



23 July 2025

AN UPDATE FROM MAYOR MCKNIGHT ON KINGS RSC TRUSTEESHIP

We learned last month that Minister Aaron Kennedy (Dept. Environment and Local Government) has appointed a new Trustee to oversee the affairs of Kings Regional Service Commission (RSC). John Jarvie replaced the former Trustee, Chad Peters, as of July 1st, assuming the oversight responsibilities normally assigned to the Board of Directors.

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

One of our top priorities for discussion with the new Trustee is the allocation of costs for regional recreation facilities. When a cost-sharing model cannot be agreed-upon by all member communities, they are charged using a standard default model based on 50% population and 50% tax base. The result for Valley Waters is that we pay 23% of the costs, even with a far smaller percentage of users. We've made numerous attempts to have a new model negotiated, but have not been successful to date.

Some examples are:

Nutrien Civic Centre: #Users from Valley Waters = ~4%, yet we pay 23% of the cost;

Dial a Ride: %Rides for Valley Waters residents = ~4%, yet we pay 23% of the cost;

Economic Development: #Valley Waters businesses registered with Sussex Area Chamber of Commerce (contract with the RSC for economic development) = 1, and we pay for 23% of regional economic development costs.

Solid Waste Base Fee: The KRSC bases this on tax assessment, but the legislation says it must be based on tonnage.

Council strongly believes that the RSC should add value to the communities they serve, and that charges for services should be linked to the amount of benefit that each community receives. The standard default funding formula of 50/50 results in more remote rural communities subsidizing communities that have greater access to services.

Valley Waters Council and I do not believe the current structure of the Kings RSC is effective, and nor is the funding model sustainable. In our opinion, we simply do not have the tax base to support the costs of the mandated services.

We were disappointed when, last September, former Minister Savoie appointed a Trustee to replace the RSC Board - on which I, and Councillor McDonald sat (along with representatives of the other RSC member-communities). We believe that a democratic system allows for the voices of its RSC members to be heard.

That said, while we are disappointed that the Board has not been re-instated, we are hopeful that a new independent Trustee will bring fairness, transparency, and accountability to the discussion.

We commit to positive open dialogue and cooperation with Mr. Jarvie to help advance the RSC agenda, while remaining committed to our fiduciary responsibility to our constituents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy McDonald", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor, Valley Waters