

**SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Executive Meeting – March 20, 2026**  
**Remote**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

|                |                                                |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| President      | Councillor Louise Wallace Richmond, Salmon Arm |
| Past President | Councillor Aimee Grice, Oliver                 |
| Directors      | Mayor Spencer Coyne, Princeton                 |
|                | Mayor Ruth Hoyte, Coldstream                   |
|                | Councillor Stephen Karpuk, Kamloops            |
|                | Director Tricia Thorpe, TNRD                   |
|                | Councillor Bill Sarai, Kamloops                |
|                | Councillor Adam Etchart, Merritt               |
|                | Executive Director Koryn de Vries              |
| Absent         | Councillor Gord Lovegrove, Kelowna             |
|                | Councillor Keith Thom, Peachland               |

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Louise Wallace Richmond called the regular board meeting to order at 9:03 am.

**CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA**

**Moved/Seconded by Tasha Da Silva/Bill Sarai THAT:**

The agenda for 20 March, 2026, be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved/Seconded by Ruth Hoyte/Aimee Grice THAT:**

The draft minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 9 January, 2026 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**1. Response from Minister of Finance to defer BC Assessment valuations for 2026**

- only deferred for 2026 – SILGA Board should keep an eye on developments for 2027

**2. Jim Pattison (JP) Centre request for follow-up**

- JP Centre seems to play a supporting and coordinating role
  - Working on rural research and sometimes facilitating funding from private sources
- Tricia is working on a project with them and they have connected her with NVIT and the local health system to facilitate local training and expedite moving these initiatives forward
  - Without JP Centre, they wouldn't have thought to connect with NVIT
- There is still a need to clarify what involvement JP Centre is asking from SILGA
- The Board would like to see how JP Centre is received by the membership
  - Make sure the membership is surveyed concerning this at conference

**Moved/Seconded by Aimee Grice/Tricia Thorpe THAT:**

Betty Brown be invited to speak to the Board on JP Centre updates in June.

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES****1. ONA Water Forum**

- Tasha may miss an entire day of the conference and is therefore uncertain whether to attend; Ruth and Spencer will be in attendance
- Ruth sits on the ONA collaborative leadership table and will share the synopsis generated from the event
- Ruth will give us a run-down of events and maybe invite someone to speak. Koryn to follow up

**2. Member Fees Resolution**

- Resolution was sent out to all member local governments at the end of February
- No major concerns have been raised by local governments
  - A few clarifying questions were raised by one city, Koryn and Louise answered

**3. Strategic Plan Draft**

- Communication plan and strategic plan will need to be aligned: currently in progress
- Louise will update and re-send to the Board in advance of the conference

**4. Spencer updates**

- Transit working group is the major focus currently: BC Transit has rolled back support; no funding available.
  - What direction do we take to create a committee from Regional Districts that will be viable?
  - ETSI-BC funding dubious: they have their own transit plan.
    - Would they support us making our own?
  - Ministers have said they think it's a good idea but will not commit funding to it
  - If there is a contractor, we could work with existing services, but would still likely cost \$30-50k in public funding for the bare minimum
  - If we can get Regional Districts on board for 2026, maybe they would be willing to each commit something for 2027 if there is widespread buy-in?
  - Gord to present at the Future of Transportation tour and Spencer to present at the EA Directors' forum
  - Many EA Directors are disappointed with the lack of funding for regional transit and could potentially help us push forward
  - Spencer has looked at most well known foundations. Koryn will look for other foundations/cap-stone projects
    - Koryn to arrange a meeting with Gord and Spencer to talk to the unis also
    - BC Real Estate Foundation may have environmental grants? Koryn to look into
    - FCM Green Municipal Fund: Louise to look into. It is more about buildings and infrastructure; nothing inter-jurisdictional
  - Board is interested in pushing forward even without funding because the value for residents is there
- C2C on hold because UBCM will not give Area Associations grant funding
  - FCM has a program for projects that we could look into. Louise to follow up

**NEW BUSINESS****1. Penticton Bid for SILGA 2027**

**Moved/Seconded by Tasha Da Silva/Adam Etchart THAT:**

The City of Penticton host SILGA's 2027 AGM & Convention.

**CARRIED**

**2. Invitations to convention from AKBLG and AVICC**

- AKBLG runs from April 17-19
- AVICC runs from April 24-27
- Louise will register for AVICC. There should be no travel cost for SILGA because it overlaps with UBCM

**Moved/Seconded by Aimee Grice/Bill Sarai THAT:**

President Louise Wallace Richmond attend AVICC, April 17-19, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**Moved/Seconded by Aimee Grice/Spencer Coyne THAT:**

The former motion be amended to specify that Louise Wallace Richmond cannot attend AVICC, the SILGA President or a proxy will attend NCLGA.

**3. May 20-22nd NCLGA Attendance**

- Koryn is requesting to participate as a part of their Professional Development
- NCLGA is the only conference which occurs after SILGA, therefore easiest to attend

**Moved/Seconded by Aimee Grice/Spencer Coyne THAT:**

Koryn attend the NCLGA 2026 Convention as a part of their Professional Development.

**CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****1. Finance**

- Presentation from Mario:
- 2025 Credit Card acquisition represents best financial practices
- Merritt convention anomalies explain the surplus SILGA received: cheaper location, Merritt proximity to Vancouver attracting new sponsors
- No significant changes were made to investments

**Moved/Seconded by Stephen Karpuk/Ruth Hoyte THAT:**

The Draft Financials for 2025 be approved and finalized for presentation at the AGM.

**CARRIED**

**- 5-year plan**

- The compounding effect of interest from the 2025 five-year plan has been amended to reflect how a deficit impacts our investment revenue
- Mario comments that the need for the Board to increase advocacy is growing because Province is downloading costs to local governments, such as the expansion of PST
  - The Convention is a powerful mechanism that is beneficial to all SILGA membership
- SILGA needs to remain at a similar level of operations with other Area Associations – the most reasonable way forward is to ask a little more from all members
- The Board agrees that we need to present the viable budget only, and only pass the viable budget. The budget using our current member dues is not viable, therefore we should not present it as such

**Moved/Seconded by Stephen Karpuk/Spencer Coyne THAT:**

The 2026 five-year plan using the raised member fees be finalized for presentation to the membership along with a comprehensive briefing on the current state of financials.

**CARRIED**

**- 2026 bank statements**

- No anomalies; 2026 sponsorships are coming in via EFT and cheque

**Moved/Seconded by Ruth Hoyte/Tasha Da Silva THAT:**

The financial statements for January and February 2026 be received.

**CARRIED**

**2. Convention**

- Louise is a government representative for an international development project in Tunisia: the dates are changing and as of this week it is at the same time as the SILGA convention
- Aimee will present the SILGA Strategic Plan, and the President's Address will be pre-recorded by Louise in coordination with Koryn and the AV team
- Louise will reach out to guests of note with thanks and apologies for her inability to attend
- Louise will do her best to support from afar, and we are so grateful for Aimee's support as she passes on the torch
- SILGA 2026 preparations are well underway, the next site visit is March 26th
- Photographer is offering to volunteer his services for a 3-5 minute promo video on who SILGA is and what it does as the focus
  - Board wants to highlight belonging in SILGA, our work up to now, and what we plan to do moving forward
- Tasha, Tricia, and Ruth to come up with questions to facilitate – run them by Bill and Koryn before passing along to photographer

**3. HR**

- Reminder to fill out Koryn's performance evaluation for 2025

**4. Community Excellence Awards**

- There was a marked increase in submissions this year over 2025
- Please encourage more participation for 2027
- Koryn to work with the committee to outline better category criteria and close the loophole for submitting one project to all 3 categories

**1. Education**

- February Webinar was well-received by the membership

**2. Resolutions**

- 32 submitted, plus a late resolution on PST changes
- Resolutions committee will receive the 2026 Resolutions Book on the 24<sup>th</sup> from UBCM
- Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> to add SILGA comments

**UBCM REPORT:**

- UBCM has made an application for intervenor status concerning the Cowichan Tribes case
- UBCM presentation from Reece Harding was enlightening; Aimee looking to distribute it to local governments
- Opposition to M216 continues as the Province pushes it through readings
- Gary's retirement has been announced; there is a board member committee for hiring, looking internally and using a hiring firm to screen external candidates as well
- Legislative reform was discussed with minister but no real outcomes currently; sense of overwhelm seems to be occurring at the Ministry level
- Advocacy point for SILGA - we need to be collaborative with the Province because we all represent the same individuals. The Province's action and inaction both have huge impacts downstream for Local Governments

**FCM REPORT:**

- Newfoundland meeting in February was absolutely fantastic; grateful for the hospitality there
- Federal priorities are shifting: dual-purpose infrastructure and military purpose infrastructure are under discussion
- Budget timing has changed to the fall with an update in the spring, so FCM advocacy schedule has had to switch, causing some scheduling difficulties
  - Despite this, Federal government has been cooperative
- Working on rural development advocacy with the Parliamentary Secretary; good reception there
- Louise and Spencer testified to a parliamentary committee regarding extreme weather impacts
- FCM convention in Edmonton June 3-5 this year – it will be a good clarifying time for federal to municipal advocacy
  - Early bird ends April 23rd

**Next meeting:**

- Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> – 10am in Boulder Room of Revelstoke Community Centre, script will be emailed and printed out for Executives
- Reminder for the 2026-27 Board of Directors to stay after conclusion of the conference on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> for a photo and scheduling

**Moved/Seconded by Tasha Da Silva/Adam Etchart THAT:**

At 11:45am the SILGA Executive Meeting of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 be adjourned.

**CARRIED**