

Chaleur RSC Board of Directors

Regular Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

6:30 pm

Chaleur RSC Board Room

702 Main Street, suite 2

Petit-Rocher

Recording of attendance
and verification of
quorum

Michael Willett, Bathurst
Darryl Branch, Bathurst
Lilianne Carmichael, Belledune
Cynthia Robinson, Belledune
Nathalie Paulin, Rural District

Member Absent:

Daniel Guitard, Belle-Baie
Charles Doucet, Belle-Baie
Paul Arseneault, Belledune
Kim Chamberlain, Bathurst

Staff Present

Jocelyne Hachey, Executive Director
Dayna Anderson, Director of Solid Waste Management
Shirley DeSilva, Economic and Tourism Development Director
André Frenette, Director of Planning
Thomas Lizotte, Director of Communication

1. Call to Order and Opening Statement

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mr. Michael Willett, at 6:36 p.m.

2. Attendance and Quorum

The Chair declared that quorum was reached.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Darryl Branch

Seconded by: Laura McNulty

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Conflict of Interest Declarations

None

5. Minutes

5.1 Adoption of January 21, 2026, minutes - Deferred to the next Board meeting.

6. Correspondence

The CEO informed the Board that the Department of Environment and Local Government approved the Regional Services Support Fund (FASR) for 2026.

7. Presentations

7.1 Planète Jeunesse – Vanessa Couturier

7.2 Chaleur Amateur Sport – Marc Arseneau

7.3 Key Economic Sector Study for the Chaleur Region – Guillaume Boudreau

8. Corporate and Collaborative

8.1 Resolution – Approval of contributions and inter-fund transfers as per 2026 budget

Moved by: Darryl Branch

Seconded by: Laura McNulty

Whereas the 2026 Operating and Capital budgets were approved by the Board on Nov 19, 2025;

Contribution and transfer to the Site Closure Fund – Solid Waste

THAT a contribution and transfer of **\$539,311** be made to the Site Closure and Post Closure Liability account, as approved in the 2026 Solid Waste Operating Budget.

Contribution and transfer to the Capital fund (asset acquisition) – Solid Waste

THAT a contribution and transfer of **\$1,462,607** be made from Operations to Capital, for asset acquisition, as approved in the 2026 Solid Waste Operating Budget.

Contribution and transfer to the Capital Reserve Fund – Solid Waste

THAT a contribution and transfer of **\$200,000** be made from Operations to the Capital Reserve Fund as approved in the 2026 Solid Waste Operating Budget.

Transfer to the Operating account – Solid Waste

THAT a transfer of **\$37,500** be made from the Operating Reserve Fund to Operations as approved in the 2026 Solid Waste Operating Budget.

Contribution and transfer to the Capital Reserve – Generation Facility

THAT a contribution and transfer of **\$20,000** be made from Operations to the Capital Reserve Fund as approved in the 2026 Generation Facility Operating Budget.

Contribution and transfer to the Capital Reserve – Community Development

THAT a contribution and transfer of **\$13,300** be made from Operations to the Capital Reserve Fund as approved in the 2026 Community Development Operating Budget.

MOTION CARRIED

8.2 Resolution – Letter of support to the Minister of National Defence

The Board recommends that the Chaleur RSC send a letter supporting the establishment of a Francophone naval capacity at the Port of Belledune.

9. Solid Waste Management

9.1 Resolution – Municipal Capital Borrowing Board

WHEREAS the Chaleur Regional Service Commission sent a written notice on January 21, 2026, to the municipalities and the Chaleur Rural District stating its intention of applying for a loan 45 days after the said notice was sent;

WHEREAS the capital budget was adopted by CRSC’s board on November 19, 2025.

Moved by: Darryl Branch
Seconded by: Nathalie Paulin

THAT the Chaleur Regional Service Commission submits to the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board an application for authorization to borrow for a capital expense for the following terms and amounts:

Purpose: Environmental Health Services

	Amount	Terms
Cell	\$ 1,500,000	3 years
Wood clearing	\$ 10,000	3 years
Engineering	\$ 462,000	3 years
Total	\$ 1,972,000	

MOTION CARRIED

9.2 Resolution – Long-term financing approval

Resolution – Municipal Capital Borrowing Board

Moved by: Laura McNulty

Seconded by: Cynthia Robinson

THAT the Executive Director be authorized to issue and sell to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, in the name of the Chaleur Regional Service Commission, debentures in the principal amount of \$759,000 on such terms and conditions as are recommended by the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, and

THAT the Chaleur Regional Service Commission agrees to issue postdated checks payable to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation as and when they are requested in payment of principal and interest charges on the above debenture. THAT the CEO be authorized to issue debentures totaling \$759,000 through the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation and repay principal and interest as required.

10. Planning Services

10.1 Overview of activities

Mr. André Frenette, Director of Planning Services, informed Board members that activity levels have declined compared to the same period last year. For example, as of this date in 2025, 21 building permits had been issued, whereas only 8 permits have been issued to date this year. In addition, the total value of permits has decreased from \$5.5 million last year to \$2.3 million this year, indicating a notable slowdown in the regional construction sector.

Mr. Frenette noted, however, that this trend is not unique to the Chaleur region and is also being observed in other regional service commissions. This situation may be partly explained by a slowdown following last year’s boom, particularly related to increased immigration and the resulting surge in construction demand.

10.2 Project Updates

10.2.2 Belle-Baie Rural plan and zoning By-law and Subdivision By-law

The Director of Planning informs the Board of Directors that the municipal plan for Belle-Baie and the zoning by-law were approved in third reading at the end of January and sent to the province for the minister’s approval. These were subsequently submitted to the registry office in St. Stephen. As for the subdivision by-law, it was approved in first reading in March in order to continue the adoption process for the proposed by-law.

10.2.1 Rural Plan – Chaleur Rural District

Mr. Frenette also indicated that the rural plan for the Chaleur Rural District is approximately 95% complete. A draft will be shared with Board members next week, after which the Province of New Brunswick will review the document before it is presented to the public as part of the consultation process.

11. Economic Development and Tourism

Proposed by : Laura McNulty

Seconded by : Darryl Branch

THAT the Board adopt the recommended amendments to the committee mandate.

MOTION CARRIED

12. Community Development

12.1 Appointment of Chair – Shared Infrastructure Committee

Proposed by : Cynthia Robinson

Seconded by: Michael Willett

THAT Laura McNulty be appointed Chair.

MOTION CARRIED

12.2 Public Transit Update

Ms. Jocelyne Hachey, Chief Executive Officer of the Chaleur Regional Service Commission, reported on the success of the FlexGo public transportation service, noting that more than 5,000 trips have been completed since the initiative was launched. This demonstrates a positive response from the population and confirms the service's relevance in improving regional mobility.

In this context, discussions will need to take place with the City of Bathurst to assess the availability of funding for the addition of a fourth bus, which would help increase service capacity and better meet growing demand.

12.3 Update – Transitional Housing, Shelter and Warming Centre

Regarding the homeless shelter project, most of the modules have now been constructed and installed at the former mill site. Electrical and internet wiring installation is currently underway.

The next step will involve moving furniture from the current shelter to the new facility. Both sites—the existing and the new shelter—are expected to operate in parallel during a transition period to ensure service continuity while the project is finalized in collaboration with Housing NB. The official opening is planned for the beginning of April.

13. Unfinished Business

13.1 Northern Energy Alliance

A resolution will be presented at the next meeting.

14. New Business

A special meeting will be held on May 6.

15. In Camera Session

None

16. Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 8:18 p.m.