

WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15th, 2025

Here is a summary of the Regular Meeting of the Council on **March 5th, 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.

Presentations and Public Meetings

Council received a presentation from Dave Thomassin on behalf of the Muskrat Watershed Council, highlighting completed initiatives and providing an overview of the 2024 newsletter, which is available [here](#).

Mayor's Address

Mayor Nicholson attended eight meetings and events, along with County Council and a Renfrew County District Health Unit Board Meeting. On behalf of Council, congratulations were extended to MPP-elect Billy Denault, noting that the Township looks forward to working with him on Whitewater Region initiatives. Other Highlights of the address include:

- The U.S. has introduced tariffs on Canadian exports, impacting businesses and residents. The Township is working with the County of Renfrew to explore buy-Canadian municipal procurement and support the buy-local campaign. Affected businesses are encouraged to share details with County Economic Development.
- Several community events were recognized, with appreciation expressed for the volunteers who make them possible, including the WDRA Winter Carnival, Legion Wing Night, Whitewater Seniors Cooking Class, and St. Andrews Soup Lunch.
- Congratulations to two Whitewater Region residents, Joe Kowalski and Evelyn St. Amour, who received the King Charles III Coronation Medal for their contributions to tourism, conservation, and community service.

Corporate Services

Council approved a new policy for property tax adjustments, allowing tax relief for properties that are damaged and substantially unusable. The policy was developed in response to changes by MPAC, which no longer provides recommended assessment reductions for such properties.

Council approved updates to the Tax Billing & Collection Policy and Utility Billing & Collection Policy. Changes address mistaken payments to incorrect accounts, remove penalty and interest charges for properties affected by disasters such as fires or floods, and introduce electronic billing options.

Council received the 2024 Statement of Council Remuneration and Expenses, detailing honorariums, benefits, expenses, and donations.

Contact: Kurtis McGonegal, Treasurer
kmcgonegal@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 138

Community Development

Council passed a zoning by-law amendment for the property described as Westmeath Concession 8 EML, Part of Lot 15, known municipally as 1539 Hawthorne Road. This amendment was sought as a condition of consent to conserve the retained lands for agricultural purposes and reduce the minimum frontage on the severed lands to 39 metres.

Contact: Alex Pysklywec, Planner/EDO
apysklywec@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 122

Public Works

Council approved the award of the annual Tender 2025-05 Pavement Markings to A1 Carp Pavement Marking Limited.

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

Environmental Services

Council approved a one-year contract extension to Miller Waste Services Inc. who provides curbside collection services to the Township.

Contact: Deanna Nicholson, Superintendent of Environmental Services
dnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 127

Office of the CAO

Council authorized to execute an amending Agreement with the Snow Country Snowmobile Association to extend the term of the lease agreement at 2272 Mineview Road to April 30, 2026. The building being leased is a former Ross public works garage.

Council approved the nomination of Manager of Public Works Lane Cleroux to participate in the Municipal Staff Committee led by Local Authority Services (LAS). The committee will develop a business case for a joint municipal services corporation (JMSC) for water and wastewater, exploring potential benefits such as improved financing options and service efficiencies. This approval aligns with the recommendation from the Water/Wastewater Task Force Final Report.

Contact: Ivan Burton, CAO
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Additional information:

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