

WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2026

Here is a summary of the Regular Meeting of the Council on **March 4, 2026**. 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.

Mayor's Address

Mayor Nicholson highlighted that he attended 15 meetings and events on behalf of the municipality since the last Council meeting, including joining the Ministry of Natural Resources Forest Sector Strategy Committee as the Eastern Ontario representative, with participation supported by the County of Renfrew. He also participated in the City of Pembroke Sportsplex Joint Committee as a non-voting resource to support ongoing collaboration.

Mayor Nicholson noted that Council's previous resolution requesting the County of Renfrew to take the lead on the Timinco Mine site and proposed 90-acre industrial park has been reviewed and supported by the County's Development and Planning Committee. He further shared that the Province has formally announced the expansion of the highway through Renfrew, with the project divided into five segments and funding committed, though timelines will be confirmed following the proposal process.

Finally, Mayor and Council recognized Employee Appreciation Day on March 6, extending their thanks to the staff of the Township of Whitewater Region for their service to the community.

Community Development

Council approved two zoning by-law amendments. The first rezoned 1915 Beachburg Road from Residential 1 (R1) to Residential 1 - Exception (R1-E36) to allow the existing dwelling to be used as an office, with the exception limiting commercial use to an office and preserving the property's character, while allowing for potential future conversion back to residential.

The second rezoned 32 Hume Street from Residential 1 (R1) to Residential 3 (R3) to permit the development of a six-unit apartment dwelling, supporting residential intensification in the Village Community and ensuring compliance with provincial and county planning policies; both properties will require site plan agreements prior to development.

Council approved upgrading the private road serving the Rural Cluster Lot development at 1782 Westmeath Road to municipal road standards, at the proponents' cost, to facilitate access to the seven lots.

Contact: Mackenzie Baird, Planner/EDO
mbaird@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 122

Community Services

Council approved proceeding with the construction phase of the Westmeath Boat Launch project, authorizing a maximum expenditure of \$200,000 (total project cost \$236,156.35) funded through the reprioritization of the 2026 Capital Project. Council also directed staff to apply for a permitted location for a local waste transfer facility to store and reuse dredged materials, and to seek applicable funding to support the project. The project will follow DFO recommendations to protect fish habitat and includes dredging approximately 750 cubic metres of material for reuse in Township projects.

Contact: *Stephanie Plebon, Manager of Community Services*
splebon@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 143

Public Works

Council received the 2025 Annual Reports for the Township's water and wastewater systems, prepared by the Ontario Clean Water Agency. The Cobden Wastewater Treatment Plant operated at an average of 808 m³/day (80.8% of rated capacity), treated 318,249 m³ of wastewater, experienced three overflows due to spring freshet and equipment issues, and disposed of 267,300 kg of processed biosolids. The Beachburg, Cobden, and Haley Drinking Water Systems all operated within their rated capacities, maintained regulatory compliance, and addressed minor incidents, including a few adverse water quality events. The reports will be posted on the Township's website and made available to the public, supporting ongoing monitoring and management of safe, efficient, and reliable water and wastewater services.

Council approved the Cobden Water Treatment Plant Health & Safety Upgrades project and authorized the Mayor and CAO/Clerk to execute the Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province of Ontario. The \$5.51 million project, funded 73% by the Province, will include filter replacement, manganese removal improvements, THM reduction technology, and upgrades to pumps, process equipment, electrical, SCADA, HVAC, and building systems, addressing aging infrastructure and health and safety concerns. Engineering and design work will begin in 2026, with construction to be completed by March 31, 2029, and the Township's portion of the project funded through water reserves.

Contact: *Lane Cleroux, Manager of Public Works*
lcleroux@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 128

-30-

Additional information:

Ivan Burton, CAO
613-646-2282, Ext. 124
iburton@whitewaterregion.ca
nnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca

Neil Nicholson, Mayor
613-646-2282 Ext. 173
613-401-0097