

NSFM South Western Shore Regional Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2019

In Attendance:

Town of Digby: Deputy Mayor Jean Brittain

District of Argyle: Warden Richard Donaldson, Deputy Warden Danny Muise

District of Clare: Warden Ronnie LeBlanc

District of Digby: Warden Jimmy MacAlpine, Deputy Warden Linda Gregory

District of Yarmouth: Warden Leland Anthony, Councillor Gerard LeBlanc

Town of Yarmouth: Mayor Pam Mood, Councillor Jim MacLeod, CAO Jeff Gushue, Mike Carter, Communications Staff, Lindsay MacKinnon, Executive Assistant

NSFM: Waye Mason (President), Pam Mood (Vice President), Juanita Spencer (Chief Executive Officer), Will Brooke (Policy Advisor)

1. Welcome from Host Unit

Mayor Pam Mood welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the Town of Yarmouth at 1:06 pm.

2. Greetings from NSFM

NSFM President Waye Mason provided greetings on behalf of NSFM.

3. Priorities & Resolutions Process

NSFM Chief Executive Officer Juanita Spencer gave an overview of NSFM's revised resolutions process, which was introduced a few years ago. She noted that the resolutions process is evolving and NSFM continues to look for opportunities to improve it.

NSFM provided the following updates on the five resolutions submitted to the Province in 2018:

1. **CAP:** Since the November Conference, NSFM, AMA, PVSC and members have formed a steering committee to strategically work towards a solution. Meetings have been held with

the Minister of Municipal Affairs and his staff on several occasions, stakeholders, and preparations are in place to meet with the three provincial political caucuses.

2. **EPR:** After the November Conference the Province asked NSFM staff to consult Nova Scotian businesses on our EPR proposal. The consultation is now complete, and the production of the final proposal is anticipated in a few months' time.
3. **Municipal Funding:** The Province recently announced a new name for the Equalization Grant – Municipal Financial Capacity Grant. NSFM has made a submission in support of the change to legislation at Law Amendments. NSFM took the opportunity of coverage in the media to note that while this change in name provides clarity, our request for an increase in funding to the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant (of \$20M over three years) remains unaddressed.
4. **Municipal Modernization:** At the November Conference our members voted to request that the Province help facilitate municipal cooperation. \$578,000 has since been set aside in the 2019 provincial budget for a Municipal Innovation Program to support municipalities. While this is not an immense amount of money, we are taking this as a signal that the Province has heard us and understand that this is an issue for municipalities. There are no details on how this funding is to be used, but we are waiting on a meeting with DMA to see what they are thinking. The funds may be used to support pilot programs, or to document the Windsor/West Hants consolidation.
5. **Roads:** At the November conference it was hoped that a new funding agreement for roads would be in place by June 2019. A joint municipal-provincial roads committee is now underway. The committee has nearly finalized its work plan, and although a new funding agreement is part of that work plan, it is not anticipated that an agreement will be complete by this June. More updates will be provided on this as they become available.

4. NSFM Updates

The agenda package included an update on most NSFM initiatives, including accessibility, library funding, powers to expend, coastal protection, physician recruitment, housing, as well as the Gas Tax Fund and asset management planning in Nova Scotia.

4. Round Table Discussion & Regional Issues

President Mason led the roundtable discussion on regional issues. Members in the room unanimously agreed that the best course of action would be to keep working at the same five resolutions settled on in 2018 until they had been resolved. Comments included:

- Don't move from priorities until priorities are done

- We need to stick to resolutions until they're fixed
- The NSFM president, VP, and at-large members should all go to FCM events to provide continuity
- That NSFM should consider a 2-year presidency

5. Evaluation and Adjournment

Following completion of evaluation forms, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.