

Board Initiatives Report – September 28, 2018

NSFM Vision: Effective local government and strong, sustainable communities

NSFM Mission: To enable effective local government for Nova Scotia’s communities by facilitating strategic advocacy, education and collaboration

Initiatives

1. Partnership Framework

Description/Update

A workshop on internet is being planned for October 11. NSFM members will hear more about the provincial and federal initiatives, about municipal initiatives and the ways municipalities can support internet initiatives.

A Joint Committee on Roads is being formed and NSFM members are being invited to serve on the committee. NSFM Committee member is Councillor Lennie White, Westville. AMANS representatives are Greg Herrett, Amherst and Chris McNeill, Queens

The Joint Committee on Housing is being formed. NSFM members include Mayor Anna Allen, Windsor, and Councillor Jack Fancy, Queens. AMANS representatives are Keith MacDonald, Inverness and Maggie MacDonald, Halifax.

Staff are also working with the Department of Seniors to develop terms of reference for a joint committee to address opportunities under the SHIFT program.

2. Cannabis Legalization

NSFM continues to raise the need for new revenues for municipalities to address the implications of the legalization of cannabis.

The NSFM/AMA Municipal Cannabis Working Group has been meeting to discuss the implications to NS municipalities. Training in preparation for legalization and implications for the workplace is being planned.

Discussions continue on the implications for planning, bylaws etc.

3. Asset Management

NFSM continues to support municipalities with asset management planning, as a requirement of the 2014-24 Gas Tax Fund Agreement. In mid-June, NFSM received word that FCM approved our funding proposal to the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) to deliver two 1-day workshops to help municipalities incorporate climate risks into their asset management planning practices. NFSM is working with a local group – ClimAction Services – to develop the workshops aimed at enhancing local asset management practices by providing municipalities with the information and tools to include climate considerations into their long-term infrastructure planning. This will help position them to take necessary steps to proactively adapt their assets to climate risks. The workshops are scheduled to take place on November 27 and 29 in HRM and Middleton (exact locations to be confirmed).

NFSM continues to work on two online resources with funds received from MAMP: 1) an online course for elected officials on the basics of asset management (which is the final stages of development) and 2) an online learning module based on the Province of Nova's asset management pilot project's standard operation procedures for data collection and condition assessments for linear assets. NFSM expects that both courses will be completed in late October/early November.

4. Upcoming Events

- Municipal Workshop on Rural Internet, October 11, Holiday Inn Truro, Truro, NS
- November 6-9, NFSM Fall Conference and Annual General Meeting, Halifax, NS.
- November 7, NFSM Caucus meetings, as part of the Fall Conference, Halifax, NS.
- AMANS' Financial Management 3 for Elected Officials Workshop, November 22nd & 23rd, Location To Be Determined
- NFSM's *Integrating Climate Considerations into Asset Management Planning* Workshops: November 26 (HRM) and November 28 (Middleton)