

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Title: Valley Regional Economic Network

Date: November 1, 2023

Department: Committee of the Whole



UPDATE

The Valley REN LOC (Local Oversight Committee) met on November 1st. This is the first time Wolfville has participated in an LOC since rejoining the REN.

For context: The membership of the VREN includes the municipalities of Kings, Kentville, Berwick, West Hants and Glooscap First Nations, and now Wolfville. Member municipalities provide funding based on a calculation of assessment and population and this amount is matched by the Province. Each member municipality provides one representative to the LOC. REN staff report to a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of the regional business community and, in our case, representatives of both Acadia and NSCC – although only in that there are board members from these organizations chosen for the Board, not because they have been appointed by the respective organizations. Staff report to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors meets 6 to 12 times annually and the LOC meets approximately 4 times annually (although must meet at least bi-annually). The LOC Chair sits as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Board and the Board Chair sits as an ex-officio non-voting member of the LOC.

Strategic Priorities of the VREN include: (1) workforce development (2) regional marketing (3) business development. Information on specific initiatives can be found on the website valleyren.ca

November LOC Meeting:

1. The LOC approved a new Board Member put forward by the Board of Directors.
2. Discussion regarding a new LOC Chair and Vice-Chair – this will take place in the new year once each LOC Member organization has finalized its internal committee appointments. Discussion of timing and number of meetings that are required of the Chair – likely 6-12 annually. There was discussion of coordinating LOC and Board meetings to minimize the number of days the LOC Chair would need to schedule.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor Donovan