

WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2026

Here is a summary of the Regular Meeting of the Council on **March 18, 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 seven meetings and events on behalf of the municipality since the last Council meeting, including the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Open House in Westmeath and a detailed 90-minute webinar on watershed management and water level regulation.

He also noted that, in recent weeks, municipal staff have experienced instances of public abuse. While staff are committed to serving the community, no one should feel unsafe in their workplace, and Council will take appropriate steps to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all employees.

Presentations

Sarah Laut and Mary Clark from the Whitewater Region Public Library Board presented an update highlighting governance, staffing, and strong community involvement supported by volunteers and donors. The Library continues to serve as a community hub through a wide range of programs and initiatives, while planning for future growth through its 2026–2030 Strategic Plan and recruitment efforts. Membership has increased by 226 patrons over the past year, with over 38% of residents accessing library services, supported by a 2026 operating budget of \$118,050.

Public Works

Council approved the award of engineering services for the Beachburg Watermain Replacement design to Robinson Consultants Inc. The project will address aging infrastructure and repeated watermain breaks along Beachburg Road through the detailed design of approximately 325 metres of new watermain, identified as requiring full replacement to improve system reliability and water quality.

Council approved change orders for the Beachburg Water Treatment Plant Renewal and Optimization Project, including the replacement of the interior plumbing connection, replacement of high lift pump isolation valves, and the addition of a new post-filtration chlorine analyzer to support continued system performance and reliability.

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

Community Services

Council approved \$10,000 in 25th Anniversary Grant funding to support local events and initiatives across Whitewater Region, including the Beachburg Fair, Cobden Fair, Westmeath Canada Day celebrations, Tour de Whitewater, the Spring Chicken Race in Beachburg, Foresters Falls Canada Day events, Haley Station community programs, ConnectWell's volunteer recognition event, and the Cobden Legion's Canada Day barbecue. These investments, along with a planned 25th Anniversary community event in Beachburg, will help celebrate the Township's milestone while supporting local traditions, volunteers, and community pride.

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

Finance & Administration

Council received the 2025 Statement of Council Remuneration and Expenses for information, as required under the Municipal Act. The report outlines honorariums, benefits, expenses, and donations paid to members of Council and appointed representatives in 2025, in accordance with the Township's remuneration by-law. A review of Council remuneration will be brought forward ahead of the 2026 municipal election.

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Additional information:

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