



18 September 2024

A STATEMENT FROM MAYOR MCKNIGHT ON KINGS RSC TRUSTEESHIP

I was surprised and disappointed to receive the news late yesterday afternoon that Minister Glen Savoie, Dept. Environment and Local Government, has dissolved our Kings Regional Service Commission Board (on which Councillor McDonald and I served) and has appointed a Trustee to assume all the responsibilities of the Board, effective immediately and for the foreseeable future.

Since taking office in January 2023, Valley Waters Council has worked hard to represent the best interests of our residents. This has included attempts at the RSC Board level, and through legal inquiries, to minimize the tax impact of the RSC services. The costs for these services such as regional recreation facilities (Nutrien Civic Centre and Sussex Regional Library), as well as land-use planning, building inspections, the solid waste transfer station, and other files, are passed on to you through property taxes.

At the RSC Board Meeting on Sept.11, their 2025 budget was presented by the RSC Staff. The Board voted against moving forward to the next step of the budget approval process. In response, the Minister suggested mediation - which was not unanimously supported by the Members. Yesterday's decision to dissolve the Board came without notice to us nor consultation.

Valley Waters Council and I do not believe the current structure of the Kings RSC is effective and nor is the funding model sustainable. We have expressed these concerns to the Board and to the Minister on numerous occasions. In our opinion, the current administration at the Kings RSC appears to be ill-equipped to manage the complexities of its mandate, and we simply do not have the tax base to support the costs of the services.

We are disappointed that (at least for the time-being) there will no longer be a Board structure where the voices of our residents are represented. However, we are hopeful that an independent Trustee will bring fairness, transparency, and accountability to the table. We commit to open dialogue and cooperation with the Trustee to the extent those are sought.

That said, we will not waiver on our fiduciary responsibility to our constituents during this process.

Randy McKnight

Mayor, Valley Waters