



# Rural Municipality of Belfast (RMB)

Mayor: Garth Gillis; Chief Administrative Officer: Bob Brooks; Incorporated 1972

## COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
*Upstairs Hall, Wood Islands Market*

### ***In Attendance:***

Council:	Mayor Garth Gillis (Chair)	Deputy Mayor Lynn Docherty
	Councillor Katherine Bryson	Councillor Trisha Carter
	Councillor Billy Gamble	Councillor James Kinnee
	Councillor Charley McGivern	
Administration:	CAO Bob Brooks	Ashley Feschuk
Guest Speakers:	John Rousseau (Chair of WIADC)	Bill Droust (Project Officer)
Public:	5 Persons	Online: 125 Livestream Views (at time of drafting Minutes)

***Please Be Aware: RMB Council Meetings are Livestreamed to [facebook.com/belfastpei](https://facebook.com/belfastpei)***

### **Item      Order of Business**

1. **Call to Order** – Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Gillis at 7:00 PM.
2. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest** – No conflicts of interest with any items on today’s Agenda were declared.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – Any other suggested Agenda Items for today’s meeting? *(Six additional items were added to the agenda and placed under Item 12)*

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Lynn Docherty and seconded by Councillor Carter to adopt the agenda as amended.**

**Votes for:   6      Votes against:   0      Result: **Carried Unanimously****

4. **Wood Islands Rejuvenation Project** *(presented by CAO Bob Brooks)* – Following the April 19<sup>th</sup> presentation from the Wood Island and Area Development Corporation (WIADC), some Council members asked if WIADC could be invited back to hopefully answer some follow-up questions. While some members of Council have seen the full presentation, others have not. RMB’s previous Council were consulted on the entire DRAFT vision for the area, and were also asked to support one of the components. Specifically, the immediate repairs to the Wood Islands Lighthouse; a project required regardless of whether the overall vision came to pass or not. RMB supported the Lighthouse repairs with a grant through the Canada/PEI Infrastructure Secretariat – a project due to be complete by March 31, 2024.

In a response letter, WIADC committed, that the overall DRAFT vision for the Wood Islands Area Rejuvenation, was only at the very beginning stages of consultation and that they are not at the approvals process yet.

The questions WIADC was asked to provide further information on are as follows (*response letter attached*):

- What was the time period for the consultation process for the **Wood Islands Strategic Development Plan**?
- How were the area residents involved and/or invited to attend the consultations?
- Which government organizations were involved in the consultation process for that Plan?
- Is there more public consultation planned for this Project? Or has it already been approved?
- The report that the Federal Government commissioned entitled: **The Transportation Assets Risk Assessments (TARA) - Wood Islands Ferry Terminal PEI** - Did the government accept the findings of that report? And/or use the results of that report in their consultation/approval process? and
- Who is on the current Board of Directors of WIADC?

Fortunately, Mr. John Rousseau (Chair of WIADC), was able to cut his trip to Montreal short, to enable him and his guest; Mr. Bill Droust (Project Manager), to attend this Council Meeting to present the responses, and answer any other questions that Council might have.

A question-and-answer period for Council was accommodated by Mr. Rousseau and Mr. Droust for Council's additional questions they had for clarification; while WIADC also talked about the exciting Multi-Organizational and Multi-Governmental project that will see a large area of the Wood Islands Waterfront Rejuvenated to past and future glory/prominence. It was confirmed by WIADC that this planned vision/project was only in the initial planning phase and that there is still lots of time to hear feedback from all interested parties and municipal residents before any approvals or the physical work can begin. Mr. John Rousseau and their Board of WIADC also extended an invitation to have a representative from RMB, attend their WIADC Board meetings, to be able to gather information on dates and details of this project moving forward.

RMB thanked WIADC for being here in person, along with several of their Board members to offer RMB transparency and insight on this Vision/Project. RMB also committed to post any public consultation opportunities on this vision on the RMB website, so that residents and Council can follow the process and progress as it transpires. Regarding an RMB Representative at the WIADC Board meetings, RMB will discuss that during the Strategic Planning Session.

5. **Public Presentations:**

- a. **Wade Czank (District Manager - Saltwire Network)** – Mr. Czank announced that three flyer-boxes and four flyer-trees will be distributed within the Belfast area, which will replace the current residential delivery system. The goal of the new system is to address public concerns and reduce plastic waste. 292 residents currently receive the flyers. Notices will be sent to residents informing them of placement/implementation of the new system, with a target date of June 15<sup>th</sup>. In cooperation with Canada Post, the flyer boxes will be placed beside the local Super-box Site locations; and for the flyer-tree locations, Council was asked if they could provide some suggestions of preferred locations. Locations will be reviewed and Saltwire will inform the municipal residents. It was agreed that Council would send its suggestions to RMB Administration (Ashley Feschuk) by 12:00 Noon on May 18<sup>th</sup> by email, who would then pass on the suggestions to Mr. Czank to determine the final destination of the new flyer-tree boxes.
- b. **Lloyd MacDonald (re: Deep-Well Drilling)** – Mr. MacDonald expressed his concerns about the deep-well drilling happening in the Belle River area off the Trans Canada Highway. About the potential of the shelf drying up and the lack of consultation with the residents from the Province, and whether Council knew about the situation?