

# Tri-County Water Board of Management

## Minutes

Date: January 13, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Electronic Participation Meeting via Zoom

**Present:** Allan Mayhew, Southwest Middlesex  
Taraesa Tellier, West Elgin  
Mike Hentz, Dutton Dunwich  
Amarilis Drouillard, Dutton Dunwich  
Bill Denning, West Elgin  
Corey Pemberton, Dutton Dunwich  
Mike Sholdice, Southwest Middlesex  
Ryan Statham, West Elgin  
Darren Galbraith, Chatham-Kent  
Philip Sousa, West Elgin

**Regrets:** Don McCallum, Southwest Middlesex  
Kevin Derbyshire, Newbury

**Staff Present:** Terri Towstiuc, Recording Secretary/Clerk, West Elgin  
Robin Greenall, CAO, West Elgin  
Amanda Gubbels, CAO, Southwest Middlesex  
Tony Houad, CAO, Dutton Dunwich  
Mary Ellen Bench, Bench Municipal Law & Governance

**Regrets:** Cathy Case, Clerk/Treasurer, Newbury  
Gord Quinton, CFO, Chatham-Kent

This meeting was held in a Hybrid format

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Amarilis Drouillard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved:** Ryan Statham, West Elgin

**Seconded:** Allan Mayhew, Southwest Middlesex

That Tri-County Water Board hereby adopts the Agenda for January 13, 2026 as presented.

**Disposition: Carried**

**4. Follow-Up Discussion with Mary Ellen Bench Re: Municipal Service Corporation**

Mary Ellen Bench, Municipal Lawyer, Bench Municipal Law and Governance, attended the Tri-County Water Board (TCWB) meeting as a follow-up to meeting held on December 9, 2025, which was held for the purpose of a Municipal Service Corporation (MSC) Training and Education session.

Ms. Bench circled back, indicating that there was no consensus from the initial meeting, and that there was a large amount of information provided.

CAO R. Greenall encouraged the TCWB members to ask follow-up questions, and that her ask is a commitment from the board to hire a project manager, to see further guidance on the concept of a MSC, facilitate discussion and do a deeper dive into individual municipalities needs.

Members of the board asked about long term control options, timeline considerations with a Municipal Election in 2026, potential for low credit ratings and higher cost of borrowing, impacts of Bill 60, hybrid options with a dedicated TCWB Administrator, OCWA's consideration as a proponent, legislative requirements of a business case and public consultation,

Members also expressed concerns regarding the lack of cons versus the pros of an MSC, high start-up costs, the feeling of being pushed to a decision, debt capacity of individual municipalities and waiting until after the 2026 election to proceed.

The board was reminded that the ask at this meeting was to proceed with a Project Manager, with the intent to gather information to deliver safe and quality water effectively and efficiently, and as cost effective as possible.

The following motion was passed, with eight (8) members raising hands (in favour) and two (2) members not raising hands (opposed):

**Moved:** Corey Pemberton, Dutton Dunwich

**Seconded:** Mike Hentz, Dutton Dunwich

That Tri County Water Board direct Administration to hire a Project Manager, to provide options and various governance structures; And

Provides approval to seek opportunities for a Project Manager, and return to the board with options for a Project Manager; And

To Set clear deliverables for the Project Manager to achieve for the Tri-County Water System.

**Disposition: Carried**

**5. Adjournment**

**Moved:** Allan Mayhew, Southwest Middlesex

**Seconded:** Mike Hentz, Dutton Dunwich

That the Tri-County Water Board hereby adjourn at 8:03 pm, to meet again at 7:00pm, on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, or at the Call of the Chair.

**Disposition: Carried**

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Amarilis Drouillard, Chair

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Terri Towstiuc, Recording Secretary