



EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, April 26, 2023

LOCATION: 36 Court Street, Suite 102 (CSRNO Office)

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES # 68

1.2 Attendance and Opening of the meeting

Ms. Nicole Somers, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Members present

BEAULIEU, Bertrand
LEVESQUE, Josée,
Member of the Executive Committee
MARQUIS, Eric
OUELLET, Jean-Pierre, Vice-President
ROUSSEL, Lise
SOMERS, Nicole, President

Mayor of the Regional Municipality of Grand Falls
President of the North West Rural District

Mayor of the City of Edmundston
Mayor of the City of Haut-Madawaska
Mayor of the City of Vallée-des-Rivières
Mayor of the City of Saint-Quentin

Staff present

BEAULIEU, Stephanie
CASTONGUAY, Marie-Eve
SIDE, Elaine
RUEST, Melanie
TERCIER, Céline

Transportation Coordinator
Chief Executive Officer / CEO
Community Development Coordinator
Regional Strategist
Regional Growth Coordinator

Guests

LAFRENIÈRE, Guillaume (via Zoom)
DUBÉ, Gail

Analyst and Project Manager, VECTOR 5
Manager of the Rural District of Northwest and
Restigouche, Department of Environment and Local
Government
Porter O'Brien
Porter O'Brien

PICOT, Nicole
PELLETIER, Jean-François

Ms. Nicole Picot and Mr. Jean-François Pelletier introduced themselves and explained their role in the mandate given to Porter O'Brien by the CSRNO for the development of the regional strategy, and then leaves the meeting.

3. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

Ms. Somers asked whether there were any conflicts of interest. No conflicts have been declared.

4. Approval of the agenda

Resolution No.1

Following a motion duly proposed by Mr. Eric Marquis, seconded by Mrs. Lise Roussel and adopted unanimously, it was

RESOLVED That the agenda for the April 26, 2023 Special Meeting be accepted as presented with the addition of the topic "Regional Strategy" to item "9. Other businesses".

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Presentation – Vector 5

Mr. Guillaume Lafrenière joined the meeting (via Zoom) and presented the following documents:

- Report “Élaboration d’un système de transport en commun dans le Madawaska”.
- Offer of service for a study of the need for and feasibility of public transit service for the municipalities of Vallées-des-Rivières, Grand Falls and Saint-Quentin.
- Offer of strategic coaching services (250 hours) for implementation of a public transit system by NWRSC.

After a question and answer session, Mr. Guillaume Lafrenière leaves the meeting.

No decision is to be taken at this stage regarding the proposed deployment plan in Edmundston and Haut-Madawaska.

The members of the Board of Directors wanted to know the financial involvement of the municipalities/rural district in the deployment of regional transit. A study of the various funding options is under way and will be presented to them at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Marquis recommended considering the eventual purchase of electric vehicles, which could be eligible for total federal funding.

Ms. Marie-Eve Castonguay reminded everyone that regional transit is now one of the mandatory responsibilities of RSCs. She also mentioned that NWRSC has obtained provincial funding to cover the entirety of the cost of the two offers of service presented by Vecteur 5.

Resolution No. 2

Following a motion duly proposed by Mr. Bertrand Beaulieu, seconded by Mrs. Lise Roussel and adopted unanimously, it was

RESOLVED That Vecteur 5’s offer of service for a study of the need for and feasibility of public transit service for the municipalities of Vallées-des-Rivières, Grand Falls and Saint-Quentin be accepted.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution No. 3

Following a motion duly proposed by Mr. Eric Marquis, seconded by Mr. Jean-Pierre Ouellet and adopted unanimously, it was

RESOLVED That Vecteur 5’s offer of strategic coaching services (250 hours) for implementation of a public transit system by NWRSC be accepted.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Membership in MACS-NB

Resolution No. 4

Following a motion duly proposed by Mrs. Lise Roussel, seconded by Mr. Eric Marquis and adopted unanimously, it was

RESOLVED MOVED that NWRSC join the Mouvement acadien des communautés en santé du Nouveau-Brunswick (MACS-NB) network.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

7. HR – Governance Sector

Camera

Resolution No. 5

Following a motion duly proposed by Mr. Eric Marquis, seconded by Mrs. Lise Roussel and adopted unanimously, it was

RESOLVED That the meeting proceeds in camera.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

Closing of the closed session

Resolution No. 6

Following a motion duly proposed by Ms. Josée Levesque, seconded by Mr. Bertrand Beaulieu and adopted unanimously, it was

RESOLVED That the in camera be concluded.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

IN CAMERA REPORT

Following an assessment of Ms. Castonguay's performance, it was agreed that the position of Executive Director of NWRSC be awarded to her on a permanent basis and that her salary be increased by 3% starting on April 1, 2023. A letter to this effect will be sent to Ms. Castonguay in the coming days.

Resolution No. 7

Following a motion duly proposed by Mr. Jean-Pierre Ouellet, seconded by Ms. Lise Roussel and adopted unanimously, it was

RESOLVED To accept the report in camera.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Discussion - Urban Planning

The province should approve funding to carry out a professional study of urban planning services for all the area served by NWRSC. A call for tenders will be drafted and presented to the Board of Directors, as well as to the urban planning departments in the area served by NWRSC, before publication.

9. Other businesses

a. Regional strategy

i. Whereas:

- the new municipalities/district don't have strategic plans,
- subsequent to local government reform, the new municipalities/district have to draft strategic plans starting from zero,
- these large-scale local processes (call for tenders, study, preparation) are to be completed by this fall,
- the regional strategy should flow from and match the local strategies,
- the Board of Directors wants to present to the Department first-class local and regional strategies that not only reflect the situation in its area but also are effective, relevant working tools for the next five years,
- NWRSC will ask for support from the Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick and the Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick,

the Board of Directors decided to pass the following motion:

Resolution No. 8

Following a motion duly proposed by Mr. Bertrand Beaulieu, seconded by Mrs. Lise Roussel and adopted unanimously, it was

RESOLVED That NWRSC send a letter to the Honorable Minister Allain to ask for an exemption to delay submission of its first regional strategy from July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

ii. Ms. Josée Levesque asked that a public consultation be organized in the Northwest Rural District: the necessary arrangements will be made with Porter O'Brien.

iii. Development of strategies for Regional Service Commissions

Ministers Green and Allain have invited the RSC Executive Directors to a meeting on Thursday, May 4, in Fredericton to discuss developing strategies for Regional Service Commissions.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Ouellet and Ms. Mélanie Ruest will participate in this meeting as replacements for Ms. Nicole Somers and Ms. Marie-Eve Castonguay, who are unavailable on that date.

b. One-pager following Board of Directors meetings

On the request of Mr. Bertrand Beaulieu, supported by all the members of the Board of Directors, Ms. Céline Tercier will study emailing, after each Board meeting, a one-page document summarizing the meeting to the mayors, rural district representative, municipal councillors and Executive Directors.

10. Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 5.44 p.m.

.....
NICOLE SOMERS
Chairperson

.....
MARIE-EVE CASTONGUAY
Chief Executive Officer / CEO

.....
CÉLINE TERCIER
Session Secretary