

**West Hants Regional Municipality
District Councillor Activity Report**

To: Mayor Zebian and members of the West Hants Regional Municipal Council

Submitted by: Chrystal Remme, Councillor District 3

Date: May 20, 2026

The following highlights my activities from late March through mid-May.

March 24 – Regular Council Meeting

March 25 – Special Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting

March 26 – Special Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting

April 7 – Annapolis Valley Regional Library Executive Meeting

April 9 – Special Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting

April 14 – Special Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting and Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting

April 16 – Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board Meeting

I attended an Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board meeting in Berwick as we prepared for the facilitated session scheduled for May 2. The Board has been working through the impact of the current funding situation, and this meeting helped us prepare for some difficult conversations and decisions.

April 17 – Valley Regional Enterprise Network Update

I met with the CEO of the Valley Regional Enterprise Network, as I was unable to attend the regular Liaison and Oversight Committee meeting.

This gave me a chance to get caught up on what is happening with the REN, especially with the change in provincial funding. We also talked about the Economic Leadership Council, the Emergency Task Force, and some of the work currently underway. I was advised that a working group has been formed and that the REN is working through plans and changes as they move forward.

April 28 – Regular Council Meeting

April 29 to May 1 – Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Conference

I attended the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Conference in Yarmouth from April 29 to May 1. These conferences are always a good opportunity to hear what is happening in other municipalities, learn from what others are doing, and have conversations with councillors from across the province. There were some really great presenters, and the networking opportunities were excellent.

I was especially interested in the update from the Deputy Minister of the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage regarding museums and libraries. I appreciated the update, but I was disappointed that the message was not more positive when it came to funding for local libraries. Libraries continue to play such an important role in our communities, and stable, sustainable funding is critical.

We also heard success stories from the Municipality of Pictou County, the Town of Yarmouth, and the Town of Wolfville. Wolfville spoke about its bike program, the increased use of the program, and some of the work they have done to make it more inclusive. The Town of Yarmouth shared the impact of Communities in Bloom and how that work has helped bring people together, beautify the community, and create a stronger sense of pride. It was great to hear about projects that are working well and bringing community members in to be part of the solution.

Deputy Minister Sandra McKenzie from the Department of Emergency Management also provided an update. One of the most concerning things she shared was that, even with the rain and snow we have had, more than 20% of the province is already in drought conditions. She also advised that the Province will not be supporting the water program this year.

This is something I think Council really needs to be aware of as we head into the summer months. Last summer, many residents relied on that program to help get them through very dry conditions. For residents who rely on wells, this could become a serious issue again if we have another dry summer.

The Environment, Climate and Resource Development provincial update was also interesting, especially with the Province's focus on mineral exploration and resource development. There was a lot of information shared in a short amount of time, and there were a lot of questions from municipalities in the room. I think this session could have been longer, as there was clearly a lot of interest.

One of my favourite presentations was from councillors who reflected on the Strong Cities Summit. It was a good reminder that many of the challenges we are seeing here in Nova Scotia are not only happening here. Communities across the country and around the world are dealing with many of the same pressures.

That conversation also touched on the impact that negative comments, harassment, and personal attacks can have on elected officials and on people who may be thinking about putting their name forward. Some of what was shared was hard to hear, but it was important. It was also encouraging to hear how other communities are trying to build stronger relationships, keep conversations respectful, and continue doing the work even when it is difficult.

May 2 – Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board Facilitated Session

The Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board spent the full day in a facilitated session working through the impact of the current funding situation.

This was one of the hardest discussions I have been part of since being elected. The conversation was thoughtful, respectful, and focused on the impacts these decisions will have on communities, staff, and the people who rely on our libraries.

I am very grateful to be part of such a dedicated Board. None of it was easy, but I do feel the Board took the time to really think through the impacts and to consider what would make the most sense moving forward.

The Board is scheduled to meet again on May 25 to ratify its decisions. Information will be shared with Councils and made public following that meeting.

May 3 – Bread Gallery 15th Birthday and Spring Art Show Opening Reception

I attended the Bread Gallery's 15th birthday celebration and the opening reception for their Spring Art Show.

It was wonderful to see another local business celebrating such an important milestone and continuing to create space for art, culture, and community in our area.

May 12 – Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting

May 16 – Hants Shore Childcare Centre Community Fun Day

I attended the Community Fun Day hosted by the Hants Shore Childcare Centre.

There was a great turnout, with games, food, relay races, and lots of families enjoying the day. This Board is so dedicated, organized, and focused on bringing this childcare facility to the community. It was great to see the support, hear from members of the Board, and connect with others in the community.

Discussions/Calls/Concerns:

Over the past several weeks, I've heard from residents on a range of topics:

- **Brooklyn Trail Use and Activity:** The trail in Brooklyn is seeing increased use, which is wonderful to see. People are walking, biking, walking dogs, using four-wheelers, boating, and accessing the river for kayaking and canoeing. It is great to see the trail being used in so many different ways and becoming a real asset in the community.
- **Chambers Road Parking and Safety:** With the increased trail use, I have also been hearing concerns about parking, especially when both sides of Chambers Road are being used during busy times.
I have also heard from residents who are concerned about crossing the 215 to access the trail, given that the speed limit is 80 km/h in that area. As the trail continues to grow in popularity, I think we will need to keep an eye on safety, access, and parking.
- **School Zone Speeding:** Speeding in the Brooklyn school zone continues to be raised, and it remains a concern for families in the area. I was encouraged to hear from the CAO that we are getting closer to having the speed sign installed. I am hopeful that this will

help remind drivers to slow down and be more aware, especially in an area where children and families are present.

- **Library Funding:** I continue to hear from residents and community members about library funding and the importance of library services in our region. People care deeply about these spaces and the services they provide.
- **Drought Conditions and Water Program:** I also want to flag again the concern raised during the NSFMC Conference regarding drought conditions and the Province not supporting the water program this year.

Last summer was very difficult for many residents, particularly those who rely on wells. If dry conditions continue or worsen, this could become a significant issue again. I believe Council should be aware of this early and consider what information, advocacy, or support may be needed for residents as we move into the summer months.

There are so many great things happening in our communities over the next couple of months, and I love seeing people out supporting local events, businesses, halls, fire departments, volunteer groups, and each other. It says a lot about the strength of our communities when people continue to show up.

I also want to recognize the volunteers and community boards who do so much of this work behind the scenes. These events, spaces, and programs do not just happen on their own. They happen because people give their time, energy, and care to make them happen, and that deserves to be recognized.

As always, I appreciate residents reaching out with questions, concerns, and ideas, and I remain available.

West Hants Regional Municipality

District Councillor Activity Report

To: Mayor Zebian and members of the West Hants Regional Municipal Council

Submitted by: Paul Wheadon Councillor District 4

Date: May 20, 2026

Meetings/Events

April 25, 2026, Famous Ellershouse Breakfast, Tastiest breakfast around! Special thanks to all the volunteers who make this event so successful every month.

April 28, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, Council Chambers, Windsor

May 11, 2026, West Hants Historical Society, Meeting to discuss, and promote the new building proposed at Fort Edward. An interpretive and interactive building encompassing the history of West Hants and the Annapolis Valley.

May 12, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting. Council Chambers, Windsor

May 13, 2026, Cogmagun Landfill Committee meeting. GFL Centre, Brooklyn.

This committee is currently seeking a citizen member to join. Please contact me if there are any interested persons.

May 14, 2026, Planning Advisory Committee meeting. Attended as a spectator

May 20, 2026, Site Visit 5398 Trunk 14. Proposed rezoning to allow residential development on industrial zoned parcel of land.

May 20, 2025, Chaired my first Public Information Meeting regarding the rezoning of the property above.

Discussions/Calls/Concerns:

Calls concerning speeding on Ellershouse Road. Ill be investigating speed signage placed on this road.

Also, a few conversations on potential drought conditions and being pro-active in water management.