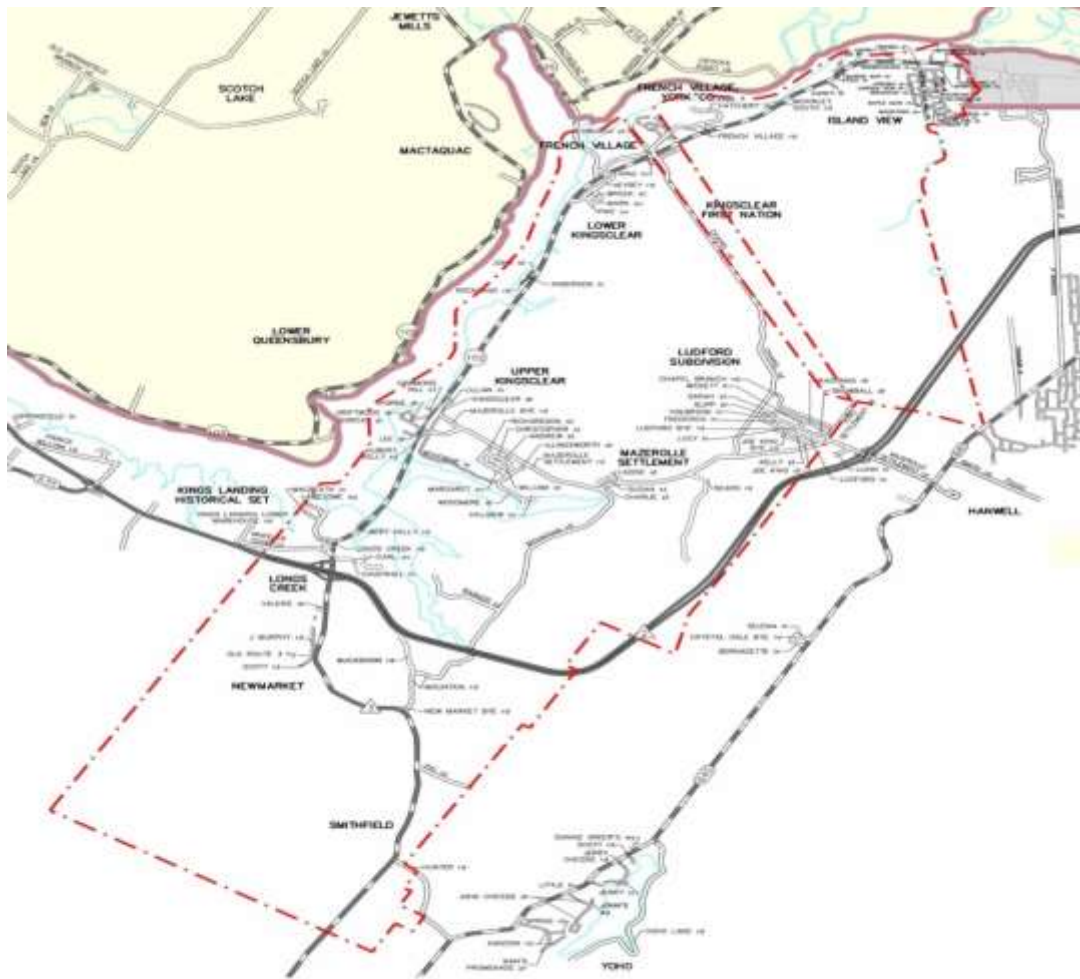


A Recent History of Governance in Kingsclear Local Service District

As Prepared by the KLSD Advisory Committee – April, 2016

Area Description

Kingsclear Local Service District (KLSD) is located in the Parish of Kingsclear in York County, New Brunswick. It is an unincorporated area that covers approximately 170 square kilometers. It is bounded to the north by the Saint John River, to the west by the Local Service District of Prince William, to the south by Hanwell Rural Community as well as the Local Service District of Manners Sutton, and to the east by the City of Fredericton. KLSD encompasses the communities of Smithfield, Newmarket, Longs Creek, Upper Kingsclear, Mazerolle Settlement, Ludford Subdivision, Lower Kingsclear, French Village, Oswald Gray Subdivision and Island View. It does not include Kingsclear First Nation. The geographic boundary of KLSD is illustrated below.



Kingsclear Local Service District Map

Current Tax Base, Population and Provision of Services in KLSD

At the present time, the tax base of KLSD is \$262, 139, 200 and the population is approximately 4400. Provision of services to residents of KSLD is under the authority of the Minister of Environment and Local Government as coordinated by a Local Services Manager. The following departments, agencies or groups deliver services in KLSD:

Service	Service Delivery By:
Governance	Minister of Environment and Local Government (through a Local Services Manager)
Policing	RCMP
Emergence Measures Planning (in the event of natural disasters, ice storms, wild fires etc.)	NB Emergency Measures Organization
Fire Protection	Upper Kingsclear Fire Department (volunteer)
Dog Control	SPCA
Street Lights (in Oswald Gray Subdivision)	NB Power
Land Use Planning (rural plan, zoning and subdivision plan, building permits and inspection)	Regional Service Commission 11 (RSC 11)
Recreation	RSC 11
Disposal and Garbage Collection and Recycling	RSC 11
Road Summer /Winter Maintenance	Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) through a tax base charge
Road Capital Upgrades	DTI through a tax base charge

Rural Plan and Zoning

A rural plan (which includes zoning by-laws) was approved for KLSD in 2006. It can be viewed at:

<http://www.rsc11.ca/planning/downloads/Kingsclear/kingsclearplan.pdf>

KLSD Advisory Committee

The members of the current KLSD Advisory Committee were elected on September 29, 2015 at a public meeting organized by the Local Services Manager on behalf of the Minister of Environment and Local Government. The event took place at 7 pm at the Upper Kingsclear Community Centre. Thirty-five KLSD residents were present to vote. The newly elected committee members will serve for four years.

Advisory Committee members are elected volunteers. They consult and advise the Minister on local concerns through a working relationship with the Local Services Manager but they have no administrative, financial or contractual authority. It is the Local Services Manager who is responsible for the administration of the KLSD, including the expending of public funds.

There have been active, volunteer advisory committees in the KLSD since the early 1960s. Through that same time period there has been an active, volunteer fire department (Upper Kingsclear Fire Department).

Community Restructuring in KLSD

Provincial governments through the decades have proposed various forms of municipal and local government reform in New Brunswick. KLSD Advisory Committee members have regularly reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of community restructuring and they have maintained a pro-active attitude to their role as local advisors, keeping abreast of government plans for changes in municipalities and LSDs throughout the province.

In 2005, the KLSD Advisory Committee members decided for the first time that it would be valuable to explore the concept of becoming a Rural Community with neighbouring Hanwell LSD. After a year of discussion the Chair of Kingsclear LSD Advisory Committee and the Chair of Hanwell LSD Advisory Committee jointly wrote a letter to the Minister of Local Government expressing a mutual desire to become a Rural Community. The Minister agreed to the request and authorized a representative from the Department of Environment and Local Government to lead a group of volunteers from the participating LSDs (i.e. the “working group”) to pursue the Hanwell-Kingsclear Rural Community (H-K RC) Project through a feasibility study. The mandate of the working group was to consider three options:

- Maintain the status quo
- Create two independent Rural Communities (i.e. Hanwell Rural Community and Kingsclear Rural Community)
- Create a combined Rural Community of Hanwell & Kingsclear (final RC name to be determined if this option was chosen)

The H-K RC Project working group completed a “Preliminary Feasibility Study Report for the Rural Community of the LSD of Hanwell and the LSD of Kingsclear” by June 2013. It was presented to area residents through a series of public meetings. Feedback was received through a questionnaire and phone survey. The resulting recommendation from the working group was that two independent Rural Communities be established with the possibility of them sharing services. However, the question asked in the plebiscite that was conducted by the Minister of Local Government only asked residents if they would be supportive of one combined Rural Community. The result of the vote was a “No”. Thereafter the Hanwell LSD working group proceeded independently to incorporate and when their residents were asked in a subsequent plebiscite about whether or not to support the creation of Hanwell Rural Community, the vote was positive and Hanwell Rural Community was incorporated in December, 2014.

KLSD remained an unincorporated LSD, with plans to do further work to identify other options for community restructuring to present to residents at a later time.

Recent Efforts and Developments

Early after it was elected last September, the KLSD Advisory Committee members reviewed the Finn Report which was released in 2008 to present findings of a study that examined and recommended options for the organization of local government in New Brunswick.

Thereafter, a series of events and a collection of information provided the rationale for KLSD to continue being proactive about municipal reform options for KLSDs.

Firstly, in 2015, shortly after election of the most recent KLSD Advisory Committee, NB Power held public sessions about the Mactaquac Project. At these sessions, the KLSD Advisory Committee members first became aware that any future option for the Mactaquac Dam would not include passage across the St. John River as part of the dam structure itself. This was cause for concern given the use that KLSD residents make of the existing road over the dam that links Route 102 with Route 105. Of greatest concern is the potential impact to service providers (ambulances, fire departments in KLSD and Keswick Ridge LSD that have mutual aid agreements). But also there will possibly be a significant impact to the tax base of KLSD and an impact to the way KLSD residents live and work in this part of the province.

Secondly, in late 2015, the KLSD Advisory Committee began to hear rumours of other community restructuring projects starting up in the area surrounding the City of Fredericton. Inquiries by the KLSD Advisory Committee revealed that there was little to no consultation with the associated Advisory Committees for these projects. Indeed, one such project was proposing the incorporation of a part of KLSD with the suggestion that the KLSD would be further fragmented in to non-existence.

Thirdly, in February/March of 2016, Minister Kenny advised Regional Service Commissions in the province that they would be tasked with the implementation of municipal reform within their jurisdictions. It became clear to KLSD Advisory Committee members that this announcement was indication that community restructuring was a priority for the current government. It also became clear that the choice of LSDs in the province was either to “wait and see” how that would impact unincorporated areas or to be pro-active and begin discussions with neighbouring LSD and/or municipalities so as to be able to “pick dance partners”.

Fourthly, in the April 18, 2016 edition of the *Daily Gleaner*, it was reported that “Brian Gallant’s Liberal government has also chosen the politically less troublesome path [as opposed to recommendations in the Finn Report on the future of local governance in NB], letting communities decide for themselves if they want to merge” (page A1 – article authored by John Chilibeck, Legislative Bureau). This was one of the first announcements to the public at large that the government would let communities choose their own path forward in any sort of municipal reform in the province.

So in consideration of these matters, what actions have members of the KLSD Advisory Committee taken to best understand the current situation with respect to community restructuring involving KLSD?

We:

1. Attended, by invitation, community restructuring discussions in Keswick Ridge (at two community meetings called by the Keswick Ridge LSD Advisory Committee for KRLSD residents).
2. Attended, by invitation, a community restructuring discussion in Douglas LSD, called by the Douglas LSD Advisory Committee for Carlisle Road residents.
3. Discussed the path that Hanwell LSD took between when the feasibility study with KLSD ended and when Hanwell Rural Community was incorporated (this discussion was informed through informal conversation with the mayor of Hanwell and with members of previous KLSD Advisory Committees).
4. Discussed past interactions with neighbouring LSDs to the west of KLSD (this discussion was informed through informal conversation with the Chair of Dumfries LSD Advisory Committee and with members of previous KLSD Advisory Committees).
5. Met with the Keswick Ridge LSD Advisory Committees to discuss Rural Community options for the KRLSD and the KLSD.
6. Attended several meetings with the Chairs of the Douglas LSD, the Bright LSD and the Keswick Ridge LSD to discuss a Rural Community project including all of these LSDs. No other neighbouring LSDs indicated an interest in participating in this discussion.
7. Helped formulate the concept of York Rural Community (YRC) which would be a partnership between LSDs in the Keswick Ridge fire department coverage area, the Douglas LSD and the Kingsclear LSD. This met the Department of Local Government requirements for Rural Community projects (i.e. minimum population of 3,000 and a property tax base of 200 million dollars).
8. Partnered in the creation of a steering committee for YRC project comprised of elected members from the Advisory Committees of partnering LSDs.

These actions of the KLSD Advisory Committee are deemed by committee members as being a necessary response to the government call for community restructuring. In the near future, these various options, in particular the YRC project, will be presented, through a series of public meetings, to KLSD residents for their consideration.

Minister Kenny has stated that “you can’t force it [community restructuring] on communities and I don’t want to be the person forcing this on people.” (*Daily Gleaner*, April 18, 2016). In other

words, if a Rural Community project is one that is proposed by citizens it is not a forced issue but a chosen path.

The KLSD Advisory Committee is dedicated to ensuring that KLSD residents have a voice and a choice in their future.

Kingsclear Local Service District Advisory Committee (2015-2019)

Murray L.E. Crouse

Geoff Alders

Andrew Chamberlain

Roger Cyr (Secretary)

Debby Peck (Chair)