October 29. Any Board members wishing to attend, please contact staff for details.
- Education Coordinator, Debbie Roza-Mercier has retired and her contribution to Valley Waste was celebrated in August.
- The contract for painting services at the EMC building was awarded to Carvery Construction.
- WMC projects are currently paused pending requirements related to a new development agreement. Public hearings are scheduled for this week.
- A request for proposal for leachate management is underway.
- Two Requests for Expressions of Interest (REIs) have been issued for shingle and drywall recycling.
- Fire suppression options for the WMC continue to be explored. The holding pond RFP could not be awarded as submissions exceeded the available budget. Staff are exploring other options to be included in F2027 budget.

In response to questions from the Board:

- Most costs from the fire at the WMC will be covered by insurance
- Call2Recycle is working with Valley Waste to increase education on proper battery disposal.
- Staff are not aware of any technology to effectively detect batteries in waste loads.

ON MOTION OFMAYOR SMITH and seconded by MAYOR TRINACTY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors receives the September 16, 2026, Valley Waste-Resource Management Authority General Manager's Report. MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda Item No. 5.2: Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management – Request for Decision, Resolution for Pre-Approval of Debenture Subject to Interest Rate

As included in the meeting package, Director L'Abbe explained:

- As part of the capital purchase process, Valley Waste intends to participate in the next semi-annual funding opportunity and requires special resolution by the Board.
- During a review of the calculated funding amount, it was identified that a $20,370.22 invoice had been inadvertently omitted.
- To avoid delaying the funding process, it was recommended that the $20,370.22 be funded by the Capital Reserve.

ON MOTION OF MAYOR TRINACTY and seconded by MAYOR MACKAY that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors, while exercising its delegated governance authority for the Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority, approve by Special Resolution, the Resolution for Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance Subject to Interest Rate in an amount not exceeding $428,835;

And further that, the Chair and the duly authorized signing officer or secretary be authorized to execute and certify the resolution on behalf of the Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority;

And further that, The Board approves the withdrawal of $20,370.22 from the Valley Waste equipment reserve to fund the remaining project costs that will not be financed through the debenture.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously, including the Municipality of the County of Kings

Agenda Item No. 6 – In-Camera Session for Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority in keeping with Section 22(2)(e) of the Municipal Government Act

ON MOTION OF MAYOR MACKAY and seconded by WARDEN LE BLANC 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)(e) of the Municipal Government Act at 10:31. a.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

The September Regular Monthly Meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors was called back to open session at 10:36 a.m.

ON MOTION OF MAYOR MACKAY and seconded by MAYOR TRINACTY, that the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors authorize the Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority to award a contract to GFL Environmental Services Ltd. for the provision of household hazardous waste (HHW) collection, transport and processing for a five-year term, from October 1, 2026- to September 30, 2031.

And further that, the Chair and General Manager be authorized to execute the appropriate contract documents for and on behalf of the Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority.

Agenda Item No. 7 – Correspondence

There is no correspondence at this time.

Agenda Item No. 8 – Next Meeting

The next Regular Monthly Meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board of Directors will be held on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** in keeping with the normal meeting schedule.

Agenda Item No. 9 – Adjournment

As there was no further business to bring forward, Chair Corkum adjourned the September 16, 2026, regular monthly meeting of the Valley Regional Services Board at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Garrett
Recording Secretary
Administration Manager, Valley Waste-Resource Management