

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY JULY 9, 2024 1:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND VIA ZOOM
CONFERENCING**

PRESENT **Mayor Jennifer Murphy
Deputy Mayor Brent Patrick
Councillor John Epps
Councillor Tracey Sanderson
CAO Annette Gilchrist
Deputy CAO Sandra Barr**

REGRETS **Councillor Merv Buckwald**

GALLERY **None**

CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair, Brent Patrick called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY **Jennifer Murphy**
THAT: the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

Brent Patrick declared a conflict of interest regarding Correspondence Item B.8 Request to extend subdivision timeline.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY **Tracey Sanderson**
That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on June 19, 2024 be accepted as presented. Carried

DELEGATIONS Presentation to Grant and Susan Owen for Senior Citizens of the Year

REPORTS

Water & Sewer Department

Daryl Verch, Water & Sewer Manager was present and gave his report.

- a) The Eganville Drinking Water System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements;
- b) Staff started collecting an extra Bacti sample in the distribution system;
- c) Staff are painting in the Treatment Room;
- d) Staff are doing locates for Telecon and other Contractors;
- e) The Eganville Sewage System continues to operate in full compliance according to the Provincial Guidelines that are set out in the Certificate of Approval;
- f) Crawl Construction was on site to clean out the bar screens in the four sewage pumping stations and the Plant and the Geo-Tube Sludge Tank;
- g) Inspecting and cleaning Sewer Manholes continues.

Water & Sewer Report Received.

Works & Waste Department

Jason Zohr, Works Superintendent was present and gave his report.

- a) Sno Drifters Waste Site Hours – Staff submitted a request to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP) requesting the permission to have the Sno Drifters Waste Site be open on Thursdays from 12 pm to 3

- pm beginning September 5, 2024 to October 31, 2024. We were notified by MOECP on June 13, 2024 that they have approved the request. Note: This supports to Townships Priority of "Maintain Service Levels". Rationale: Even though this was not identified as one of the priority objectives, by implementing/offering this opportunity to our residents/contractors we are expanding service levels and adding an additional day that residents/contractors to dispose of material other than on the weekend;
- b) Employment Ad for Equipment Operator/Labourer – Staff advertised for an Equipment Operator/Labourer position. Twenty resumes for the position were received and all the candidates made the selection process difficult with the quality of their resumes. Staff narrowed the selection down to four candidates and they were interviewed. We have selected one candidate and have expended an offer for them to join our team. Note: This supports to Townships Priority of "Maintain Service Levels";
 - c) Supply & Placement of Maintenance Gravel: Bonnechere Excavating Inc who was awarded the Gravel Tender started hauling gravel on June 25th & June 26th for the supply and placement of the Granular "M" gravel. So far 2737.18 tonnes of gravel have been distributed on the following roads: Budd, Corrigan, Lenser, Risto, Silver Lake and O'Connor. *Note: This supports to Townships Priority of "Maintain Service Levels";
 - d) Rehabilitation of Zadow Road – Staff met onsite with McCrea Excavating and EGIS (formerly known as McIntosh Perry) to discuss the plans for Zadow Road. McCrea Excavating Ltd will begin construction on Zadow Road, mid-July through to September 27, 2024. Improvements will be made to 2.3 km of Zadow Road from Silver Lake to Ruby Road. Zadow Road as well as Clee Road will be closed except to local traffic from 7 am to 9 pm, Monday to Friday with the potential of Saturdays. *Note: This supports to Townships Priority of "Smart Infrastructure" as it is related to the objective of "Prioritize Road Upgrades";
 - e) Catch Basin Pumping - XSite Enterprises of Eastern Ontario based out of Arnprior have been conducting the pumping of the catch basins both in Foymount and in the Village of Eganville;
 - f) Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) - Staff participated in the Transition & Communications Meeting on June 13, 2024 and the CIF Depot Meeting on June 14, 2024. These meetings discuss the transition for the Blue Box program and provide updates on communities that have transition, communities yet to transition and how the process is adapting. Note: This supports to Townships Priority of "Smart Infrastructure" as it is related to the objective of "Waste management using Circular economy";
 - g) Canada Community Building Fund - Staff participated in a webinar for the Canada Community Building Fund to learn about changes and additions to the program which will affect our agreement over the next four years. Note: This supports to Townships Priority of "Smart Infrastructure" as it is related to the objective of "Prioritize Road Upgrades";
 - h) Joint Health & Safety Training - We are sending one staff member to participate in Joint Health & Safety Training in Ottawa from July 3-5, 2024. Note: This supports to Townships Priority of "Staffing and shared Services" as it is related to the objectives "Training Opportunities";
 - i) The Sand Road Waste Site and the Sno Drifters Waste Site will be closed on Monday, August 5th in recognition of the Civic Holiday;
 - j) Waste Site Comparisons for 6-months for 2024 & 2023 - For information purposes only, the charts below are comparisons for January-June 2024 & January-June 2023 for each of the Waste Sites and their usage. At time of submission the final June numbers are not included yet but will present them on meeting day;

Waste Sites Summary 6-month Comparisons 2023 & 2024 Usage

Sno Drifters Waste Site

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vehicle Count</u>	<u>C&D/ Shingles</u>	<u>WEE</u>	<u>Bulky Item</u>	<u>Tires</u>	<u>Metal</u>	<u>FREE Passes</u>	<u>Weight KG's</u>
Jan-24	36	34	0	6	0	0	11	41810
Jan-23	29	26	0	10	7	3	6	7760
Feb-24	36	35	0	7	5	5	4	31340
Feb-23	19	17	0	3	0	0	2	8460
Mar-24	146	140	0	30	106	24	89	51250
Mar-23	65	63	0	19	15	3	39	35290
Apr-24	80	80	0	24	33	7	44	38030
Apr-23	92	90	0	23	27	5	40	37190
May-24	117	114	0	32	160	15	54	47540
May-23	133	130	0	37	143	22	59	40905
Jun-24	131	122	0	42	154	20	62	47633
Jun-23	132	128	1	25	77	17	57	41460
2024 Totals	546	525	0	141	458	71	264	257603
2023 Totals	470	454	1	117	269	50	203	171065

Sand Road Waste Site

<u>Date</u>	<u># of Vehicles</u>	<u># of Household Bags</u>	<u>Glass/ Cans</u>	<u>Paper/ Cardboard</u>	<u>Brush/ Clean Lumber</u>	<u>Applic.</u>	<u>Organics</u>	<u>Scrap Metal</u>	<u>WEE</u>
Jan-24	673	743	471	476	19	11	22	25	35
Jan-23	776	930	592	644	13	3	33	28	7
Feb-24	745	925	447	476	12	13	20	34	38
Feb-23	577	661	481	472	3	5	26	23	20
Mar-24	996	1242	528	637	108	14	27	53	60
Mar-23	650	753	541	541	0	8	37	22	24
Apr-24	963	1115	506	540	185	15	28	78	43
Apr-23	931	1071	607	640	165	13	48	92	60
May-24	1158	1265	587	585	228	26	40	120	77
May-23	984	1089	704	777	245	13	37	85	52
Jun-24									
Jun-23	990	934	744	799	167	11	47	101	44
2024 Totals	4535	5290	2539	2714	552	79	137	310	253
2023 Totals	4908	5438	3669	3873	593	53	228	351	207

Lake Clear Waste Site

<u>Date</u>	<u># of Vehicles</u>	<u># of Household Bags</u>	<u>Glass/ Cans</u>	<u>Paper/ Cardboard</u>	<u>Brush/ Clean Lumber</u>	<u>Applic.</u>	<u>Organics</u>	<u>Scrap Metal</u>	<u>WEE</u>
Jan-24	197	269	166	170	0	0	38	12	0
Jan-23	178	302	184	184	0	0	13	0	0
Feb-24	172	269	181	181	0	0	43	0	0
Feb-23	174	277	178	178	0	0	22	0	0
Mar-24	175	270	184	184	8	0	26	0	0
Mar-23	167	220	180	180	0	0	24	0	0
Apr-24	210	276	212	213	18	0	32	50	1
Apr-23	233	349	237	237	28	0	37	2	0

May-24	251	318	251	250	18	0	42	7	0
May-23	264	308	272	272	34	0	24	13	3
Jun-24									
Jun-23	255	288	264	267	21	0	18	13	0
2024 Totals	1005	1402	994	998	44	0	181	69	1
2023 Totals	1271	1744	1315	1318	83	0	138	28	3

McGrath Road Waste Site

Date	# of Vehicles	# of Household Bags	Glass/ Cans	Paper/ Cardboard	Brush/ Clean Lumber	Applic.	Organics	Scrap Metal	WEE
Jan-24	150	183	125	122	0	0	9	0	0
Jan-23	109	101	70	66	0	0	2	0	0
Feb-24	147	183	139	137	0	0	17	0	0
Feb-23	140	134	98	107	0	0	12	0	0
Mar-24	162	214	152	149	0	0	10	0	0
Mar-23	156	158	136	133	0	0	13	0	0
Apr-24	160	211	147	144	0	0	9	0	0
Apr-23	192	211	180	150	0	0	50	0	0
May-24	176	236	163	170	0	0	10	0	0
May-23	200	211	183	189	0	0	10	0	0
Jun-24									
Jun-23	180	223	168	166	0	0	8	0	0
2024 Totals	795	1027	726	722	0	0	55	0	0
2023 Totals	977	1038	835	811	0	0	95	0	0

Hwy 41 Waste Site

Date	# of Vehicles	# of Household Bags	Glass/ Cans	Paper/ Cardboard	Brush/ Clean Lumber	Applic.	Organics	Scrap Metal	WEE
Jan-24	135	183	125	122	0	0	6	0	0
Jan-23	171	172	116	110	0	0	6	0	0
Feb-24	169	218	157	157	0	0	15	0	0
Feb-23	164	195	117	107	0	0	8	0	0
Mar-24	211	270	195	197	0	0	12	0	2
Mar-23	154	173	147	137	0	0	4	0	0
Apr-24	171	230	160	158	0	0	11	0	1
Apr-23	253	301	271	219	0	0	16	0	1
May-24	207	282	189	182	0	0	11	0	2
May-23	186	238	191	188	0	0	7	0	0
Jun-24									
Jun-23	213	292	205	212	0	0	9	0	0
2024 Totals	893	1183	826	816	0	0	55	0	5
2023 Totals	1141	1371	1047	973	0	0	50	0	1

Ruby Road Waste Site

Date	# of Vehicles	# of Household Bags	Glass/ Cans	Paper/ Cardboard	Brush/ Clean Lumber	Applic.	Organics	Scrap Metal	WEE
Jan-24	164	125	106	93	4	0	36	31	0
Jan-23	148	99	86	91	0	0	34	29	0
Feb-24	206	128	128	108	5	0	42	44	0
Feb-23	170	107	97	104	0	0	33	30	0
Mar-24	247	184	135	111	37	0	52	49	0
Mar-23	143	147	99	95	0	0	29	23	0
Apr-24	229	136	116	100	30	0	35	39	0
Apr-23	207	148	122	136	30	3	41	44	0
May-24	346	215	172	185	69	0	72	76	0
May-23	253	159	177	149	55	0	63	67	0
Jun-24									
Jun-23	336	236	233	234	53	0	102	93	0
2024 Totals	1192	788	657	597	145	0	237	239	0
2023 Totals	1257	896	814	809	138	3	302	286	0

k) Grading gravel roads is required to establish and maintain proper crown and aid in roadway drainage. Grading is used to prevent and repair washouts, potholes and washboards that may form. Granular roads are graded 4 times per year or more depending upon the impact that the weather and traffic has had upon the condition of the roadway. Early spring grading is light in nature to rid the road of the pot holes. Late spring grading is to shape the road and prepare it for dust suppression and base stabilizing calcium chloride applications. If all goes well, there will be a late summer grading and finally a fall grading to prepare the roads for winter travel. Shouldering involves building up gravel should, with new materials, so they meet the slope of the asphalt. It is performed on an as-needed basis in response to heavy runoff caused by spring thaw or heavy precipitation and related washouts. Calcium Chloride is applied to freshly graveled roads and newly graded roads from May to June. This activity reduces the dust generated from traffic and helps maintain the graded shape of the road in the summer months.

Roads Department Report Received.

Building & Fire Department

Darryl Wagner, CBO & Fire Chief was present and gave his report.

- a) The Department had thirty-nine calls for service between January – June 2024;
- b) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing; and
- c) 1993 Ford Pumper Truck – 1993 Ford Pumper was assessed at Battleshield Industries. There was an obstruction that caused damage to the pump and the damage has been repaired. They will provide a report on the cause and repair with their invoice.

Fire Department & Building Report Received.

Recreation & Culture

Kevin McGrath, Manager of Recreation and Culture, was present and gave his report.

- a) Arena - Canada Day celebration was well attended. The benefit on June 22 had a good turnout. All our summer students have started now. Circus Genoa Magic Show will be happening on July 24 with two shows. One at 4:30 and the second one at 7:30pm. Game On from the Community Resource Centre in Killaloe is hosting Day Camp on the ice surface from July 29-August 2. North Algona Wilberforce picked up two child youth paddle boards. Note:

Supports to Townships Priority of "Staffing and Shared Services" as it is related to the objective of "shared services";

- b) Eagle's Nest - Rotary Club held their Canada Day breakfast and had a great turn out for it. Authors Night will be held on Mondays in July from the 8th to the 29th from 7 – 9 pm. Note: Supports to Townships Priority of "Staffing and Shared Services" as it is related to the objective of "shared services";
- c) Rotary Beach – Staff added a load of sand to the beach and dragged it. We tried to fix the raft, however, there is water still getting into it;
- d) Tourist Information Centre - Garden and grass maintenance continues;
- e) Centennial Park - Garden and grass maintenance continues. Sand has been added to the playground and then tilled;
- f) Legion Field - Grass maintenance continues. Ball and soccer are finishing up their seasons. Minor Ball has their year-end games July 13. Little League ball (competitive) is continuing. Opeongo soccer continues into August. Farmers Market days are seeing good turnouts;
- g) McRae Park - Garden and grass maintenance continues;
- h) Village - Garden and grass maintenance continues. Studio Tours Banner is going up the week of the 8th;
- i) Foymount - In the next two weeks staff are hoping to get the basketball net put up and scrape the tennis courts. Staff will be installing the new swing seats as well.

Recreation Report Received.

Finance

Sandra Barr, Deputy CAO, was present and gave her report.

- a) The July 5th, 2024 Provisional Budget Report is in your package, along with the Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2024;
- b) Continuing to work with our municipal software provider to get I-City Online available to our residents. The I-City Online Portal will allow residents to create an account and have the ability to be able to check their account balances and see their payments. Note: This supports the Townships Priority of "Maintain and Modernize Services" as it is relates to the objective of "Online access to tax and utility information".

Financial Report Received.

Administration

Annette Gilchrist, CAO, was present and gave her report.

- a) Over the last three weeks Annette attended multiple meetings with the Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, our MP, MPP, Warden and local staff and a few Heads of Councils to discuss shared services and advocacy to the upper levels of government including water and wastewater costs, asset management, records management, human resources and other important issues facing municipalities across Renfrew County and Eastern Ontario. Any outcome of these discussion will come forward to Council at a future meeting. We continue to work to find efficiencies and address inequities to ensure our financial sustainability;
- b) Councillor Sanderson, Councillor Epps and Annette are all registered for the AMO conference in August;
- c) Agreements with Circular Materials for our 2025 recycling transition and Canada's Community Building Fund (formerly the Federal Gas Tax Fund) are included in Council's package for this evening and need to be passed by by-law;
- d) Canada Day was a lot of fun. Lots of people gathered at the various events across the Township despite it being on a Monday;
- e) The hours of operation for the Township Office commenced on June 24th and staff are very appreciative and continue to serve the public with diligence;
- f) The Recreation Report has listed the types of free rentals. Most of them are Township shared programs with the Library, Connect Well, Community Resource Centre and there are some additional programs offered by various groups and a few fundraisers/benefits;

- g) Lake Clear Study and Planning Report - Following a report brought forward in November 2023, the Township asked to receive comments by June 30th. 22 comments have been received and all have been forwarded to our Consultants for review. We have also had meetings with Ministry staff and with the County of Renfrew Planning Staff. The purpose of the study and report was to complete a Lakeshore Capacity Assessment of Lake Clear as the Township of Bonnechere Valley is considering developing a by-law to allow Recreational Vehicles (RVs) to be located on waterfront properties. In addition to this assessment, we also completed a land use review on how best to balance RV use with lake health and neighbourhood character using best practices and implementation tools available to the township such as official plans, zoning by-law provisions and licensing by-laws. The purpose of the study is not to seek removal of the at capacity designation by the Ministry. Staff are working with the Ministry and should have a final report by September with recommendations and next steps. No changes to the Official Plan or Zoning By-Law and no Licensing By-Law have been drafted at this time. Should the Township decide to move forward with any of these tools to regulate the land use of RVs on Lake Clear they will be drafted and follow the planning consultation process which includes public meetings and there will be opportunity for the public to comment before a decision is made. There is also an appeal process for those who provided comment should they wish to appeal against the decision made;
- h) CIP- Staff have received one signage application for the CIP. Please note signage fund matching is 50% up to \$1000.00 and requested amount is \$1,500.00;
- i) Swim Program kicked off on Saturday with a meet the instructor day and the kids made tie-dyed t-shirts; and
- j) Planning Services - Anne McVean will be coming to the Township on the following dates for 2024, August 7th, September 3rd, October 8th, November 5th and December 3rd.

Administrative Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfile June 20, 2024
2. Ministry of Natural Resources - Streamlining of Approvals under the Resources Aggregate Act
3. AMO 2023 Annual Report
4. AMO Watchfile June 27
5. AMO Policy Report July 2
6. County Council Summary June 2024
7. Engagement on Proposed EMCPA Modernization
8. EOWC June 2024 Newsletter Release of Infrastructure Paper and Strategic Plan
9. Planning Act and Development Charges Act Regulations related to Bill 185

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Municipality of Tweed - Request the Province to Reabsorb OPP Costs
2. West Nipissing - Champlain Bridge Rehabilitation
3. Request for Support for Municipal Infrastructure - Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus
4. Federation on Ontario Cottagers Association Communication and request for support
5. Regulations for Importation and Safe Use of Lithium-ion Batteries
6. Township of Puslinch Resolution 2024-010 regarding MFIPPA Modernization

7. Township of Puslinch Resolution 2024-209 regarding Royal Assent of Administrative Monetary Penalty System in the Building Code Act

8. Request to extend Subdivision Timeline

(C) Correspondence "C"

Committee recommends support of B.3 Request for Support for Municipal Infrastructure - Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus and request staff bring a resolution to the August meeting of Council.

Committee recommends support of B.4 Federation on Ontario Cottagers Association Communication and request staff bring a resolution to the August meeting of Council.

Committee recommends support of B.8 Request to extend Subdivision Timeline

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Library Update – Brent Patrick updated Committee on the business of the Library;
- (2)** Museum – Tracey Sanderson updated Committee on the business of the Museum. Wheels in the Park takes place July 13th from 1-5pm at Legion Field;
- (3)** Mayor's Report – The Mayor has attended twenty-eight meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows:

County Council - On June 10, the Renfrew County 2023 Ontario Winter Games Legacy Fund was announced. The fund, which will see \$375,000 entrusted to the recently renamed Ottawa Valley Community Foundation, will open its first applications in early 2025. The granting areas will consist of a Youth Sport Grant, Sports Clubs Grant, and Major Sports Infrastructure Grant. This event would not have been successful without the hard, dedicated work of the County of Renfrew volunteers and sponsors. As the Chair of Finance for the Games, Jennifer was thrilled to be at this announcement.

They had three delegations at our County Council meeting on June 26th:

- 1. Lori Huber, Partner KPMG, reviewed the 2023 Audited Financial Statements for the County of Renfrew.
- 2. Chairperson Keenan Stone and Jennifer Doleman made a presentation on behalf of the Renfrew County Agriculture Economic Development Committee. The Committee provides guidance and feedback on the state of the agriculture sector and to recommend and assist with possible initiatives in support of agricultural economic and business development. Jennifer Murphy will be taking to the EORN Board some regional ideas that could be implemented for the agriculture sector.
- 3. Saad El Kassab, Lead Consultant Ainsworth, provided an update on the County of Renfrew's Climate Action Plan.

MPP John Yakabuski was honoured for his more than 20 years of dedicated service representing Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke in the Ontario Legislature. He was joined by members of his family, current and former staff members, and former Wardens who recognized his numerous achievements and contributions over the years.

Plans are underway for a Renfrew County Municipal Day on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at the County Administration Building in Pembroke. The day will consist of presentations from all County departments, focusing on key initiatives, new innovative activities, and opportunities for collaboration, while

discussing the operational aspects of each department. Previously, the Warden, CAO and Public Works Director would attend local Municipal Council meetings to advise on projects and endeavours by the County of Renfrew. This practice was a bit of a challenge to try to fit in all 17 Municipalities every year which is the reason for bringing local Municipal Councils and Staff together at the County building.

CBC reporter Omar Dabaghi-Pacheco presented at our MESA event in May and stayed on to film some of the opioid challenges in the City of Pembroke. It highlights the ever increasing problem and how our Renfrew County Paramedics are helping with other partners. The video link is below.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BxC0zGdzJA

Roma - The ROMA Board met in Thunder Bay from June 12th to 14th.

We started our full day tour of Thunder Bay at the beautiful Kakabeka Falls for a bit of a morning hike. Then they toured Smart Modular Canada, a modular home manufacturer, who have definitely raised the bar in building homes for our northern climate. A trip to Fort William Historical Park took the Board back in time. They had lunch at the NorWest Community Health Centre where we learned about their unique approach to the drug crisis in the City. On breathtaking Mount McKay, we had a presentation by Chloe Langois from (formerly) OMAFRA and a smudging and history of Mount McKay from Gail Bennett, a member of the Indigenous community who are the stewards of the mountain. The Board then travelled to the inspiring Terry Fox Memorial and Lookout. At our Board meeting BDO Canada presented our Audit Communication and our treasurer, Afshin Majidi, presented our 2023 Draft Audited Financial Statements.

Judy Dezell, Director Enterprise Centre, LAS, presented on their ideas for Water and Wastewater issues across Ontario. LAS is a preferred provider of innovative and creative programs for Ontario municipalities and the broader public sector.

Their focus is being responsive to sector priorities and collaborating with municipalities to understand and deliver what they need. As we know, water and wastewater is an increasing concern and innovation is needed now.

They are looking to take the policy discussion to the real world - cost out creating either joint municipal services boards or corporation(s) within a utility model to provide water and wastewater services. A Feasibility Study is due to the LAS Board by the end of 2024.

Bridget Cherry, Senior Advisor, AMO, updated the ROMA board on AMO board's approval on a refreshed advocacy approach on provincial offences, including a recommendation that the province conduct a third-party review, and ongoing work to understand the challenges and opportunities in the provincial offence framework and how to bring impacted stakeholders together to advance a common vision.

At this time, they are collecting province-wide data to compel the province to conduct a third-party review of the provincial offences system and continue to engage MAG and MTO regarding challenges associated with the successful implementation of automated speed enforcement under the administrative penalties system.

There is also continued engagement on MTO road safety (including increasing fines) and an initial push to MAG to outline the benefits of conducting an independent review of the provincial offences court system.

Alicia Neufeld, Policy Senior Manager, AMO, gave an update on access to health services which remains a continued challenge across the province, with unique concerns in rural, remote, and northern communities.

AMO is engaging with health sector partners and the Health Transformation Task Force to determine next steps of advocacy for a provincial, sector-wide health human resources (HHR) strategy.

They have also been engaging with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to speak to the impact of the lack of access to health services on the economic development of communities.

Engagement efforts have led to identifying several principles for the development of this strategy, which are based on areas of consensus between different people in the health, business, and municipal sectors.

The EORN Board did not meet this month, however, as the Chair of EORN, I did participate in a meeting regarding Broadband with Minister of Infrastructure, Kinga Surma. The Provincial Government is very serious in their mission to have Broadband for all by the end of 2025. This may mean fibre, cell towers and satellite as different solutions.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit met in Pembroke on June 25th. Below are some excerpts from Dr. Morganstern's report.

Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy

The second steering committee meeting for the development and implementation of the Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy (RCDDS) took place on May 30, 2024. At this meeting an update was provided for the Prevention Pillar by Emma Thompson and Kim MacLeod from the Mental Health and Substance Use Health Network and Renfrew County Child and Youth Services. Members learned about current interventions and programs in mental health promotion and substance use prevention in collaboration with school boards, Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario, RCDHU, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, and other community partners. Some initial priorities recommended by the Steering Committee for the Prevention Working Group were to increase access to services, reduce stigma, provide long-term counselling for those aged 17-24, acquire transition beds, develop data indicators, and an ongoing evaluation framework.

In addition, the Steering Committee identified the need to create a Community Safety Working Group to implement recommendations under that pillar of the RCDDS. RCDHU is working with community partners to establish this working group before the next Steering Committee Meeting on June 27, 2024.

Opioid Overdose Response Plan and Harm Reduction Working Group

On June 19, 2024, RCDHU chaired the quarterly meeting for partners of the Opioid Overdose Response Plan. This meeting served as a forum for partners to share surveillance data, program information, and knowledge related to surges in opioid overdoses and the detection of any high-potency opioid formulations circulating locally.

At this meeting, partners were offered the opportunity to participate in the Harm Reduction Working Group as part of the RCDDS. Discussion took place to review current and upcoming harm reduction interventions, define the scope of the working group and identify additional partners that should be included.

Wastewater Surveillance Funding Discontinued

The province recently announced that funding is being discontinued for the wastewater disease surveillance program previously supported by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks. Locally, we rely on this program to

provide information on community spread of COVID-19 and flu in Petawawa and Pembroke. After July 31, 2024, it will no longer be available.

Wastewater surveillance of infectious diseases is a novel approach, and one of the successful innovations scaled up to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a cost-effective means of providing timely information on disease spread throughout the community that doesn't rely on individual testing, which is costly, has delays, and doesn't reflect the whole community. For example, individual testing for COVID-19 and influenza is limited to a small group of eligible people.

Community members across Ontario have voiced the importance of this information to inform their risk assessments, and RCDHU has included it in the new Respiratory Illness Data Summary that is updated weekly.

Additional benefits of wastewater surveillance that are being explored include the ability to rapidly identify emerging pathogens that may be circulating in a community, such as H5N1 (avian flu), and the potential to rapidly identify outbreaks in vulnerable populations, such as long-term care homes.

The province has highlighted that there is a Federal wastewater surveillance system. However, Toronto is the only city included in the Federal program.

Without ongoing support from the province, local wastewater surveillance will no longer be possible.

Other Meetings - On June 24th, Annette and Jennifer were briefed by MP Cheryl Gallant on a few Federal items, including Vacant Land Tax, Capital Gains Tax and Emergency Preparedness.

On June 27th, Jennifer attended a meeting with other Municipal partners about concerns with our Water and Wastewater plants and rising costs to users. There is now an additional resolution being circulated for support in lobbying the Province and the Federal Government.

On June 27th, Annette and Jennifer attended a meeting in Renfrew with MPP John Yakabuski and MPP John Jordan as well as representatives from Renfrew and Mississippi Mills regarding our dam fit program expiration dates. We have a delegation request to Minister Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy, at the upcoming AMO Conference.

On July 4th, CAO Annette Gilchrist and Mayor Murphy attended a meeting with Mayor James Brose, Mayor Neil Nicholson and CAO Ivan Burton as a precursor to announcing our Federal Funding. Hopefully this fund will be announced soon so we can get this project underway!

On July 8th, Annette, Daryl Verch and Jennifer Murphy participated in an AMO promotional video which features our preliminary design of water and wastewater on John Street and expansion of our system in the Village of Eganville provided by the Canadian Community Building Fund (formerly Federal Gas Tax). This video will be featured at the AMO Conference in August and will show other Municipalities and how the CCBF have helped them.

Events - On June 19th, the Mayor attended the Echo Centre AGM to bring greetings from our Council and thank the Board for their ongoing exemplary work.

On July 1st, Jennifer attended the whole day of Canada Day events including the annual event at the Museum with Cupcakes and the singing of O Canada. Also participated in the Scavenger Hunt in which Jennifer was the hunted! It was a fantastic day and the Mayor gave a huge thanks to Annette, Kevin, Emma and Sarah and her whole family!

Today, July 9th, is the last day the Paramedic Service will be in the Municipal building. The Paramedics who are on shift out of Eganville, will finish their shift at their new base.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday August 14, 2024 at 1:30 pm.

MEDIA SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

MOVED BY **Tracey Sanderson**

THAT: Committee proceed in Closed Session in accordance with the Municipal Act 2001, section 239.2 to deal with the matters as indicated below:

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees. Carried

MOVED BY **John Epps**

THAT: Council moves out of Closed Session at 4:17 p.m. to rise and report that Council met to receive information and give staff direction regarding honouring an identifiable individual and to approve minutes from June 5 2024. Carried

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **Tracey Sanderson**

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 4:17 p.m. Carried

Brent Patrick, Chair

Annette Gilchrist, CAO