

# WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2024

Here is a brief update from the Regular Meeting of the Council on **April 3, 2024**. Full agendas can be found here: <https://whitewaterregion.civicweb.net/Portal/>. The video is available on our YouTube page. The next meeting is April 17, 2024. This summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved Minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

### Presentations and Public Meetings

Melissa Botz from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit presented information on emergency management and how the Health Unit supports the Township by providing information to residents regarding emergency preparedness and other health-related information.

- The Emergency Preparedness page on the *RCDHU website* provides helpful information on general preparedness and specific emergencies.

Terri Lynn and Kerry Dunn presented public comments relating to Agenda Item 9.5 Hila and Sutherland Road Report highlighting their concerns about converting the road from DST to gravel.

### Mayor's Address

Mayor Nicholson noted his attendance at four (4) meetings since the last Council meeting, including a Renfrew County and District Health board meeting, a special meeting of the County Health Committee, and a County Council meeting. Other highlights of the address include:

- On April 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a partial solar eclipse in our region, Mayor Nicholson encouraged residents to follow all safety precautions specified on the *RCDHU website*.
- There is a partial fire ban in place due to the abnormally dry Spring which prohibits open air and agricultural burning, still allowing recreational fires, more details can be found on the *Township's website*.
- Two Youths from our municipality will be representing Ontario in the Youth Bowl Canada National Championships in May. Congratulations to Ambrose Wattie and Carter Hamilton for this achievement and the Township will be cheering them on!

### Fire Services

Council received and approved two (2) reports proposing the adoption of new policies within the Whitewater Region Fire Department:

- the WWR Fire Department Hiring Policy to define the hiring and promotional system for fire positions.
- the WWR Fire Department Pay Policy which addresses some unique aspects of a paid on-call fire department.

**Contact:** *Jonathon McLaren, Fire Chief*  
[jmclaren@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:jmclaren@whitewaterregion.ca)

## Community Development

Council passed a Zoning By-law amendment for the property described as Part of Lot 27, Westmeath Concession 2 W.M.L. N Greenwood Road to rezone the parcel from Rural – Exception Sixty-Eight (RU-E68) to Rural (RU).

- This zoning by-law amendment application was submitted as a condition of consent to ensure the exception zone, which allows for a *Micro-Brewery* as an additional permitted use, stays with the retained lands.

Council received an update on the Community Marketing Project funded by the Rural Economic Development Grant (RED) received in Feb. 2023.

The project's objectives are to:

- increase investment into local businesses and property,
- attract tourists and new businesses,
- boost community pride, and
- support and enhance the Township's existing promotion and communication efforts.

Council directed staff to proceed to Phase II of the project after receiving the Marketing Implementation Plan presented by Cinnamon Toast (CT).

**Contact:** *Alex Benzie, Planner/ EDO*  
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## Public Works

Council awarded tender 2024-08 to Harrington Mechanical Limited for the Beachburg Water Treatment Plan Renewal project. More information about this project can be found on the [Township's website](#) under the 'Projects' tab.

Council received reports regarding the:

- Westmeath Boat Launch Creek Rehabilitation Design Report and Mitigation Plan prepared by Jp2g Consultants Inc. which was conducted due to the high amount of siltation present and to provide options for rehabilitation.
  - ✓ Council directed staff to provide the report to the Community Services Advisory Committee for their consideration and, include the project (or component) as part of the 2025 budget deliberations.
- proposed roads projects to convert Hila and Sutherland Road from double surface treatment (DST) to gravel. This is in response to Councils direction on March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting Council.
  - ✓ Council directed staff to retain Hila and Sutherland Road as is (status quo) and defer any future changes or rehabilitation to a future budget meeting.

**Contact:** *Lane Cleroux, Manager*  
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## Announcements

Members of Council highlighted the:

- Cobden Community Players Performance this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at Cobden Agricultural Hall.
- Water/Wastewater Task Force planned tours for their meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Beachburg Lions Club Pancake Breakfast on April 13<sup>th</sup>, and the good and important work the Lions Club does in our community.
- Whitewater Seniors Group Meeting where a partner from the Manager of the Eganville and District Seniors Group extended praise for the work the Whitewater Seniors municipal staff have done transitioning to running Meals on Wheels and the monthly Curbside Dinners.
- upcoming Building and Planning Open House on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00–8:30PM for residents to attend. The details will be provided in the next issue of “The Current” and on the Township’s Community Calendar.

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### Additional information:

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*Neil Nicholson, Mayor*  
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