

SUMMARY OF THE SHEDIAC BRIDGE/SHEDIAC RIVER LSD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Since May 2021, the Shediac Bridge/Shediac River LSD ADVISORY COMMITTEE attended numerous meetings in order to review and discuss the content of the Local Governance Green Paper and work on possible for amalgamation with other adjoining LSD/communities which would be the best fit economically, politically and geographically for our community.

The following provides a quick summary of the various meetings that have been held from May to November 2021 :

May 3, 2021 – A letter was sent to Minister Daniel Allain outlining our concerns and/or questions with the Green Paper.

May 13, 2021 – Zoom Meeting, LSD Shediac Bridge-Shediac River – Election of members of the LSD

May 31, 2021 – Zoom Meeting, LSD Shediac Bridge-Shediac River - (Voting results)

June 14, 2021 - First Meeting held since the election of the new LSD Advisory Committee for Shediac Bridge/Shediac River - In attendance was Michel Poirier, Vincent Gallant, Ricky Babineau, Rémi Fougère, Catherine Bourgeois

- Advised of upcoming zoom meeting – Engagement session held with Governance reform transition team, all members will be attending the zoom meeting
- White paper possibly out by January
- Advised by Michel that the Grande Digue LSD has a new President, Daniel Bourgeois
- Vincent Gallant visited the new Hospice in Moncton
- Next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2021

June 24, 2021 – Zoom Meeting - Stakeholder meeting held, Local Governance Reform Regional Engagement Session attended by Michel Poirier, Vincent Gallant, Ricky Babineau, Rémi Fougere and Catherine Bourgeois

June 28, 2021 – A meeting was held on June 28 to prepare a list of questions and concerns for our upcoming meeting with Minister Allain which is scheduled for July 13, 2021. Present: Michel Poirier, Vincent Gallant, Rémi Fougère, Ricky Babineau, Robert Gauvin, Hert LeBlanc, Catherine Bourgeois,

July 12, 2021 - Meeting held with the Grande–Digue LSD Advisory Committee in preparation for the meeting with Minister Daniel Allain in order to identify issues/questions and/or concerns with the Minister.

July 13, 2021 – Meeting held at Notre Centre, with Minister Daniel Allain, Present: Mathieu Caissie, Robert Gauvin, Hert LeBlanc and members of the Grande Digue and Shediac Bridge/Shediac River LSD Advisory Committees. Minister firstly outlined the robust plan to move the upcoming changes with regards to governance reform. Questions/concerns that were raised with Minister Allain:

- Will each LSD be allowed time to consult with their citizens before the release of the White Paper – answer from Minister Allain was no
- Will citizens have a right to vote on the proposed changes – answer from Minister Allain was no
- We did express our concern that we felt we should be allowed to consult with our citizens, but were advised that this was not part of the plan of the government
- **Minister Allain also confirmed that the Status quo was not an option.**

July 20, 2021 – Met with the Mayor of Beaubassin-East Rural Community and Yves Leger, Town Clerk to discuss with them pros and cons of having become a Rural Community, identify what worked well and not so well, very informative meeting.

July 27, 2021 – Meeting held to look at the possibilities of various mergers.

August 6, 2021 – Meeting with Ronald Boudreau, Member of the Scoudouc LSD Advisory Committee to discuss their interest in merging with other LSDs and concerns with the upcoming changes

August 12, 2021 - Meeting with Grande-Digue LSD Advisory Committee to discuss the possibility of merging with that community, discussed issues of concerns.

August 24, 2021 - Meeting held with members of the Pointe du Chene LSD Advisory Committee, to review the possibilities of mergers

September 1, 2021 - Meeting held with Members of the Pointe du Chene, Grande Digue and Shediac Bridge/Shediac River LSD Advisory Committee, as well as members of the Shediac Cape, Scoudouc Road Communities in order to have discussions on possible options for mergers

September 8, 2021 – The committee met: present was Michel Poirier, Vincent Gallant and Catherine Bourgeois, discussed possible next steps,

- will pursue a meeting with the Town of Shediac
- members will be attending the upcoming public consultation meeting
- discussed the upcoming meeting scheduled for September 16, 2021

September 14, 2021 - Meeting held with the Town of Shediac, Met with the mayor Roger Caissie and Town Manager Gilles Belleau looking at possibility of a merger.

September 16, 2021 – Meeting held at Notre Centre with all members of the Shediac Bridge/Shediac River Advisory Committee along with members of the communities of Shediac Cape, and the Pointe du Chene. Objective of the meeting to advise those present of the possibilities of mergers with some or all of the adjacent communities i.e. Shediac Cape, Scoudouc, Scoudouc Road, and Pointe du Chene. The group advised us that Shediac Cape, and Scoudouc Road has embarked on the process of having a LSD Committee established for each of their communities. Next meeting will be held in October.

September 29, 2021 – Consultation zoom meeting organized by the Local Reform government, was attended by Ricky Babineau, Remi Fougère and Michel Poirier. This meeting was similar to previous meetings held by ZOOM, which again give a review of the green paper with little time left for questions from the participants.

Here is a brief snapshot of issues discussed at the meeting, prepared by Remi Fougere. I was very disappointed in the presentation; he ran around the questions of Taxation making me feel the answer was yes, but the words used kept me asking will it change or not, so it was very scripted.

- **Taxation:** they stated that the existing municipalities can budget as is for 2021 and most likely 2022.
- **What will change:** They have lawyers working on the changes that will touch on roughly 102 laws and policies.... Once in place it could take up to 5-10 years to implement.
- **How will it look:** As stated by Ryan the DSL cannot jump over another butting DSL, so the DSL will become municipalities in regard to being the ones butting each other as we previously expected.
- **Recap:** At the end, Daniel used his key statement about his daughter's future, then went on the top 14 points that he heard from the meeting that HE thought was important to lead the conversation in the direction he felt it needed to go... Some questions that were not popular felt ignored.
- **My Points:** It is very clear that they kept us busy searching for something we had no idea what we were looking for in the past few months... one positive ... I learned a lot from our neighboring DSL and got to understand the process a little better. What is unclear, when one of their pillars "**the environment becomes a problem**"; or one of the other 3 pillars become a hot topic, there is no way that taxpayers or budgets can balance such aggressive changes. So, I expect a very rough ride, as stated by Beaubassin-Est for the next 10 years until we have a handle and key processes streamlined.

October 5, 2021 – Local Government Reform Community round table held by ZOOM, was attended by Vincent Gallant, Ricky Babineau, Remi Fougere, Michel Poirier and Catherine Bourgeois. Again, a recap of the Green Paper took quite a bit of time, very interesting questions were asked by the participants.

October 11, 2021, LSD Consultation Committee monthly meeting was held – Present: Catherine Bourgeois, Ricky Babineau, Vincent Gallant, Michel Poirier – No answer has been received from Minister Allain's office with regards to our letter sent on suggestions for mergers; a review of the round table held in Saint Louis, review of RAC Meeting. Next steps – Michel will set up a meeting with the other LSDs (Shediac Cape, Scoudouc, Scoudouc Road) all are in the process of establishing their committees.

November 16, 2021 – a meeting held with other members of adjacent LSD Advisory committees present: Vincent Gallant, Ricky Babineau, Rémi Fougère, Michel Poirier, Catherine Bourgeois, Bill Murray (Scoudouc Road); Roger Belliveau and Regis Goguen (Scoudouc); Michael Baxter (Shediac Cape) discussions were held around options for mergers.

At this meeting the following topics were discussed with the group:

1. Status Quo is not an option
2. Update from each LSD present, advised the group of the status of their respective work being done to establish committees
3. Is there any interest with all four LSDs amalgamating as a group?
 - a. If yes, list any concerns i.e. elect a mayor, councillors, office, create an identity, administration cost, staff, etc.
4. Is there any interest with all four LSD amalgamating with the Town of Shediac?
 - a. If yes, list any concerns: a voice for each LSD amalgamated with the town at Council, a letter from the Town of Shediac stating that the tax rate of each LSD remains as Status quo
5. If all LSDs agree to amalgamate with Shediac, suggest that the four Presidents schedule a meeting with the Shediac Mayor
6. If all four LSDs agree to amalgamate, can our President send a letter to Minister Allain stating our combined decision?

After much discussion, since there was a possibility that the White Paper could be released this week, should that be the case, it was decided at this point we should wait to see the report.

November 18, 2021 – The White Paper is released, which outlines a reduction of local governance entities across the province.

