



Committee of the Whole Excerpts
March 10, 2026

2026 CITIZEN MEMBER APPOINTMENT TO THE CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE EXCERPT

The Climate Action Committee supports collaboration between municipal departments and Council to implement and evaluate the Municipality's climate action plans, including emission reduction and climate adaptation initiatives that protect people, property, and infrastructure. Ongoing recruitment efforts have struggled to fill Committee vacancies; however, a recent posting produced one qualified candidate with relevant climate and environmental research experience. Appointing this individual would complete the Committee's membership and help advance its climate action work.

The recommended motion was that Committee of the Whole recommends ...

COUNCIL APPROVES LAUREN DOUGLAS BE APPOINTED TO THE CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM MARCH 24, 2026 TO MARCH 31, 2028.



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Mayor Zebian and Members of Council

Submitted by: Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Date: March 10, 2026

Subject: 2026 Citizen Member Appointment to the Climate Action Committee

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act (MGA) – Sections 24-27, Standing, special and advisory committees; Vacancy on Boards, Commissions and Committees; Citizen Advisory Committees; and Community Committees.

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

After consideration of the information presented in this report, the recommended motion is

Committee of the Whole recommends Council approves Lauren Douglas be appointed to the Climate Action Committee for the term March 24, 2026 to March 31, 2028.

BACKGROUND

Property ☒	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☒	Social ☒	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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The Climate Action Committee provides a forum for all municipal departments and Council representatives to work co-operatively on implementing and evaluating the adaptation and mitigation actions outlined in the Municipal Climate Change Action Plans (MCCAP) and the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Local Action Plan of the Municipality. These policy and adaptation procedures help protect people, properties, special places, and municipal infrastructure from the negative impacts of climate change.

The Committee consists of eleven (11) members:

- three (3) Councillors;
- two (2) resident members, who are not members of Council
- Chief Administrative Officer or designate;
- Director of Public Works or designate;
- Director of Planning and Development or designate;
- Director of Community Development or designate;
- Director of Financial Services or designate;
- Protective Services Manager or designate.

DISCUSSION

The Climate Action Committee has experienced ongoing challenges in filling existing vacancies within its composition. Despite multiple recruitment efforts and repeated public advertising of the opportunity, there has been minimal response and limited community interest. Most recently, the vacancy was advertised beginning February 20, 2026, with applications for the citizen member position accepted until 4:30 p.m. on March 4, 2026. Following the close of the application period, only one (1) expression of interest was received.

The sole applicant brings a strong academic foundation in biology, including research focused on freshwater species at risk, along with more than four years of applied climate research experience. Through professional work examining flood hazard risk and coastal erosion, combined with direct lived experience witnessing multiple flooding events in their own community, this individual offers both technical expertise and practical insight. Their combined scientific knowledge and community perspective would meaningfully strengthen the Committee's capacity to advance informed, responsive, and locally grounded climate action initiatives.

Should this recommendation be supported, the appointment would allow the Committee to achieve its full membership complement, ensuring it is properly positioned to effectively carry out its mandate.

NEXT STEPS

Once approved by Council, the applicant will be contacted to notify them of whether or not they were appointed. Required additional information will be sent to new members.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Resident members appointed to a Committee of Council will receive remuneration in accordance with the Council Remuneration Policy, which is identified in the annual Operating Budget.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may choose not to approve the direction or may direct staff to explore alternative approaches or locations.

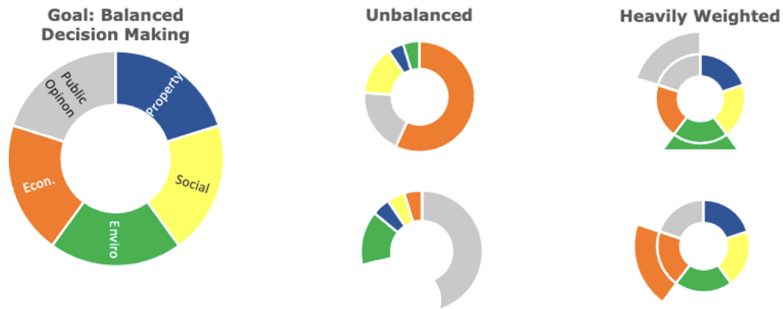
ATTACHMENTS

None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

I support the recommendation.

Council has been provided with a reference taken from the Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy , Appendix C "Decision Making by Council and Committee of the Whole" as a reminder of the principles highlighted for good decision making.



Report Prepared by: _____

Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Report Reviewed by: _____

Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Report Approved by: _____

Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer