

WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16th, 2025

Here is a summary of the Regular Meeting of the Council on **September 16, 2025**. Full agendas can be found here: <https://whitewaterregion.civicweb.net/Portal/>. The video is available on our YouTube page. This summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved Minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

Presentation and Public Meetings

- Dayna and Mike St. Michael appeared before Council to request a speed limit reduction on Kohlsmith Road. They noted that the current 80 km/h limit is contributing to safety concerns, with frequent speeding by residents and large truck traffic. They are requesting a reduction to 60 km/h from Highway 17 to Mineview Road.
- Kyle Rowley provided Council with a presentation on behalf of the Muskrat Minor Hockey Association (MMHA) and raised concerns with the draft Whitewater Region Ice Allocation and Cancellation Policy.
- A public meeting was held under the Planning Act to consider two zoning bylaw amendments. The first application seeks to rezone 22 Oriole Trail from a Limited-Service lot to Residential. The second application proposes to rezone 67 Creek Street from a General/Commercial lot to Residential.

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Mayor's Address

Since the last Council meeting on September 3rd, Mayor Nicholson attended 12 meetings and events on behalf of Council, in addition to a County Strategic Workshop, a County meeting, and the County Agricultural Tour. Highlights included:

- **Business Community:** Councillor Trimm and Mayor Nicholson attended the grand reopening of Kula Wellness in Cobden. This celebrated a beautiful new location and showed continued local investment. Two new businesses, Furry Fingers and Worthy by Michelle, are preparing for ribbon cuttings. Sour Joe's also marked its third anniversary.
- **Volunteer Recognition:** Councillor Moore and Mayor Nicholson attended the volunteer appreciation dinner for the Beachburg Fair. Councillor Trimm and Mayor Nicholson also attended the Tourist Booth Volunteer end-of-season lunch.
- **Community Care:** Deputy Mayor Regier and Mayor Nicholson toured Caressant Care in Cobden. The visit included both the long-term care and retirement facilities. They met with residents and recognized the importance of these resources in allowing people to remain in their community.
- **Agricultural Sector:** Councillor Tabbert and Mayor Nicholson participated in the County Agricultural Tour. The day included visits to several producers and value-added operations such as MacEwens, NorthWest Performance, McLarens, Valley Bio, the

Livestock Sale Barn, and the two local fair boards. Whitewater Region has 58 percent of its landmass zoned as prime agricultural land, making it a key contributor to the County's agricultural economy.

- **Economic Development:** Mayor Nicholson and CAO Burton met with the regional advisor from MEDJCT to provide updates on the former Timminco mine site and the potential development of a Class III Industrial Park. Four ministries have now been briefed, including Energy and Mines, Red Tape Reduction, MEDJCT, and MNR.

Public Works

Council received an update on large vehicle traffic on Anderson Drive and Watchorn Drive, classified as collector roads in the draft Transportation Master Plan. Traffic counts indicate an average daily volume of 916 vehicles, with trucks making up 3.7 percent, and collision data show minimal safety concerns. Staff recommend maintaining the current traffic management approach while monitoring volumes and speeds, with any future measures requiring further study and budget approval. The final Transportation Master Plan, expected later this year, will guide traffic management and infrastructure investments.

Council received an update on the Beachburg Water Distribution System following recurring watermain breaks along Beachburg Road. Council approved staff's recommendation to install a smart hydrant for real-time pressure monitoring and to issue a Request for Proposal for engineering services to investigate corrosion and design watermain replacement.

Council approved the award of Tender 2025-19 for Landfill grinding to Nad-Core Environmental Ltd. at a cost of \$33,580.80. The annual grinding of wood waste, clean lumber, brush, leaf and yard waste, and bulky items is required under the landfill's Certificate of Approval, and the ground material is used for daily cover.

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Community Development

Council approved two Zoning By-law amendments:

- The first rezoned 22 Oriole Trail from Limited Service Residential (LSR) to site-specific Limited Service Residential-Exception Eight (LSR-E8) to allow a new dwelling with associated well and septic system, including minor reliefs from water and rear yard setbacks.
- The second rezoned 67 Creek Street from General Commercial-Exception 6 (GC-E6) to site-specific Residential One-Exception 35 (R1-E35) to permit a new dwelling on an undersized lot with associated well and septic system.

Council approved the Township's Conditions of Draft Approval for Phases 3 and 4 of the Wren Subdivision on Morrison Drive and Wren Drive in Cobden, consisting of 46 single detached residential lots to be serviced by existing municipal water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure. The draft conditions are consistent with previous approvals and ensure compliance with zoning, site servicing, and stormwater management requirements. Staff will forward the conditions to the County of Renfrew, the subdivision approval authority, for their final review and approval.

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Announcements

Members of Council announced the following:

- Councillor Bell reported that the Cobden Recreation Association is hosting a Trivia Night on October 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cobden Legion. The Cobden Curling Club is holding a car rally and poker run on September 27th at 12 p.m. Muskrat Minor Hockey announced that the Hungry Fan canteen is now open. Public skating has begun, and residents are encouraged to check the Township calendar for details. The Whitewater Historical Society will hold its 40th anniversary dinner on September 20th.
- Councillor Olmstead highlighted that the Cobden Agricultural Society's poker run will take place on September 20th at 10:30 a.m. at the Fairgrounds. He also reported that the Cobden Legion golf tournament will be held the same day at the Oaks of Cobden.
- Councillor Moore noted that Whitewater Seniors are attending *Mrs. Doubtfire* at the National Arts Centre on November 9th. She also reported that Forrester's Falls Seniors are hosting the Whitewater Gardeners on September 27th. In addition, the Whitewater Region Public Library Book Club has started.
- Councillor Trimm reported that the Westmeath and District Recreation Association will host a Volunteer Appreciation Night on September 21st. Volunteers are also needed to help prepare the ball diamond for a tournament on September 27th.
- Mayor Nicholson shared that the Cobden Legion will unveil its new banner displays on September 26th. On September 22nd, MPP Denault will tour Whitewater Region to meet with community leaders. The Mayor also noted that he will be away for medical reasons from September 29th to October 13th, during which time the Deputy Mayor will serve in his place.

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Additional information:

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