Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Notes of a Meeting of the REMO Advisory Committee
Held Via Microsoft Teams

APPROVED by REMO Advisory Committee

Date: July 21, 2025

Monday, May 26, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

Attendance
Municipality of the District of Chester
Warden Allen Webber
Deputy Warden Abdella Assaf
Councillor Andre Veinotte
Tara Maguire, CAO
Bruce Blackwood, AEC

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile
Deputy Mayor Chasidy Veinotte
Tom MacEwan, CAO
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
Bruce Parks, AEC
Angela Corkum, AEC

Town of Bridgewater
Mayor David Mitchell, Chair
Councillor Braden Newell
Tammy Crowder, CAO
Mark Flint, Deputy CAO
Patrick Hirtle, AEC

Town of Lunenburg
Mayor Jamie Myra, Vice-Chair
Marvin MacDonald, Interim CAO

Town of Mahone Bay
Mayor Suzanne Lohnes Croft
Councillor Kelly Wilson
Councillor Penny Carver
Dylan Heide, CAO
Eric Levy, Deputy CAO

Regrets
Erin Lowe, Deputy CAO MODC
Deputy Mayor Rachel Bailey, TOL

Staff
Angela Henhoeffer, REMO Manager

1. Call to Order

Mayor David Mitchell called the meeting to order at 10:30 am

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Warden Webber, seconded by Councillor Newell that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

3.1 February 10, 2025,
3.2 February 19, 2025, All Council Meeting,
3.3 March 12, 2025

The notes of the February 10, 2025; February 19, 2025; and March 12, 2025**,** were approved as circulated.

4. Business Arising from Notes

4.1 2025-2026 REMO Budget

It was noted that all five units have approved the 2025-2026 REMO budget as presented.

5. New Business

5.1 Next steps and tasking for Governance MOU

Moved by Councillor A. Veinotte and seconded by Councillor Wilson that a committee be formed with representatives from each unit, and further that the committee be tasked with reviewing and modifying the MOU. Carried unanimously.

The following members were appointed to the Committee:
Mayor Jamie Myra (Town of Lunenburg)
Councillor Braden Newell (Town of Bridgewater)
Councillor Kelly Wilson (Town of Mahone Bay)
Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile (District of Lunenburg)
Councillor Andre Veinotte (District of Chester).

Angela Henhoeffer, REMO Manager will recirculate the report which outlined the allocation of resources to all members of REMAC.

5.2 Bonny Lea Farm Propane Leak Evacuation After Action Report

Staff indicated that the After-Action Report was signed by all CAO's (circulated with the agenda).

Elected officials were encouraged to speak with their Fire Depts and request sharing of text/calls with REMO, via "I Am Responding", so that on call Emergency Coordinators can be situationally aware, should an evacuation arise. It is still the responsibility of the fire department to contact REMO for assistance.

It was noted that changes will be coming from the NS Department of Emergency Management (DEM) regarding Fire Dispatch which may make changes to the way fire depts share information to Emergency Management officials.

Bonny Lea was asked for their feedback on the situation and Ms. Henhoeffer offered to sit on their debrief meeting but was not required. Mayor Lohnes-Croft noted that Bonny Lea, was impressed with the REMO handling of the situation and is ~~now~~ investigating why the leak occurred.

6. NS DEM Updates – via REMO Manager

The NS DEM held an emergency managers conference about the proposed standards and guidelines they will be rolling out and how it will affect municipalities.

- CAOs and EMCs across the province have until June 15th to provide feedback to the province. The CAOs and Angela will meet next week to provide our feedback.
- All municipalities (except HRM & CBRM) will be required to join a REMO
- There will be 6 regional offices – our local office will be in Liverpool. Location to be determined.
- When the province is activated in our region, we will be required to activate in person.
- Province moving to a 24/7 Duty Officer system.
- Public alerting will be initiated by the municipalities; there will be a NS Alerts App rolled out for non-intrusive alerts and intrusive alerts will still be by Alert Ready. The app will allow 3G and Wi-Fi unlike the current system.
- There will be requirements and guidelines for moving from HRVA to Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment, Business Continuity Program based on their criteria, Vulnerable Persons, and Fire Dispatch.

- There will be some incentive funding provided over the first 3 years – $52,000, $39,000 and then $26, 000 for a total of $118,000 – for new staff or moving the program forward.
- All REMOs must have a full-time dedicated staff person to manage the EM/BCP program and for responses. There will be requirements for preparedness and planning, operations, and structure.

7. REMO Coordinator Updates

Ms. Henhoeffer reported that she and a DNRR representative toured the two municipal landfill sites and completed a FireSmart assessment of them. The reports will be shared with the facilities.

On going work with the landfill facilities as well as King & Annapolis REMO to create an Emergency Debris Management Plan is underway. Staff are working with providers to determine best processes and locations for debris disposal, bins, and pickups to plan for large emergencies.

Community Readiness Coordinator position will be posted this week. The position remains the same, however the name of the position changed from Emergency Mangement Coordinator. We will be looking for someone willing to learn and if they do not have EM experience, the expectation is they will be trained over the course of three years.

REMO was looking for a partner radio station for regular advertising as well as emergency broadcasting partner and held a tender. It was sent to CKBW, Go Rock and COVE FM. The tender was awarded to Go Rock. A press release announcing this will occur in the coming weeks.

Four Public Education/Outreach session have been held across the county.

Emergency Preparedness Week was May 4-10, and was advertised on 3 radio stations. Chester May Fest was held at Castle Building Supplies who provided a generator for a draw.

Training/Exercises:

- Approx 68% of all staff have completed the Be Ready training. Some units made it mandatory, others recommended or highly recommended.
- Held local training and attended NS Guard Exercise with province.
- Province held local Community Evacuation workshop – 32 staff attended from 5 units

8. Added Items - Nil

9. Next Meeting – Monday, July 21, 2025, at 10:00 am

10. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.