



**Rural Municipality of Whitehead
Meeting Minutes**

Regular Meeting of Council May 12, 2025 - 08:30 AM (RM Office)

In attendance: Reeve Trevor Tuttosi, Councillor Kevin Klassen, Councillor Kaley Mykula, Councillor Jeff Owens, Councillor Chris Semeschuk, Councillor Curtis Storey

Regrets: Councillor Dennis Foerster

- 2025-092

1

CALL TO ORDER
- 2025-093

2

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
Councillor Mykula - Councillor Storey

Resolved that the Agenda be adopted as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 2025-093

3

ADOPTION OF MINUTES AS CIRCULATED
Councillor Klassen - Councillor Storey

Resolved that the minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 7, 2025, and the Special Meetings of April 10, 2025 and April 24, 2025 be approved as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 4

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
- 5

PUBLIC HEARINGS
- 6

PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS
- 2025-094

6.1

RCMP Blue Hills Area - Annual Policing Priorities
- 2025-094

6.1.1

In-Camera
Reeve Tuttosi - Councillor Mykula

BE IT RESOLVED THAT at the request of the RCMP representatives, this regular meeting now adjourns to an “in camera” meeting to discuss matters in the preliminary stages as per Subsection 152(3)(b)(iii) of The Municipal Act and all matters discussed in-camera are confidential until discussed in an open meeting as per Section 83(1)(d) of The Municipal Act.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 2025-095

6.1.2

Open Session
Reeve Tuttosi - Councillor Owens

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this ‘in camera’ meeting does now resume back to a regular meeting.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 2025-096

6.1.3

RCMP Blue Hills - Receiving
Councillor Owens - Councillor Klassen

That the presentation by S/Sgt Clint Wikander and Cpl. Jacob Stanton on behalf of the RCMP Blue Hills Area be received.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7 BYLAWS AND POLICIES

8 SUBDIVISION

9 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10 NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Whitehead Hall

Administration presented a report with respect to encouraging a volunteer board for Whitehead Hall in Alexander and considerations for long-term use of the facility.

10.2 Communication Service

Administration requested feedback from Council regarding the scope and frequency of public notices to be included in the development of a digital communication strategy.

10.3 Building Inspection Services

2025-097 Reeve Tuttosi - Councillor Storey

Be it resolved that Administration is directed to execute the presented agreement with the Keystone Planning District for limited planning services related to building permit issuance and inspections.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.4 AMM Resolution - Drainage Restriction Changes

2025-098 Councillor Mykula - Councillor Klassen

WHEREAS in the Province of Manitoba, reconnaissance soil surveys were completed between 1926 and 1996 and detailed soil surveys were completed between 1972 and 2022, classifying surface soils by their agricultural capability in accordance with the Canada Land Inventory;

AND WHEREAS the soil classifications from the Canada Land Inventory referenced in the Planning Regulation, the Water Rights Regulation, and the Nutrient Management Regulation are defined as: the mineral soils are grouped into seven classes according to their potentialities and limitations for agricultural use. Where Class 6 soils are capable only of producing perennial forage crops, and improvement practices are not feasible and Class 7 soils have no capability for arable culture or permanent pasture;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba Environment and Climate Change through the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch regulate drainage within the Province of Manitoba through the Water Rights Act;

AND WHEREAS all persons including municipalities must obtain a valid and subsisting license as per the Water Rights Act;

AND WHEREAS development of land cannot take place without obtaining a valid drainage license to construct pertinent development features such as roads and ditches;

AND WHEREAS the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch, as of 2019, has implemented an internal policy in which drainage licenses on Class 6 and 7 soils cannot be approved, for registrable or licensable projects;

AND WHEREAS the term registrable project is defined, separately from other licensable projects for drainage works, in the Water Rights Act. These are typically minor or less impactful drainage projects, often involving surface or subsurface drains. Registration allows for a streamlined process compared to full licensing, but still ensures compliance with regulations;

AND WHEREAS licensable applications for water control works are not restricted on Class 6 and 7 soils, only registerable projects are restricted per the Water Rights Regulation;

AND WHEREAS municipalities recognize the need to restrict development in environmentally sensitive areas and critical/significant wildlife habitats such as wetlands and habitats for migratory species;

AND WHEREAS The Planning Act, The Planning Regulation, The Environment Act, The Water Protection Act, The Water Rights Act, The Water Rights Regulation, and The Nutrient Management Regulation do not restrict the issuance of Water Control Works Licenses on Class 6 and 7 soils;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities recognize that some subclasses of Class 6 and 7 soils are strongly associated with the presence of wetlands, however development of wetlands is already limited per the Water Rights Regulation;

AND WHEREAS many subclasses of Class 6 and 7 soils are often viewed as desirable for rural subdivisions, lakeside cottage developments, and campgrounds due to their lack of agricultural capability, including soils which:

- have a restricted rooting zone depth for crops,
- contain poisonous plants to farm animals,
- are heavily forested,
- are affected by drouthiness (sandy and gravelly soils),
- have high salinity,
- have high groundwater table,
- are too stony to permit cultivation, and
- have a topographic slope of greater than 31%;

AND WHEREAS the Canada Land Inventory soil classification system used in the reconnaissance and detailed soil surveys was published in 1965, this classification speaks only to agricultural uses, and predates current drainage practices and drainage regulations by 60 years; and

WHEREAS the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch is applying this internal policy to all undeveloped lands on Class 6 and 7 soils, regardless of current zoning designations;

AND WHEREAS many municipalities are experiencing significant loss of developable land, portions of which have already been designated/zoned for development, from the implementation of this internal policy;

AND WHEREAS this internal policy is unnecessarily restricting development and the potential for increased tax-base of municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to only enforce current limitations published in the Acts and Regulations, and remove the internal policy denying Water Control Works Licenses on Class 6 and 7 soils;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Manitoba engage AMM to participate as stakeholders in the preparations of future internal policies within the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch to adequately evaluate the impact of these internal policies on growth and future development.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 2025-099 **10.5 Oak Lake Aquifer Management Advisory Board Appointment**
 Councillor Klassen - Councillor Mykula
- Be it resolved that is appointed as representative of the RM of Whitehead on the Oak Lake Aquifer Management Advisory Board.
- TABLED**
- 2025-100 **10.5.1 Tabling Motion**
 Reeve Tuttosi - Councillor Mykula
- That the above motion be tabled.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- 2025-101 **11 ACCOUNTS**
 Councillor Semeschuk - Councillor Storey
- Resolved that the List of Accounts as paid for April 2025, cheques numbers #16394 to #16427 and EFT #3 to #14 (both inclusive) totaling \$68,961.78 and Direct Deposit Register totaling \$28,667.56 including council indemnity as per by-law no. 2023-01 be approved.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- 2025-102 **11.1 Bank Reconciliation**
 Councillor Storey - Councillor Owens
- Resolved that the March 2025 Bank Reconciliation be approved as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- 2025-103 **11.2 April 2025 Budget to Actual**
 Councillor Owens - Councillor Storey
- That the April 2025 year-to-date budget to actual report be approved as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- 2025-104 **12 COMMITTEE AND BOARDS REPORTS**
- 13 CORRESPONDENCE**
 Reeve Tuttosi - Councillor Owens
- Resolved that the Correspondence listed below be received;
- AMM Letter - Sponsored Resolution #33-2019 Update
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- 14 NOTICE OF MOTION**
- 15 IN CAMERA**
- 2025-105 **16 Adjournment**
 Councillor Klassen - Councillor Mykula
- Resolved that we now adjourn to meet again on June 9, 2025 at 5:30 pm at Kemnay Hall for a Regular Council meeting or at the call of the Reeve.
- Time: 10:20 am
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**