



March 22, 2024

Chief Wilbert Marshall, Chair

A meeting of the AFNWA Board will be held on Wednesday March 27, 2024, at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

AGENDA

In Camera Reports

1C Approval of Minutes of the In-Camera Meeting held on January 31, 2024.

2C Business Arising from Minutes

3C Contract Approvals – Lennox Island Water Tower Rehabilitation

Motion: That the AFNWA Board approve the recommendation as outlined in the confidential report dated March 24, 2024.

4C Contract Approvals – Paqtnkek WWTF Control Panels (Sole Source)

Motion: That the AFNWA Board approve the recommendation as outlined in the confidential report dated March 18, 2024.

5C Millbrook Standpipe Replacement – Construction Phase Services (Sole Source)

Motion: That the AFNWA Board approve the recommendation as outlined in the confidential report dated March 18, 2024.

6C Pre-Purchased PLC Panels Design (Sole Source)

Motion: That the AFNWA Board approve the recommendation as outlined in the confidential report dated March 18, 2024.

7C Contract Amendments

Motion: That the AFNWA Board approve the recommendation as outlined in the confidential report dated March 22, 2024.



Regular Reports

1. a) Ratification of In-Camera Motions
b) Approval of the Order of Business and Approval of Additions and Deletions
2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on January 31, 2024.
3. Business Arising from Minutes of the Meeting.
4. Procurement Policy Amendment

Motion: That the AFNWA Board approve the attached amendment to the Procurement Policy, effective immediately, in its substantive form attached.

5. Financial Policy Amendment

Motion: That the AFNWA Board approve the proposed amendments to the Financial Policy, effective April 1, 2024, in their substantive form attached.

Original signed by

James MacKinnon
Board Secretary



**Atlantic First Nations Water Authority
MINUTES
31 January 2024**

PRESENT:

Chief Wilbert Marshall
Chief Terry Paul
Chief Leroy Denny
Chief Andrea Paul
Chief Darlene Bernard
Chief Arren Sock
Chief Ross Perley
Todd Hoskin
Tuma Young
National Chief Joanna Bernard
Dr. Shelly Denny

STAFF:

Susheel Arora, CEO
James MacKinnon, Director of Engagement and
Government Relations / Board Secretary
Chantal LeBlanc, Director of Corporate Services/ CFO
John Lam, Director of Engineering
Adam Gould, Manager of Communications and Outreach

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CALL TO ORDER

James MacKinnon, upon direction from the Chair, called the regular meeting to order.

1. RATIFICATION OF IN-CAMERA MOTIONS

MOVED BY Chief Ross Perley, SECONDED by Chief Darlene Bernard that the AFNWA Board ratify the In-Camera motions of the January 31, 2024 meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 29 November 2023**

MOVED BY Todd Hoskins, SECONDED BY Chief Terry Paul, that the AFNWA Board approve the Regular Minutes from the 29 November, 2023, Board Meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED**3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

James confirmed the AFNWA communications strategy has been amended to include Youth as a primary audience, as requested.

INFORMATION REPORTS**1-I. NSERC ALLIANCE GRANT**

The application stated that this Alliance partnership will establish a substantive and sustained relationship between the Atlantic First Nations Water Authority (AFNWA), Dalhousie University's Centre for Water Resources Studies (CWRS) and Ulnooweg Education Centre (UEC) that will facilitate First Nations-led co-generation of innovation and knowledge in the following priority areas:

- Developing appropriate optimization and innovation to improve and/or modify wastewater treatment technologies to effluent quality to meet National Performance Standards and First Nations priorities of water stewardship and caring for their relationality to Msit No'kmaq
- Expanding wastewater surveillance as a public health monitoring tool to track viruses and other species of interest

- Addressing key long standing knowledge gaps related to the interconnected relationships between drinking water and wastewater quality through longitudinal monitoring of source water, distribution system, and wastewater effluent water quality in a changing climate, particularly regarding corrosion control, disinfection by-product formation, and wastewater nutrient loading
- Improving microbiological safety of both drinking water and wastewater effluent using energy efficient UV-LED technology
- Developing Nujo'tme'k Samqwan Safety Plans/Wolankeyutomune Samaqan (translates as 'we take care of the water'), an operator-informed risk management framework that couples Water Safety Planning and Indigenous understandings of risk, as a proactive and preventive Indigenous management practice in both drinking water and wastewater systems
- Gathering and understanding community perceptions, activities, and relationships with water and wastewater services with the purpose of building a community confidence tool to be used to strengthen the relationship between community members and the AFNWA

This research partnership also has a broad goal of training future Indigenous and non-Indigenous water stewards (referenced to throughout as trainees) with a knowledge of Etuaptmumk and an appreciation for cultural and knowledge system diversity. This work will be guided by, and grounded in, a Wabanaki worldview.

In addition to solidifying our partnerships, the AFNWA had undertaken dedicated outreach to the Elders Advisory Lodge, both individually and as a group, to ensure that First Nations language and traditional knowledge is at the forefront of the research. Therefore, in addition to key staff from Dalhousie, Unlooweg and the AFNWA, the following collaborators were included in the submission:

- Tuma Young (collaborator, Cape Breton University's Marshall Institute) Assistant Professor, Mi'kmaq Studies at Cape Breton University. He was the first indigenous person to become head of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society and as far as is known is the first Mi'kmaq speaking lawyer in Nova Scotia history. In 2020 Tuma was appointed Queen's Counsel and in 2022 received the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for services to the Nova Scotia legal profession. Tuma will provide language and culture guidance, specifically mentor ship for trainees working on Nujo'tme'k Samqwan Safety Planning with a focus on linguistics analysis for interpreting Mi'kmaq values from traditional language.
- The Elders Advisory Lodge (Methilda Knockwood-Snache, Gail Tupper, Dr. David Perley, Ken Francis, Charles Doucette) (collaborators) - the Elders Advisory Lodge will provide crucial guidance to all research staff and trainees to help ground research, learning, and cultural values in Wabanaki traditions and worldviews.

Dalhousie University was informed on December 7, 2023 that the Alliant Grant application was successful for a total funding of \$5,000,000.

James added that the AFNWA would be looking to announce the NSERC Alliance Grant partnership with Dalhousie in the coming weeks. Management had originally thought to announce the Grant at the AFN Water Symposium in February, but it was postponed.

Chief Terry asked what part Ulnooweg would be playing in this Grant. James responded that they are a partner equal to the AFNWA and Dalhousie. Part of the work would focus on the training of future indigenous water stewards, that's why we approached the Ulnooweg Education Centre (UEC) as partner. The UEC has a pathway to Engineering program, which would fit perfectly with the AFNWA's goal of training more Indigenous Engineers.

Todd added that Chris Googoo is leading the Pathway to Engineering project through Dalhousie. Dalhousie is empowering Chris to use that with his vision. UEC will also support with Youth Engagement. UEC is supporting with in-kind contributions to collaborate and support the AFNWA and Dal to engage youth in future careers in water, wastewater, and public health.

2-I INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

The IRP will apply the considerations of asset renewal, compliance and growth drivers to ensure the integrated recommendations achieve the desired service delivery goals, as well as identify any additional gaps and programs required in the long-term plan. The IRP will create one holistic project and study program that will inform AFNWA activities for the next 5 years and provide a guide for the next 25 to 30 years. The IRP will analyze and report on infrastructure requirements at the community level, however, the integrated capital plan will be singular across all AFNWA managed communities.

The IRP will also provide direction on fiscal requirements for capital investment critical to business planning and funding arrangements with the federal government.

One of the key tasks in the IRP is the development or enhancement of input data on the capital investment for the individual assets. Drivers for the IRP include:

- **Asset Renewal Driver:**
 - Characterize current condition of assets and identify prioritized asset renewal requirements.
- **Growth Driver:**
 - Develop community growth scenarios for residential, industrial/commercial/institutional (ICI) sectors and resultant demand forecasts.
 - Document existing capacity of infrastructure assets.
 - Identify projects required to meet water and wastewater demands from growth scenarios.
- **Compliance Driver:**
 - Identify current regulatory requirements and anticipated changes.

- Develop listing of current and potential future areas of noncompliance, and required projects or programs to bring into compliance.
- Review and enhance levels of service requirements.
- Supply Side Management and Demand Side Management opportunities:
 - Management of water and wastewater demand/generation.
 - Identification of initiatives that may impact utility effectiveness and efficiency.
- Integration of Capital Requirements:
 - Analyze, coordinate, align and integrate the prioritized needs for optimal efficiency and effectiveness of capital project delivery.
 - Provide preliminary long-range capital infrastructure program.
- Integrated Resource Plan:
 - Five Year list of prioritized integrated initiatives.
 - Long Term capital plan.

The IRP will start as a pilot project in one or two communities initially, to ensure the scope and level of effort are appropriate. Selection of the pilot communities are underway, based on the availability of existing land-use or master plan programs.

Chief Terry asks if they IRP would be developed for communities with Municipal Agreements. John Lam responded that we would have to be working with service providers to develop the IRP, it must be a holistic view. As well, we must look at what is in the ground currently for when we plan repairs of existing infrastructure. This program would look at what we would need for the future and what is the proper time to make any repair or replacement.

The IRP also helps avoid communities not having enough storage or capacity to accommodate growth. The IRP is long range planning tool that ensures proper capacity for growth of service.

Susheel added that this is a data driven and stakeholder engagement exercise. AFNWA would be engaging with both the community and the municipality to ensure we have a sustainable system that is built for the long term.

Chief Terry added that Membertou would like to have their own system as part of the AFNWA.

Susheel added that's where the long-term vision comes into the play. If that is your community's vision, that is where the consultants and team would review and determine strategies to realize that vision. There are short term and long-term plans as part of the IRP and as information becomes available, they are refreshed every 5 – 7 years,

Todd asked if there are consulting teams that offer specialized help with Integrated Resources Planning?

John responded that there are indeed companies the do specialize in Integrated

Resources Planning, with some regional consultants that dabble in it. However, we would want to get a consultant that knows the business. These specialized companies are not local to Atlantic Canada. However, this is such a large project that has so much community engagement and data collection that there would be some teaming up with local resources. Furthermore, AFNWA procurement policy encourages hiring indigenous companies and companies who employ indigenous staff.

Todd asked if we had line item for the IRP each year for the next 25 years.

Chantal responded that we have 4 million dollars (2021 dollars) in the 10-year Business Plan. 3 million is set aside for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. There is a million dollars to refresh the IRP in year 10.

James added that originally, it was planned to start the IRP in 2025-2026 but when we visited community councils, we heard that planning for growth was a priority. Under Susheel's direction, we have moved this project forward 1 year in the capital budget to start early.

3-I INFORMATION REGARDING FN DRINKING WATER CLASS ACTION

On December 22, 2021, the Courts approved a \$8-Billion settlement between Canada and certain First Nations and their members who were subject to a drinking water advisory that lasted at least one year between November 20, 1995, and June 20, 2021.

The settlement also includes commitments to fund the construction, operation, and maintenance of infrastructure to provide First Nations and Individual Class Members with regular access to safe drinking water in their homes.

The \$8 billion settlement includes:

- \$1.8 billion in compensation to individuals and Impacted First Nations;
- An additional \$50 million for eligible individuals who experienced Specified Injuries due to drinking water advisories that lasted at least one year between November 20, 1995, and June 20, 2021;
- \$6 billion to support construction, upgrading, operation, and maintenance of water infrastructure on First Nations land;
- A renewed commitment to Canada's Action Plan for the lifting of all long-term drinking water advisories;
- Planned modernization of Canada's First Nations drinking water legislation;
- The creation of a First Nations Advisory Committee on Safe Drinking Water; and
- Support for First Nations to develop their own safe drinking water by-laws and initiatives.

Canada has agreed to make all reasonable efforts to support the removal of long-term drinking water advisories and will spend at least \$6 billion by March 31, 2030, to implement this commitment by funding the actual cost of construction, upgrading, operation, and maintenance of water infrastructure in First Nations communities.

The following Atlantic First Nation are listed as known long-term drinking water advisories in the time frames covered by the settlement. As a reminder, a 'long-term drinking water advisory' means one that lasted for a year or longer.

- Buctouche First Nation
- Eel Ground First Nation
- Fort Folly First Nation
- Indian Island First Nation
- Pabineau First Nation
- Neqotkuk First Nation (AFNWA Member)
- Oromocto First Nation
- Woodstock First Nation
- Miawpukek First Nation
- Millbrook First Nation (AFNWA Member)
- Potlotek First Nation (AFNWA Member)
- Abegweit First Nation (Morell 2, Rocky Point 3, Scotchfort 4)

Impacted First Nations can submit a Band Council Acceptance Resolution, to receive compensation. Impacted First Nations who submit the Band Council Acceptance Resolution will receive \$500,000 plus an additional amount equal to 50% of the amounts paid to eligible Individual Class Members who ordinarily resided in their community. Impacted First Nations have until March 7, 2024 to submit their Band Council Acceptance Resolution

Individuals can apply by submitting a claim form found at <https://firstnationsdrinkingwater.ca/>. Individuals must apply if:

- Band Council has not included you in a Band Council Confirmation list
- They are filing as a personal representative for a person under disability (under Power of Attorney)
- They are filing as a personal representative/guardian for a minor child who has not been included as part of the Band Council Confirmation list
- They are filing as an estate representative/Executor on behalf of an individual who passed away on or after November 20, 2017
- They are filing as the highest priority heir on behalf of a family member who passed away on or after November 20, 2017
- They prefer to file an Individual Claim Form rather than be included in your Band Council Confirmation list

Individuals are eligible if:

- They are a member of a First Nation; and
- They lived on a First Nation during a long-term drinking water advisory (boil water, do not consume or do not use) that lasted for at least a year between November 20, 1995 and June 20, 2021.

Individuals may be eligible for additional compensation for Specified Injuries if they suffered significant and prolonged health problems that harmed your quality of life and disrupted your wellbeing and/or daily activities, and the health problems were directly caused by the drinking water advisory, either because they used treated or tap water in accordance with the advisory but still got sick, or because you didn't have proper access to treated or tap water. Those who are applying for specified injuries must complete an individual claim form. A list of specified injuries can be found at <https://firstnationsdrinkingwater.ca>.

IMPORTANT – due to federal legislative limitations, individuals who were born before November 20, 1995 are only eligible for compensation going back to November 20, 2013.

Regional Chief Joanna shared that there is a community in New Brunswick that could be signing on to the AFNWA soon. Also, Regional Chief Joanna asked if she could share this information with communities who are eligible for funds and are not AFNWA members? James replied he has reviewed the class action lawsuit website and many communities in Atlantic have provided BCRs to Canada to accept the funds. Also, he mentioned that this is not a confidential board report and that he would make sure it is in Regional Chief's Joanna's inbox to share with Communities in New Brunswick. .

Regional Chief Joanna also asked if communities that are members of the AFNWA are still eligible to receive funds under the class action lawsuit?

James responded that they were.

Chief Wilbert mentioned that Membertou is sitting on a large aquifer. Chief Terry added that his community is above a large aquifer, and CBRM gets its water from a lake next to Membertou. Chief Terry mentioned that one of the principals he wanted to ensure is that Membertou owns the water, and that this ownership is part of Membertou's long-term planning.

Susheel replied that IRPs bring in all strategies for servicing. When the community engagement process takes place, and through any other information we can bring forward, we would be looking at what is the best or most effective way to serve a community with water supply or wastewater service.

CLOSING

MOVED BY Chief Aaron Sock, SECONDED by Chief Wilbert Marshall, that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

James MacKinnon
Board Secretary

Chief Wilbert Marshall
Chair



Item #4
AFNWA Board
March 27, 2024

TO: Chief Wilbert Marshall, Chair and Members of the AFNWA Board

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by
Chantal LeBlanc, CPA, CMA, MBA, Chief Financial Officer

APPROVED: Original Signed by
Susheel Arora, M.A.Sc., P.Eng., Chief Executive Officer

DATE: **March 22, 2024**

SUBJECT: **Procurement Policy Amendment**

ORIGIN

Procurement Policy, as approved in Board Meeting February 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the AFNWA Board approve the attached amendment to the Procurement Policy, effective immediately, in its substantive form attached.

BACKGROUND

The Procurement Policy was initially developed in early 2022 to further enhance policies and procedures laid out by the Financial Policy. The Procurement Policy set out a framework for the procurement of goods and services when the AFNWA was not yet operational, but in anticipation of the approval of the 10-Year Business Plan.

DISCUSSION

The existing limits, as described in the chart below, were developed with the objective of including the Corporate Services Department in a very wide range of procurement activities. This objective was intentional so that all staff would become familiar with the policy, procedures, and proper documentation for all procurement activities.

CATEGORY	INVITATIONAL COMPETITION		OPEN COMPETITION
	Min. 3 quotes invited by department	Min. 3 quotes invited by Corporate Services	Advertised throughout all available networks
Goods	\$2,500-\$10,000	\$10,000-\$25,000	\$25,000+
Services	\$2,500-\$10,000	\$10,000-\$50,000	\$50,000+
Construction	\$2,500-\$10,000	\$10,000-\$50,000	\$50,000+
Procurement Planning Tool Required	No	Yes	Yes

In the past 2 years, AFNWA Staff have been very engaged in procurement activities, a full time Procurement Officer has been hired, and an integrated software solution (Procurify) has been implemented to assist with the enforcement and oversight of the Procurement Policy. AFNWA Management recommends a change in the limits, as seen below, to reduce the involvement of Corporate Services in Departmental Purchases given that all AFNWA staff are more comfortable with the Procurement Procedures, and the integrated software is capable of enforcing internal controls as they pertain to purchasing.

For clarification, for items under \$2,500, the 3 quotes are obtained from the relevant department, and the process is signed off by the Director. In some cases, there are less than 3 quotes obtained, however, the Directors are responsible for noting where obtaining 3 quotes is either not possible, or not reasonable (IE: small tool purchases).

AFNWA Staff is also recommending the removal of the requirement for Procurement Planning Tool, as this process is now embedded in the new integrated software solution, Procurify.

CATEGORY	INVITATIONAL COMPETITION		OPEN COMPETITION
	Min. 3 quotes invited by department	Min. 3 quotes invited by Corporate Services	Advertised throughout all available networks
Goods	\$2,500-\$25,000		\$25,000+
Services	\$2,500-\$25,000	\$25,000-\$50,000	\$50,000+
Construction	\$2,500-\$25,000	\$25,000-\$50,000	\$50,000+

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional budget or financial implications to be considered beyond the discussion above.

ALTERNATIVES

No other alternatives to be discussed.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Procurement Policy

Report Prepared By Original Signed By
Chantal LeBlanc, CPA, CMA, MBA (902) 877-3813

Financial Reviewed By: Original Signed By
Susheel Arora, M.A.Sc., P.Eng., CEO, (782) 414-6628



Procurement Policy

PREPARED BY: CHANTAL LEBLANC

REV 2024-03-22

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POLICY STATEMENT

Procurement refers to the methods employed by the Atlantic First Nations Water Authority Inc. (“AFNWA”, “the Organization”) to acquire goods, services, or other contracted work needed to support the goals and objectives approved by the AFNWA Board of Directors in the annual Operating and Capital Budgets, consistent with long term Business Plans. At all stages of procurement, the Organization uses procedures that are fair, competitive, auditable and comply with relevant legislation.

This policy covers:

- Appointment of (non-staff) personnel, such as consultants and contractors
- Purchase of all services, goods, and equipment

This policy is based on:

- Principles of non-discrimination, fairness, and transparency,
- The promotion of First Nations participation in business and labour opportunities,
- The promotion of efficiency and effectiveness, and
- Minimizing risk to the Organization and our partners/communities.

The relevant legislation applicable to AFNWA include PIPEDA and the Canada Health & Safety Act. This encompasses all Provincial and Federal legislation throughout the 4 provinces in which AFNWA intends to operate and this policy has been reviewed for any deviations from the above listed legislation.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles will guide the procurement practices of AFNWA:

- To maintain the highest ethical standards in procurement matters,
- To ensure the correct goods or services are acquired,
- To achieve best value for money, recognizing that the promotion of cost effectiveness or efficiency is a fulsome process requiring consideration for full life-cycle costs, including but not limited to, acquisition, operating, training, repair, maintenance, warranty, customer impact, environmental impact, asset disposal and residual value,
- To ensure that all funding agreement requirements are satisfied,
- Encourage best practice contract and risk management,
- Promote and obtain competitive offers from the most responsible and responsive vendors,
- Promote vendors who comply with the provisions of the solicitation and contractual terms and conditions while also respecting our Organizational goals for minimizing negative environmental impact and embracing indigenous cultural values, and
- Participate in joint procurement activities with First Nations communities and organizations, neighbouring municipalities, or commercial developments, where applicable and where it is deemed to be in the best interest of AFNWA.

AUTHORITY OF THE CEO

The CEO of AFNWA is responsible to the Board for the proper administration of the affairs of AFNWA in accordance with all relevant legislation, funding agreements, and regulatory requirements.

The CEO has the authority to award all contracts and purchase goods, services and construction that are within the budgets approved by the AFNWA Board and compliant with this Procurement Policy.

The CEO may authorize business practices and procedures consistent with this Procurement Policy and may delegate any such authority under this Policy.

The CEO may authorize financing arrangements, including loans, leases, and rentals, for the purchase or rental of goods, services, equipment, or property on behalf of AFNWA where the purchase is compliant with the other conditions and award limits within this Procurement Policy, provided the period of financing does not exceed 5 years, and all other limits are within the CEO's approval limits, as described in the AFNWA Finance Policy and Governance Manual.

The CEO has authority to approve contracts up to \$250,000 without Board approval, subject to the policies and procedures as outlined in the AFNWA Financial Policy.

POLICY DIRECTIVES

PROCUREMENT PROJECT PLANNING

Effective project planning is essential to ensuring effective results and limiting risk. The Procurement Project Planning Tool must be completed by the user department for every procurement project. The relevant department manager is responsible for coordinating with Corporate Services to ensure that planning is completed in accordance with the Procurement Project Planning Guidelines found in the Procurement Procedures Manual (Appendix B). The exception to this would be in cases of an Emergency Procurement as outlined in the Alternative Procurement section of this Procurement Policy. User departments must allow sufficient time to properly plan for a procurement project. Planning will take into consideration:

- An initial business case including project description and estimated value,
- Other internal advice that may be required (i.e.: Finance),
- External resources that may be required (i.e.: consultants, fairness monitor),
- The appropriate execution strategy (i.e.: open, non-competitive),
- Developing proper specifications and business requirements,
- Pricing structures,
- Evaluation plan (open and limited processes only),

- Format selection (open and limited processes only), and
- Justification for using an Alternative Procurement Practice (non-competitive or limited competition only)

MANDATORY USE OF STANDING OFFERS

It is mandatory to use existing standing offers to achieve contracted benefits through the consolidation of purchases. Procurement will work with the user departments to combine requirements where possible and encourage overall standardization of items to reduce the overall cost to AFNWA. If a standing offer exists, related procurements must be conducted in accordance with the applicable Standing Offer Guidelines found in the Procurement Procedures Manual. AFNWA will leverage the benefits of standing offers of neighbouring municipalities or member communities wherever practical when the arrangement results in overall best value to AFNWA or other substantial advantages.

PROCUREMENT OF GOODS, SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION

If a standing offer does not exist for a spending category, AFNWA will procure goods, services, and construction over \$2,500 in accordance with the following table (all values exclude taxes):

CATEGORY	INVITATIONAL COMPETITION		OPEN COMPETITION
	Min. 3 quotes invited by department	Min. 3 quotes invited by Corporate Services	Advertised throughout all available networks
Goods	\$2,500-\$10,000	\$10,000-\$25,000	\$25,000+
Services	\$2,500-\$10,000	\$10,000-\$50,000	\$50,000+
Construction	\$2,500-\$10,000	\$10,000-\$50,000	\$50,000+
Procurement Planning Tool Required	No	Yes	Yes

Competitive Procurement: Invitational

An invitational competitive procurement process for low value purchases, involves requesting a minimum of three qualified vendors to submit written quotations based on the requirements outlined by AFNWA. Low value purchases are not routine in nature and are not included in a Standing Offer or available in AFNWA inventory.

If the value of the goods, services and construction is less than \$10,000

User departments are expected to obtain at least three written competitive quotations in accordance with the principles set out in this Procurement Policy and awarded to the bidder that provides the best value. All documentation will be retained by the user department for auditing purposes. For goods, services, and construction less than \$2,500, quotes are not required.

If the value of the goods, services and construction exceeds \$10,000 but is less than open competition thresholds.

Procurement will conduct an invitational competition on behalf of the user department, to obtain at least three written competitive quotations in accordance with the principles set out in this Procurement Policy and awarded to the bid that provides the best value. The Procurement Project Planning Tool will be completed for every project and all documentation related to low value procurement over \$10,000 will be retained by Corporate Services.

Competitive Procurement: Open

An open competitive procurement process enables all vendors to compete in a fair and open environment. If the value of the goods, services and construction is a high value and above the invitational competition thresholds, Corporate Services will conduct an open competitive process. All open competitions will be advertised through all available channels including but not limited to AFNWA website and all available member communities. Tenders in this range will be acknowledged at a public opening at a designated date and time, and all awards will be posted on the AFNWA website. The Procurement Project Planning Tool will be completed for every project.

Alternative Procurement Practices (ALTP)

To balance the need to be open and competitive with the demands of urgent, specialized, or exceptional circumstances, alternative procurement practices are used under specific justifications in accordance with this policy. Alternative procurement practices must not be used to avoid competition between suppliers or to discriminate against specific individual or groups of suppliers. All ALTP awards, including name of supplier and contract value, must be publicly posted on the AFNWA website within 10 days of contract award.

For high value procurement

The use of alternative procurement practices must be authorized and supported by the Manager of Corporate Services and the CEO where the CEO determines the purchase to be clearly in the best interest of AFNWA. The Manager of Corporate Services may delegate signing authority to an acting procurement officer. The rationale permitting the alternative procurement practice will be documented on the appropriate form and will provide substantiation for the actions taken. Any disagreement between Corporate Services and the user department with respect to the approval of an alternative procurement practice are to be reviewed and approved by the CEO.

For low value procurement

User departments will be required to complete a low value ALTP form which must be signed by the requesting employee along with the Manager of the user department and approved by both the Manager of Corporate Services and the CEO. In all cases, forms require two signatures and must be kept on file by Procurement for audit purposes.

Permanent Exemptions

User departments may apply for a permanent exemption for certain goods or services that are considered at the sole discretion of the department manager. These goods or services will not be subject to tender and are not listed in Appendix 'A'. Any such request must be authorized by the CEO or

their designate and the Manager of Corporate Services. The permanent exemptions list will be maintained by Corporate Services for audit purposes.

Emergency Procurement

An emergency procurement occurs when an urgent need arises due to an immediate risk to the health or safety of employees or the general public, the possibility of serious damage to public or private property, or the threat of serious environmental impacts. If an emergency occurs, a manager is authorized to procure the necessary goods, services, or construction as they determine appropriate. In doing so, the Manager should consider and fulfill the objectives and requirements of this policy to the extent possible under the circumstances and use any existing standing offers.

Special Services

Legal services will be acquired by AFNWA staff from a roster of lawyers based upon work requirements, qualifications, experience, services offered, past performance, proposed fees and other relevant considerations. The selection of the lawyer from the roster in an individual case shall be based upon the particular expertise required for that case. Legal services having a value of less than \$5,000 may be acquired by the Manager. Legal services having a value of \$5,000 or more shall be approved by the CEO or his/her designate.

Architectural, Engineering, Surveying, and other consulting services less than \$50,000 will be acquired by staff from a pre-approved roster of consultants. Consultants will be selected by project, based upon qualifications, experience, services offered, past performance, proposed fees, and other relevant considerations. For services less than \$50,000 three written quotations will be solicited from consultants on the roster. Required services over the value of \$50,000 will be publicly advertised through open competition.

Auditing Services – Services of External Auditors will be acquired by public advertisement at intervals not greater than every five years. These services may be contracted on a one-year term to be renewed on an annual basis up to a five-year maximum on terms satisfactory to AFNWA. Selection of an external financial auditor shall be completed by the Audit and Finance Committee of AFNWA Board and recommended to the Board. Annual renewal of the contract for Audit services shall be made by the Audit and Finance Committee and recommended to the Board.

JOINT PROCUREMENT

Joint Procurement is encouraged when the arrangement results in overall best value. If deemed to be in the best interest of AFNWA, joint procurement with First Nations communities and organizations, neighbouring municipalities, commercial developments, or provincial agencies may be pursued. Joint procurement may result in extending the opportunity to the municipality, development, or community to participate in the established contracts, or AFNWA participating in contracts established by the municipality, development, or community through a publicly advertised solicitation. The provisions of the applicable trade agreements shall apply to the procurement process.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCUREMENT

To procure necessary goods with due regard to the environment, AFNWA will follow the Statement of Principle adopted by the Association of Canadian Cities for Environmentally Sound Strategies.

“In order to increase the development and awareness of Environmentally Sound Products, Procurement Staff, in conjunction with Departments, will review their contracts and tender specifications for goods and services, to ensure that wherever possible and economical, specifications are amended to provide for expanded use of products and services that contain the maximum level of post-consumer waste and/or recyclable content. This will be done without significantly affecting the intended use of the product or service. Also, it is recognized that cost analysis is required in order to ensure that the products are available at competitive prices.”

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Surplus assets over the value of \$10,000 shall be disposed of by open competition and contract for disposal of such assets shall be awarded by the CEO.

In other cases, surplus assets shall be disposed of by the CEO as reasonably practical in the circumstances. The CEO may award the disposal of surplus material without competition to any non-profit corporation, association, or entity, or any First Nations community.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Where the solicitation document provides for negotiation to take place, Corporate Services may engage in negotiations with the selected proponent(s). Any proposed changes to the standard contract terms and conditions must be reviewed by legal counsel prior to finalizing the contract.

AWARD OF CONTRACTS

All open competitions shall be presented to the CEO for approval except as noted below. A report of the purchasing process along with the procurement planning tool form will be prepared by the user department, approved by the Manager, and forwarded to the CEO for approval.

Awards less than \$25,000 for goods, \$25,000 for services or \$25,000 for Construction can be committed by the Manager of Corporate Services in consultation with the user department personnel with the appropriate approval authority.

CONTRACT DOCUMENTS, BIDS, AND PERFORMANCE SECURITIES AND SPECIFICATIONS

The CEO may, from time to time, approve such standard forms including bid and performance securities, if any, for purchases by Invitation to Tender, Request for Proposal, Request for Quotations, sole source, or emergency purchases as well as forms of contract for type of purchase including but not limited to construction, supplies and services as the CEO deems advisable. Bid bonds, performance bonds and other securities, including labour and material bonds, shall be required for such purchases in such form and in such amounts as the CEO deems advisable.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

After a contract has been entered, pursuant to an open competition, Procurement will post the name of the successful supplier and the value of the awarded contract on the AFNWA website.

For contracts entered after a limited competition or for a high value non-competitive procurement, Corporate Services will post the name of the successful supplier and the value awarded on the AFNWA website as is required under applicable trade agreements. AFNWA will notify bidders of the outcome of an invitational competition.

TIE BIDS

In the case of a tie bid, the Manager of Corporate Services is to request the tie bidders submit a best and final offer. If this is not successful and a tie bid still occurs, the contract may be awarded at the discretion of the CEO.

DEBRIEFINGS

A bidder may request a debriefing of their submission for both open competitions and invitational competitions. The purpose of the debriefing is to provide a bidder with constructive feedback about their bid and suggestions for improvements to better prepare for future opportunities. The debriefing process is not a complaint process and should not be treated as such. Information about bids submitted by other bidders will not be discussed or disclosed in the debriefing.

Debriefings are only initiated at the request of a bidder. Requests for a debriefing are directed to the contact person identified in the solicitation document. Bidders are expected to make their request within ten days from notification of award of contract. Requests for a debriefing made after this time-period are considered on a case-by-case basis.

PROCUREMENT COMPLAINT PROCESS

Subsequent to a debriefing, bidders may file a complaint regarding the outcome of a procurement process if the bidder believes that AFNWA has deviated from its procurement process. The bidder must request and attend a debriefing prior to engaging in the procurement complaint process. Complaints must be made by bidders and responded to by the Manager of Corporate Services. Where possible, bidders are encouraged to resolve problems directly with Corporate Services or the user department staff, as many problems can be resolved before a complaint is formulated.

A complaint refers to a written objection submitted by a bidder regarding a solicitation, contract award, or proposed contract for goods, services, and construction. Complaints shall contain written details of the issue and the resolution being requested. Complaints can be submitted during the competitive process, or within thirty days from notification of award of contract.

The Manager of Corporate Services or his/her designate will make every effort to acknowledge a formal complaint within ten business days of receipt. Complaints may be resolved, dismissed, or withdrawn. A complaint is resolved if the bidder is satisfied with the explanation provided by AFNWA. A complaint is dismissed if the Manager of Corporate Services concludes that the complaint is not valid as the review indicates a properly applied, fair procurement process. If the Manager of Corporate Services finds that the bidder's complaint has merit, the written complaint should be presented to the Board of Directors within 90 days and an appropriate response will be prepared and submitted to the bidder, signed by the Board. The response will be provided on a "without prejudice" basis, unless otherwise agreed by Corporate Services.

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT & VENDOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Establishing contract management practices and assessing vendor performance are both critical to the success of procurement projects. Poor workmanship, unnecessary contract delays and unsafe work practices will not be tolerated. Contracts and standing offers will be managed by Corporate Services or user department, as required. Upon reasonable notice in writing to the vendor involved, and after a reasonable opportunity for response, a vendor can be disqualified for a period not exceeding three years from participation in a solicitation for goods or services.

SUPPLIER DISQUALIFICATION

Suppliers may be disqualified, based upon supporting evidence, from participating in future procurement opportunities for any one of the following reasons:

- Bankruptcy or insolvency,
- False declarations,
- Inadequate performance,
- Final judgements in respect of serious crimes or other serious offences,
- Involvement with ongoing litigation with AFNWA or any of its member communities,
- Professional misconduct,
- Failure to pay amounts owing to AFNWA,

- Violation of AFNWA regulations, or
- Behaviour that is perceived to be racialized or untoward with Indigenous peoples or any other visible minority groups.

A written decision shall be issued to the supplier disqualified or suspended setting out the reasons for disqualification or suspension, to the usual business address of the supplier as shown in the records of the purchasing department. Disqualification will be approved by the CEO.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Procurement activities at AFNWA are expected to be conducted with integrity and professionalism, showing respect for the process, the environment, First Nations members, community and culture, and safeguard confidential information.

MANAGER OF CORPORATE SERVICES

The Manager of Corporate Services is responsible for promotion, implementation and the overall administration of this policy. They are responsible for ensuring the consistent application of this policy to all user departments in an efficient and diligent manner. The Manager is responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy and is required to address any non-compliance. Where instances of non-compliance are identified, the Manager is expected to submit written confirmation of actions taken to the CEO.

PROCUREMENT EMPLOYEES AND USER DEPARTMENT MANAGERS

Procurement employees and user department managers shall adhere to this policy and are responsible for consistently applying this policy and the guidelines to all procurement projects. They must clearly understand their obligations and responsibilities under this policy and all applicable protocols and consult with the Manager of Corporate Services in respect of any questions regarding the application or interpretation of this policy or any protocols. Procurement employees and Managers are expected to provide procurement services in an efficient and diligent manner and are encouraged to develop and foster productive and cooperative professional relationships with their colleagues.

USER DEPARTMENTS

User departments are responsible for procurement activities within their unit and are accountable for achieving the specific objectives of this policy. User departments are to clearly understand their responsibilities in accordance with this policy and are to consult with the Manager of Corporate Services with respect to any questions regarding the application or interpretation of this policy or any protocols.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All procurement activity must be conducted with integrity to maintain the trust with our member communities and the general public, as a whole. Any procurement activity that creates, or appears to

create, a conflict of interest, shall not be engaged in. Procurement is subject to AFNWA Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy.

Internal Conflict of Interest

All participants in a procurement process, including all employees of procurement and all members of the evaluation team, must ensure that there are no undeclared internal conflicts of interest. Evaluation team members must sign individual conflict of interest declarations stating they have no conflict of interest with respect to the procurement process.

Bidder's Conflict of Interest

All bidders will be required to declare that there are no conflicts of interest or provide details for any actual or apparent conflicts of interest at the time of bid submission. Procurement must ensure that all procurement templates include appropriate conflict of interest language and declarations.

CONFIDENTIALITY & ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Confidentiality

Supplier information submitted in connection with a procurement process must be adequately protected.

Access to Information & Personal Information Disclosure

AFNWA is subject to PIPEDA. Procurement will adhere to the Act and will respect the maintenance, release, and management of all procurement records.

STAFF TRAINING

Corporate Services will provide orientation and training as required to employees involved in procurement activities at AFNWA. Employees involved in procurement activities should be knowledgeable with respect to this policy and the general principles of public procurement. Corporate Services will provide relevant training and will promote appropriate external education and training opportunities whenever possible.

MONITORING

Record Keeping

All procurement activity must be authorized, properly recorded, maintained, and supported by the appropriate documentation required under the applicable guidelines found in the Procurement Procedures Manual.

Audit

All procurement activity is subject to audit by relevant funding sources, and regulatory agencies.

Procurement Compliance Testing

Procurement activities are subject to compliance testing by the Manager of Corporate Services and the results may be used to develop strategies to improve compliance and development of training. The Manager of Corporate Services will establish and regularly review policies and procedures to ensure continuous improvement.

Reporting

Any identified non-compliance will be reported to the Manager of the user department with a copy to the CEO. In cases of non-compliance, Corporate Services reserves the right to revoke the delegation for low value procurement activity.

REFERENCES

All procedures, guidelines, and forms referred to in this policy can be found on the AFNWA website. Some of the relevant legislation, trade agreements, and reference documents include:

- Personal Information International Disclosure Protection Act (PIIDPA)
- Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)
- Canada-European Union Comprehensive Trade Agreement (CETA)
- Atlantic Procurement Agreement (APA)
- AFNWA Standard Terms and Conditions
- ACWWA Design Guidelines

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information or clarification regarding this policy please contact:

Chantal LeBlanc
Manager of Corporate Services
Atlantic First Nations Water Authority
13 Treaty Trail, Millbrook NS B6L 1W1
Phone: (902) 603-0312
finance@afnwa.ca

APPENDIX A: LIST OF PERMANENT EXEMPTIONS

The following list of goods and services shall be permanently exempt from the application of the AFNWA Procurement Policy. Unless otherwise stated, the approval and procurement of goods and services that are exempt from this policy are subject to the signing authority limits set out in the AFNWA Approval Authority List.

(a) PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Services that may, under the laws of Nova Scotia, only be provided by the following licensed professionals: medical doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, veterinarians, engineers*, land surveyors*, architects*, accountants**, lawyers*** and notaries.

** Engineers, Land Surveyors and Architects*

Services provided by Engineers, Land Surveyors and Architects are only exempt from the application of this policy if such services have an estimated value of less than \$50,000. Such Services shall be procured in accordance with the Special Services section of this policy.

*** Accountants*

Notwithstanding that Services provided by Accountants are otherwise exempt from the application of this Policy, the procurement of Auditing Services shall be done in accordance with the Special Services section of this policy.

****Lawyers*

Notwithstanding that Legal Services provided by Lawyers are otherwise exempt from the application of this Policy. Legal services shall be acquired from a roster of lawyers and in accordance with the Special Services section of this policy.

(b) LEGAL SERVICES/EXPENSES (in addition to those provided by lawyers)

- Expert Witness Services
- Legal Opinion and Representation
- Court Reporter Services
- Arbitrators and Moderators
- Discoveries
- Legal Settlements

(c) PETTY CASH ITEMS

Funds established in a user department for the purchase of minor items when it would be otherwise impractical to purchase items through the usual purchasing methods.

(d) TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- Conferences, Conventions and Tradeshow
- Newspapers, Magazines & Periodicals, including subscriptions
- Memberships
- Seminars, Workshops not specifically designed for HRWC

(e) REFUNDABLE EMPLOYEE/OTHER EXPENSES

- Advances
- University Courses
- Entertainment
- Miscellaneous Non-Travel
- Meal Allowances
- Travel Expenses
- Hotel Accommodation
- Refunds: payments, fees

(f) EMPLOYER'S GENERAL EXPENSES

- Payroll Deduction Remittances
- Grants to Agencies, including Scholarship programs
- Medical & Dental Expenses
- Debenture Payments
- Payment of Damages
- Petty Cash Replenishment
- Tax Remittances
- Employee Income
- Member's Discretionary Funds
- Real Property, including land, buildings, easements, encroachments, and licenses (except for the acquisition of Facilities where AFNWA is the tenant)
- Licenses, such as vehicles and elevators
- Charges to and from member communities and other First Nations entities
- Bank Charges and Underwriting Services where covered by agreements
- Grants and Contributions

(g) UTILITIES

- Water and Wastewater
- Power and related infrastructure when purchased from a utility
- Telephone and Telecommunication Services

(h) MISCELLANEOUS

- Print, Television and Radio Media Advertising Accounts
- The publication and distribution of magazines, periodicals or newspapers but not including the sole activity of printing or typesetting
- The production and distribution of audio, film, or video recordings
- Customs Broker/Services
- Taxi Services
- Courier Services
- Catering, meals, and small incidentals
- Postage

APPENDIX B: Procurement Procedures Manual

The objective of this manual is to clarify all guidelines which must be adhered to during Procurement Project Planning. The guidelines are broken into the following categories:

Standing Offers

Procurement

- a) Set-Asides
- b) of Goods, Services or Construction, less than \$10,000
- c) of Goods between \$10,000-\$25,000
- d) of Services or Construction, between \$10,000-\$25,000
- e) of Goods, Services or Construction greater than \$50,000

Reporting and Record Keeping

Relevant Forms and Resources available from the Corporate Services Department

Standing Offers

The objective of Standing Offers is to provide efficiencies and economies of scale for consumable goods and repetitious services that are regularly required by AFNWA.

All Standing Offers are deemed to be mandatory, unless otherwise specified.

A standing offer should be established through a Request for Quotation (RFQ) process and should be renewed annually. The RFQ should take into consideration the organization's ownership, history of relations with Indigenous communities, and commitment to minimizing environmental impact.

Therefore, the following Bid Value Reductions should be employed when establishing Standing Offers:

- Indigenous owned (>50% beneficial ownership) → Up to 10% Bid Value Reduction
- If non-indigenous owned, historical evidence of commitment to source from or employ Indigenous businesses or people → Up to 5% Bid Value Reduction
- Demonstrable commitment towards minimizing environmental impact through environmental policies and procedures that either proactively/pre-emptively reduce carbon emissions, or that neutralize unavoidable environmental impact with projects promoting reforestation or activities otherwise deemed as actively benefitting the future of our planet. → Up to 5% Bid Value Reduction

Procurement

Set Asides

Set Asides are procurement opportunities that are only open to Atlantic First Nations businesses. AFNWA may use Set Asides, entirely at the discretion of the user department, the Manager of Corporate Services, with the approval of the CEO, in order to:

- Support projects of cultural or heritage importance to Atlantic First Nations Communities,

- Build First Nations Business capacity in specific sectors where Atlantic First Nations are underrepresented or have limited capacity,
- Promote development of Atlantic First Nations Businesses,
- Contribute to workforce development in sectors of the economy where Atlantic First Nations People are underrepresented,
- Facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and experience by Atlantic First Nations People, or
- Recognize businesses and organizations that support workforce readiness, wellbeing, and resiliency of Atlantic First Nations People.

Procurement of Goods, Services, or Construction, less than \$10,000

- User Department must acquire 3 quotes, by invitation, from a master list of approved vendors, where applicable.
- Up to 5% Bid Value Reduction will be granted for Indigenous owned bidders (>50% beneficial ownership).
- A template RFQ/RFP is available from the Corporate Services Department.

Procurement of Goods between \$10,000-\$25,000

- Corporate Services must acquire 3 quotes, by invitation, from a master list of approved vendors, where applicable.
- Up to 5% Bid Value Reduction will be granted for Indigenous owned bidders (>50% beneficial ownership).
- A template RFQ/RFP is available from the Corporate Services Department.

Procurement of Services or Construction, between \$10,000-\$50,000

- Corporate Services must acquire 3 quotes, by invitation, from a master list of approved vendors, where applicable.
- Up to 5% Bid Value Reduction will be granted for Indigenous owned bidders (>50% beneficial ownership).
- Up to 5% Bid Value Reduction will be granted where procurement and/or employment is demonstrated to be beneficial to or in favour of indigenous communities.
- A template RFQ/RFP is available from the Corporate Services Department.

Procurement of Goods greater than \$25,000, Services or Construction greater than \$50,000

Corporate Services must acquire 3 quotes, through an open forum.

The following Bid Value Reductions are applicable:

- Indigenous owned (>50% beneficial ownership) → Up to 10% Bid Value Reduction

- If non-indigenous owned, historical evidence of commitment to source from or employ Indigenous businesses or people → Up to 5% Bid Value Reduction
- Demonstrable commitment towards minimizing environmental impact through environmental policies and procedures that either proactively/pre-emptively reduce carbon emissions, or that neutralize unavoidable environmental impact with projects promoting reforestation or activities otherwise deemed as actively benefitting the future of our planet. → Up to 5% Bid Value Reduction

A template RFQ/RFP is available from the Corporate Services Department.

Reporting and Record Keeping

- All RFP documents and submissions held for 2 years following the completion of the project.
- All contract award determination documentation to be held for 2 years following the completion of the project.
- All debriefings recorded immediately and held for 2 years following the completion of the project.
- All complaints and all associated communication held for 5 years.
- All vendor disqualification documentation to be held indefinitely on file with the vendor.
- All alternative procurement procedures will be maintained for 2 years following the completion of the contract.

Relevant Forms and Resources available from the Corporate Services Department

- Project Planning Tool
- Template Request for Quotation and associated evaluation form
- Template Request for Proposal and associated evaluation form
- Alternative Procurement Justification
- Sole Source Justification
- Set Asides Justification
- Application for Supplier Disqualification
- List of approved vendors, including special services
- List of Standing Offers



Item #5
AFNWA Board
March 27, 2024

TO: Chief Wilbert Marshall, Chair and Members of the AFNWA Board

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by
Chantal LeBlanc, CPA, CMA, MBA, Chief Financial Officer

APPROVED: Original Signed by
Susheel Arora, M.A.Sc., P.Eng., Chief Executive Officer

DATE: March 22, 2024

SUBJECT: Financial Policy Amendment

ORIGIN

AFNWA Financial Policy and Procedures Manual passed at the Board meeting on July 23, 2020, most recent revision date September 27, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the AFNWA Board approve the proposed amendments to the Financial Policy, effective April 1, 2024, in their substantive form attached.

BACKGROUND

AFNWA existing travel allowances have not been considered for increase since October 2021 for meal per diems, and for kilometric reimbursement since July 2022. In recognition of the dramatic inflation rates experienced over the past 2 years, AFNWA staff polled a group of First Nations Organizations and Band Council Offices to identify whether our reimbursement rates were in line with our peers.

DISCUSSION

A chart below compares the existing AFNWA rates with the average of our peer organizations, and the amount as escalated in accordance with CPI which is in line with our budget. Note: The budget was prepared in 2021 dollars, CPI for 2021-2023 was 3.4%, 6.8% and 3.9% respectively, which is what our current O&M budgets are being escalated to.

Item	Existing Rate	CPI Escalation	Peer Average	AFNWA Staff Recommendation
Breakfast	\$17.23	\$19.77	\$22.64	\$20
Lunch	\$17.04	\$19.55	\$23.29	\$20
Supper	\$42.92	\$49.25	\$54.66	\$50
Incidental	\$17.30	\$19.85	\$17.09	\$17.30
Kilometric allowance	\$0.50/km <i>(Per budget)</i>	\$0.574/km	\$0.57/km	\$0.57/km
Hotel Room Maximum	\$200	\$229.48	N/A	\$230

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

AFNWA Staff recommendation supports maintaining the same escalation on all items as what the CPI escalation provides thereby ensuring that there are adequate funds to cover travel allowances.

ALTERNATIVES

One alternative would be to match the Peer Average and/or Treasury Board rates. However, this is not recommended at this time as it would be higher than what our 10-year budget provides.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Financial Policy

Report Prepared By _____ Original Signed By _____
Chantal LeBlanc, CPA, CMA, MBA, (902) 877-3813

Financial Reviewed By: _____ Original Signed By _____
Susheel Arora, M.A.Sc., P.Eng., CEO, (782) 414-6628



Financial Policy and Procedures Manual

Board Approved: November 6, 2020

As revised: March 29, 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

**To provide safe, clean water and wastewater
in all participating First Nations communities in Atlantic Canada,
delivered by a regional water authority owned and operated by First Nations.**

AMENDMENTS

These guidelines may be amended from time to time as required by the AFNWA management and the Audit & Finance Committee to evaluate the need for additional changes as issues arise or circumstances suggest better practices. Any proposed changes must be presented to the Audit & Finance Committee for approval. The policy is then sent to the AFNWA Board for final approval.

1.0 Financial Management Policy

1.1 Objectives

- (a) The Atlantic First Nations Water Authority (AFNWA) was incorporated on July 18, 2018 as a non-profit organization under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act.
- (b) The AFNWA shall pursue its objectives, as described in the Corporate By-laws and within the AFNWA funding agreements.
- (c) All Financial Records and financial and management control shall be established and maintained in such a manner as to provide reasonable assurance that:
 - Assets are safeguarded, accounted for and controlled;
 - The transactions of the AFNWA are in accordance with the bylaws; and,
 - The financial, human and physical resources of the AFNWA are managed economically and efficiently, and the operations of the AFNWA are carried out effectively.
- (d) The AFNWA financial policy provides the framework within which the AFNWA's financial guidelines and procedures are established. The policies set out the parameters within which business transactions in the AFNWA are made.

1.2 Roles and Responsibilities

- (a) The AFNWA Board, in its responsibility for the delivery of the utility's mandate, is accountable for all of the AFNWA financial obligations.
- (b) The Audit and Finance Committee shall be accountable to the AFNWA on all financial matters to ensure that activities carried out are consistent with the financial and accounting policies, authorities and guidelines as established by the AFNWA Board. (see Annex A)
- (c) The Treasurer of the AFNWA shall carry out the duties as outlined in the AFNWA Bylaws and Terms of Reference. The Chief Executive Officer shall be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the AFNWA Finance Policy and shall be an Ex-Officio member of the Audit and Finance Committee.
- (d) The Manager of Corporate Services shall be an Ex-Officio member of the Audit and Finance Committee. The Manager of Corporate Services shall be responsible and accountable to the CEO for ensuring that activities carried out are consistent with the financial and accounting policies, authorities, guidelines, practices and procedures as established by the Audit and Finance Committee.
- (e) Annual budgets submitted to the AFNWA Board shall be reviewed by the Manager of Corporate Services and the CEO and approved by the Audit and Finance Committee before submission.

1.3 Legal and Financial Framework

- (a) The Legal and Financial Framework shall comprise the financial structure of AFNWA, its legal authorities as provided by law, and financial authorities.
- (b) The financial activities of the AFNWA shall be grouped into operations and capital accounts based on generally accepted accounting principles and utility best practices, and in accordance with Canadian Not for Profit Accounting Standards.
- (c) Legal Authorities shall primarily comprise the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, articles of incorporation and Bylaws.
- (d) The financial authorities shall comprise the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act and the approved AFNWA annual budget and business plans.

1.4 Managerial Authorities

- (a) The Financial Policy and Procedures Manual provide the framework within which the AFNWA financial guidelines and processes are established. The policy sets out the parameters within which business transactions in the AFNWA are made.
- (b) Cheque signing, banking and document resolutions shall represent those authorities delegated by the AFNWA Board to Officers and Employees of the AFNWA to carry out and execute business transactions.
- (c) The Financial Procedures that follow shall set out the various guidelines and processes in the area of financial management and administration and shall be consistent with financial policy and directives.

1.5 Financial Year

The AFNWA fiscal year-end shall be the 12 months ending March 31st.

1.6 Business Plans and Budgets

- (a) The AFNWA shall prepare business plans and budgets in accordance with the framework established.
- (b) The AFNWA shall prepare annually the following documents on a corporate-wide basis:
 - AFNWA Business Plan,
 - Operating Budget; and,
 - Capital Budget
- (c) All business plans and budgets shall display activities in accordance with the AFNWA Legal and Financial Framework.
- (d) The AFNWA shall establish and maintain a process to ensure that business plans and budgets are:
 - Prepared in accordance with the AFNWA planning and resource allocation process;

- Consistent with the AFNWA governance manual and Bylaws;
- Consistent with the AFNWA classification of accounts;
- Consistent with financial policy and procedures manual
- Prepared on the basis of approved performance standards;
- Based on plausible assumptions;
- Internally consistent;
- Prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; and,
- Clearly assigned for preparation and approval.

1.7 Budget Administration

- (a) No commitment shall be made until annual budgets are approved by the AFNWA Board.
- (b) The Manager of Corporate Services shall maintain records to ensure that approved budget limits are not exceeded without a documented explanation and approval.
- (c) The Manager of each Department shall review actual expenditures against budget and shall analyze variances and the CEO shall take appropriate remedial action, where required.

1.8 Classification of Transactions

The Manager of Corporate Services shall identify transactions to facilitate the display of aggregate financial data:

- On the basis of the AFNWA financial responsibility codes or cost centers; and,
- According to the AFNWA accounting structure classification of accounts.

1.9 Banking and Cash Management

- (a) The AFNWA Board, based on a recommendation from the Audit and Finance Committee, shall determine the specific provisions respecting the AFNWA banking arrangements.
- (b) The Audit and Finance Committee shall assess the cost and quality of its banking services relative to other banks, periodically at the Committee's discretion.
- (c) The CEO and the Manager of Corporate Services shall manage its cash economically and efficiently and shall seek to maximize the return on its temporary surplus funds.

1.10 Signing Authorities

- (a) The financial authorities assigned to the AFNWA Officers are approved by the AFNWA Board.
- (b) The Manager of Corporate Services shall maintain a list of Signing Authorities on behalf of the CEO, as approved by the Audit and Finance Committee, on behalf of the AFNWA Board.
- (c) Signing authorities shall be exercised only:
 - Within the area of delegated authority;
 - In accordance with the AFNWA financial policies and guidelines; and,

- To the extent that budget funds are available.
- (d) Financial obligations on behalf of the AFNWA shall not be entered into unless there is authority to do so.
- (e) Proposed commitments shall not be purposely parceled or divided in order that the authorized level of consideration is not exceeded.
- (f) Financial Signing Authorities shall be delegated in such a way as to ensure an appropriate division of responsibility in the disbursement process.

1.11 Execution of Instrument

- (a) The AFNWA Board may establish alternative signing authorities, if necessary, for corporate documents provided it is authorized by resolution as stipulated in the governance manual or Bylaws.
- (b) The seal of AFNWA, where required to be applied to any instrument in writing, shall be affixed by or on behalf of AFNWA, as contained in the Bylaws.

1.12 Financial Management Control Systems

The financial information systems of AFNWA shall support financial reporting requirements and will include controls to ensure that the information is complete, accurate, and properly authorized.

1.13 General Accounting Policies

- (a) For the purposes of its annual audited financial statements (year end March 31st), AFNWA shall establish accounting policies consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for control of revenues and expenses.
- (b) The AFNWA shall follow GAAP or, in certain cases, accounting policies appropriate to the AFNWA activities and in accordance with the Canadian Not for Profit Accounting Standards.
- (c) The external auditors shall be confirmed by the Audit and Finance Committee, on the behalf of the AFNWA Board, annually at the time of approval of the audited financial statements. The Audit and Finance Committee will also provide an adequate venue for dealing with auditing issues as reported through the annual audit exercise.

1.14 Accounting and Control of Expenditures

- (a) AFNWA shall establish and maintain adequate controls to ensure that expenditures are made in settlement of authorized commitments.
- (b) AFNWA shall establish and maintain a system of recording expenditures in a timely and accurate fashion.
- (c) In accounting for expenditures, AFNWA shall ensure that rules are established to ensure full disclosure.

1.15 Accounting and Control of Revenues and Accounts Receivables

- (a) AFNWA shall establish and maintain adequate controls to ensure that the revenue due to the AFNWA is recorded and collected on a timely basis.
- (b) AFNWA shall establish and maintain controls to ensure that no amounts receivable are removed from the records without the appropriate authority.
- (c) A reconciliation which compares Funding Agreements, Grants and all other funding sources to revenue received or receivable is to be provided as part of the quarterly reports.

1.16 Asset Administration and Insurance Policies

The CEO or delegate shall be responsible to maintain an updated list of ‘portable’ assets such as laptops, cell phones and ensure that these assets are returned, in good working condition, prior to an employee leaving AFNWA.

The CEO shall ensure AFNWA purchases adequate insurance coverage/policies for all its officers and assets and such policies are to be reviewed annually, prior to renewal.

1.16.1 Capitalization

AFNWA shall treat as capital assets any assets for which the AFNWA has title with an expected useful life beyond one (1) year; together with any expenditure relating to the alteration, modernization of such asset which appreciably prolongs that item’s period of usefulness, increases its value, or improves its utility to the AFNWA. A capital asset, to be classified as such, must meet the following criteria:

- A useful life in excess of one (1) year, AND
- A per item cost in excess of \$5,000.

1.16.2 Leases

The classification and accounting for leases shall reflect the economic substance of the lease transaction, in accordance with General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP):

- A lease that transfers substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership of the leased property to AFNWA shall be accounted for as a capital lease; and,
- A lease where the benefits and risks of ownership of the leased property are substantially retained by the Leaser shall be accounted for as an operating lease.

1.16.3 Amortization of Capital Assets

AFNWA shall provide for amortization as follows:

- All assets shall be depreciated in accordance with Canadian Not for Profit standards.
- All assets directly associated with water and wastewater infrastructure to be depreciated in accordance with the Asset Management Framework, as amended from time to time.

1.16.4 Write-offs

Where assets become obsolete or worthless, or are lost to AFNWA, they shall be written-off in accordance with approved processes and authorities.

1.16.5 Disposal

AFNWA shall dispose of assets, in accordance with AFNWA Procurement Policy, as amended from time to time.

1.16.6 Accountability

The security and safekeeping of AFNWA assets, utilized in carrying out the business operations of AFNWA, is the responsibility of the Employee so charged, for those particular assets. Each Employee is fully accountable to secure against risk or damage to those assets under his/her control.

1.17 Internal Management Reports

- (a) The Manager of Corporate Services shall maintain internal management reporting systems that provide Management with the financial reports that are relevant, simple, timely, accurate, current and consistent.
- (b) AFNWA internal reports shall provide AFNWA Management with a full range of information to provide a basis for decision making in respect to promote business-like operations and productivity.
- (c) Internal financial reports will show expenses compared to budgets in order to provide management with information which will assist in the assessment of performance standards and the attainment of goals.

1.18 External Financial Reporting

- (a) External financial reporting is prepared by AFNWA in a format that shall portray its financial activities in a clear and comprehensive manner consistent with funding agreement requirements.
- (b) The principal external reports are the annual financial statements and summaries.
- (c) In its annual report, AFNWA shall acknowledge its responsibility for establishing and maintaining a system of records, internal controls and management practices to provide assurance that reliable financial information is produced and that assets are safeguarded and controlled.
- (d) The Audit and Finance Committee shall recommend to the AFNWA Board the appointment of the external auditor in conjunction with the approval of the annual financial statements.
- (e) The Audit and Finance Committee shall oversee the Audit process:
 - Communicate and meet with the external auditor;
 - Assess the AFNWA accounting policies and ensure that the policies are consistent in letter and spirit;

- Review the financial statements and submit a report that will assist the AFNWA in the approval of the financial statements; and
- The Manager of Corporate Services will present the financial statements at the Annual General Meeting.

1.19 External Performance Reporting

AFNWA shall incorporate key financial indicators of performance and report these in its Annual Report.

2.0 Instrument of Financial Signing Authorities Policies

2.1 Objectives

- (a) To prescribe policies and guidelines governing the exercise of Financial Signing Authority by the AFNWA Board and Employees.
- (b) To set out the authorities and processes underlying the delegation, approval, recommendation and control of activities involved in the exercising of Financial Signing Authorities.

2.2 Policies

- (a) The AFNWA Board shall formally identify all positions to which delegations of authority are made and the limitations imposed on the exercise of these for all financial activities of AFNWA.
- (b) There shall be three levels of Financial Signing Authority: approval, authorization, and recommendation authority.
- (c) The Audit and Finance Committee shall recommend the authorities to the AFNWA Board.
- (d) The Manager of Corporate Services shall maintain the delegation of authority, on behalf of the CEO.
- (e) Authorities approved by the AFNWA Board shall not be re-delegated. If re-delegation is required, new signing authorities shall be put in place.
- (f) Designated AFNWA employees shall discharge all assigned functions in accordance with the financial authorities formally assigned to them as reflected in the documents for signing authority.
- (g) The authorities delegated by the AFNWA shall only be exercised in accordance with the following principles:
 - Within the area of responsibility of the delegated position;
 - Within the AFNWA financial policies and guidelines; and,
 - To the extent that budget funds are available.

- (h) Financial obligations on behalf of AFNWA that extend beyond a 12-month period or that represent a material future commitment (IE: greater than \$50,000 in most cases) shall not be entered into unless the authority to do so is expressly approved by the CEO.
- (i) Proposed commitments shall not be purposely parceled or divided in order that the authorized level of consideration is not exceeded.

2.3 Amendments and Signing Authority

- (a) Amendments to Signing Authorities shall be made by a motion of the Audit and Finance Committee.
- (b) The Signing Authority Card is required to validate Financial Signing Authorities to incumbents of all positions to which Financial Signing Authorities have been delegated, as documented by the validation of signing authority. This document is acquired from AFNWA's Banking Institution.
- (c) The Manager of Corporate Services, or other such delegate from the Finance Office, shall verify adequacy of Spending Authority and authenticate signatures prior to recommending for Payment Authority.

2.4 Acting Grants of Financial Signing Authority

Acting Grants of Financial Signing Authority shall be made in the following special circumstances only such as absences due to illness, travel or vacation. Acting Grants must be initialized in writing and contain an expiry date. Acting Grants must be copied to the Finance Office.

Finance Office to provide all documents signed using an Acting Grant to the regular Signing Authorities for review upon return.

2.5 Restrictions on Financial Signing

- (a) No person shall be permitted to exercise the authority granted to a position on an acting basis, unless designated to act by virtue of an Acting Grant of Financial Signing Authority.
- (b) Signing Authority can be revoked at any time, upon written direction from the CEO to the Finance Office.
- (c) No AFNWA Employee or Board member shall exercise any element of Financial Signing Authority in connection with any payment from which they can personally benefit or in respect of which he is in conflict of interest. AFNWA has established a Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy for its employees and Board members, copies of this policy are available from the Manager of Corporate Services. All Employees and Board members shall agree to abide by this policy.

2.6 Internal Control

- (a) Financial Signing Authorities shall be delegated in accordance with an appropriate division of duties and responsibilities commensurate with good internal financial control.
- (b) Spending Authority and Payment Authority shall not be exercised by the same person in respect of a particular payment.

- (c) The Commitment stage of spending authority is the stage at which authority to incur financial obligations on behalf of AFNWA is exercised. In exercising this authority, the CEO shall ensure that commitments are made only within approved budget and for amounts earmarked.
- (d) The Approval for Payment stage of spending authority which entails approving the charge for payment once the initial commitment has been made and the goods received or services performed, shall only be exercised upon establishing that the transaction represents a valid and proper claim on AFNWA funds, and the claim is in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract and the funding agreement (where applicable).
- (e) Payment Authority is the authority to requisition payments after reviewing their legality and exercising all appropriate financial controls. Responsibility for the adherence and the enforcement of the financial controls rests with the Manager of Corporate Services, but primary responsibility for the verification of individual accounts rests with those who are delegated Spending Authority.
- (f) Payment Authority shall be delegated to the Finance Office.

2.7 Authorities

- (a) The AFNWA Board approves the Signing Authorities and Amendments, as recommended by the Audit and Finance Committee.
- (b) The Manager of Corporate Services:
 - Distributes copies of the approved amendments and validations of Delegation to the impacted parties or other designated staff.
 - Updates the signing authorities for all approved amendments and additions.
 - Obtains all necessary documentation to coordinate with all relevant Financial Institutions for the addition or deletion of Signing Authorities.
 - Maintains, and regularly reviews, list of all Signing Authorities with all relevant financial institutions.

3.0 Financial Authorization Policy

3.1 Objectives

- (a) To set out objectives, policies, authorities and processes for ensuring systematic, efficient, timely and quality provision of Financial Authorization to documents prior to submission to the AFNWA Board.
- (b) To provide policies for assessing documents requiring Financial Authorization to ensure conformity with AFNWA approved legal and financial framework, Financial Management Policies, Instrument of Delegation of Financial Signing Policies, and General Accounting Policies and Authorities.

3.2 Policies

- (a) The following represent the general criteria which apply to all documents subject to review for Financial Authorization:
 - Adherence to AFNWA Bylaws and Corporate Governance Manual;
 - Conformity with the Legal and Financial Framework;
 - Conformity with established corporate financial policy;
 - Adherence to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable; and,
 - Adherence to principles of sound financial management.
- (b) Financial Authorization shall principally relate to the accuracy and completeness of financial management information.
- (c) The following are submissions that require Financial Authorization:
 - Commitments or initiatives that exceed incumbent financial authorities as contained in the Instrument of Financial Signing Authorities;
 - Changes to Compensation Policy
 - Changes to Human Resources policies;
 - Business Plans;
 - Capital expenditure proposals greater than \$250,000 if the item was identified and approved within the Annual Capital Budget;
 - Any expenditure or financial commitment greater than \$100,000 if the item was not previously identified in the Annual Capital or Operating Budget;
 - Changes to AFNWA Travel Expense Policy and Rates;
 - Changes to risk management policies; and
 - Borrowing initiatives.
- (d) The required contents of “Budget and Financial Implications” section or module regarding submissions are as follows:
 - Financial information and data provisions;
 - Documentation/calculations to support financial information and data;
 - Consideration of adherence to funding or regulatory constraints of a financial nature;
 - The adequacy of authorized budgets, including staff requirements; and
 - Forecast of future financial commitments implied by proposals of an ongoing nature.

- (e) Documents submitted for Financial Authorization shall be reviewed using the following specific criteria in addition to the general criteria in order to ensure consistency throughout AFNWA:
 - Adherence to the financial planning and budgeting process;
 - Adequacy of authorized budgets; and
 - Full exploration of cash flow implications related to new activities.
- (f) All Submissions shall include a section entitled “Budget and Financial Implications”.
- (g) The Manager of Corporate Services shall review and approve them for adherence to required contents of the “Budget and Financial Implications” section or module.
- (h) Where the Manager of Corporate Services determines that there are no financial or budgetary implications requiring Financial Authorization, a statement to that effect shall be included in the “Budget and Financial Implications” section or module of the submission.
- (i) Financial Authorization shall be provided by the AFNWA Board, following review by the CEO for all AFNWA Contracts over \$250,000.00.
- (j) Submissions requesting additional resources greater than 10% of the approved budget subcategory (For clarity, subcategory refers to; one of the twelve (12) subcategories of the Operations budget, or individual capital projects in the Capital budget), and not less than \$50,000, shall be submitted to the AFNWA Board for approval.
- (k) For those submissions involving policy changes, the Financial Authorization provided by the CEO shall relate to the accuracy and completeness of the presentation and to any financial impact, current or foreseen, as contained in the submission as a whole.

4.0 General Accounting Policies & Authorities

4.1 Objective

- (a) To prescribe the accounting policy covering AFNWA financial accounting activities.
- (b) To prescribe policies and guidelines for the delegation and approval of cheque signing authorities. To set out the cheque signing authorities and processes in accordance with an appropriate division of duties and responsibilities commensurate with good internal financial control.

4.2 Financial Signing

- (a) The Financial Signing Authorities, as assigned by the AFNWA Board to the CEO, are delegated as documented in the Instrument of Delegation of Financial Signing Authorities.
- (b) Financial Signing Authorities shall be delegated in such a way as to ensure an appropriate segregation of responsibilities in the disbursements and collection of AFNWA funds.
- (c) Cheque/Payment signing authorities assigned to Employees of the AFNWA shall not exceed their Financial Signing Authorities.
- (d) For any payments or banking documents under \$250,000, any two of the following shall have authority to sign for AFNWA:

- Chief Executive Officer;
 - Manager of Corporate Services;
 - Manager of Engineering;
 - Manager of Operations;
 - Chief Operating Officer
 - Board Executive members.
- (e) Payments and banking (borrowing) documents over \$250,000 and any other legal documents, such as contracts, shall be executed by one Board Executive member (Chair or Vice-Chair) and either the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer or Manager of Corporate Services.
- (f) The Directors of the AFNWA are the Board members.
- (g) The Officers of AFNWA are the Chair, Vice-Chair, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Secretary and the Treasurer.

4.3 Cheque Signing Authorities Procedure

4.3.1 Policies

- (a) The AFNWA Board, in accordance with the General Banking Resolution, may from time to time by resolution designate signing officers who shall be authorized to sign cheques/electronic payments drawn on AFNWA's bank accounts.
- (b) The Manager of Corporate Services, with written permission of the CEO, may remove officers designated to sign cheques/electronic payments drawn on AFNWA bank accounts, immediately providing written notification to the Audit and Finance Committee advising rationale for the removal.
- (c) All cheques, automatic debit authorizations, acceptances, drafts, orders including orders made electronically shall be signed, endorsed or otherwise made by any of the two persons noted in Section 4.2 (d).
- (d) The signatories shall be knowledgeable of sound financial management and internal controls.

4.3.2 Internal Control

- (a) Cheque signing and Payment Authorities may be exercised by the same person. However, cheque signing, and Spending Authorities may not be exercised by the same person, to ensure that an independent verification of the transaction is made.
- (b) Cheque signatories shall be accountable for the disbursement of funds as a result of the issue of cheques under their signatures.
- (c) Cheque signatories shall ensure that the responsibilities and processes associated with Spending and Payment Authorities have been duly carried out by authorized personnel.

4.4 Accounting and Financial Control

- (a) All Spending Authority rests with, and at the discretion of the CEO;
- (b) Any Delegation of the Spending Authority by the CEO shall be done in writing.

- (c) AFNWA shall establish and maintain adequate controls and a system of recording expenditures to ensure they are for authorized purposes and processed in a timely and accurate fashion.
- (d) AFNWA shall incur expenditures only when both legal and financial authorities have been obtained to do so.
- (e) In cases where expenditures are incurred as a result of negligence, the CEO shall determine the method of recovery.
- (f) All money disbursed by cheque/electronic payment is charged to a central bank account(s) as authorized.
- (g) Under no circumstance will there be any “pre-signed” cheques or cheques signed with no payee listed and no supporting documentation.
- (h) Blank cheques or manual cheques will only be used in emergency situations or for instances where there is no access to the accounting information system.
- (i) Blank/manual cheques are kept under lock and key under the control of the Manager of Corporate Services.
- (j) Adequate controls must be in place to ensure complete and accurate reporting of all disbursements made.
- (k) All cheque disbursements are to be made on serially numbered cheques.
- (l) Authorization for the addition of, or amendment to, banking information for vendors for the purpose of disbursing funds electronically is restricted to the Manager of Corporate Services or others delegated by the Manager of Corporate Services. The finance office should obtain regular statement of accounts from all regular or material vendors being paid by electronic funds.
- (m) Each authorized cheque signing officer shall verify that review and approval has been given and is satisfied that the supporting documentation has been correctly prepared and approved at the time of affixing his/her signature.
- (n) Financial control requires an appropriate division of responsibilities so that the work of one employee independently checks the work of another.
- (o) Adequate procedures shall be established and maintained by the Manager of Corporate Services for the verification of accounts before payment is made. As a minimum these shall include:
 - That the work has been performed, the goods supplied, or the service rendered, as the case may be, and that the price charged is according to contract, or if not specified by contract, is reasonable;
 - That supplies and services are in accordance with contract specifications and that all the terms and conditions of the contract have been met;
 - That, where a payment is to be made before the completion of the work, delivery of the goods or rendering of the service, as the case may be, such payment is specifically provided for in the contract;
 - That applicable discounts have been deducted, that charges not payable have been eliminated and that the computation of the amount payable is correct;
 - That the account has not previously been paid in whole or in part;
 - That the proper expenditure coding is identified in the requisition; and,

- That any other procedures necessary in relation to the payment are carried out.
- (p) Adequate controls shall be established and maintained to ensure that the revenue due to AFNWA is recorded and collected on a timely basis.
- (q) Controls shall be established and maintained to ensure that no amounts receivable are removed from the records without the appropriate authority.
- (r) Cheques for purpose of reimbursement of Travel to First Nations or Organizations' Employees shall be written out to the First Nation Community/Organization which the person(s) represent, exceptions require CEO written approval.

4.5 Banking Arrangements

- (a) Funds received must be recorded daily and must be deposited to AFNWA bank account as soon as possible. Cash, cheques or deposits may be kept overnight in a locked fireproof safe or cabinet. Access to the safe is restricted to the CEO and Manager of Corporate Services, and others as delegated by the CEO in writing.
- (b) Receipt of daily mail containing cheques and other negotiable instruments must be recorded immediately and distributed promptly to the Manager of Corporate Services so that deposits are completed on a weekly basis whenever possible.
- (c) Complete detailed records must be maintained to ensure that receipts can be traced to provide adequate information and to ensure that all receipts are properly credited to the relevant accounts.
- (d) The Manager of Corporate Services will prepare and record bank deposits, maintaining records of incoming funds and accompanying deposit receipts or payment notifications as in the case of electronic funds transfers.

4.6 Accounts Receivable

- (a) The Manager of Corporate Services will ensure that all invoicing be done as soon as possible, after the project is completed or based on the funding agreement requirements.
- (b) A reconciliation of Funding Agreements should be reviewed monthly by the Manager of Corporate Services and summarized in the quarterly reports delivered to the Audit and Finance Committee.

4.7 Year-End Accounting

- (a) Every effort shall be made to obtain invoices, statements, contracts or other documents claiming payment, so that arrangements may be made for payment of all amounts owing by AFNWA at each quarter-end.
- (b) All vendors shall be required to submit progress claims for all work performed to the last day of the quarter.
- (c) Quarterly accrued liabilities shall be established for unpaid debts, only where, at quarter-end, the following are met, that:
 - The work has been performed;
 - The goods have been received;

- The services have been rendered; or
 - The amount is owing in accordance with contractual arrangements entered into on or before March 31st;
 - The debt represents a valid and proper claim on AFNWA funds, and is in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract; and,
 - The verification of accounts has been completed.
 - Debts may be for a determinate amount, e.g. the document claiming payment has normally been received but has not yet been paid, or for an estimated amount.
- (d) Estimated debts must meet the above, and in addition, shall only be charged when:
- The debt can be individually substantiated and valued;
 - The debt can be individually identified with subsequent payments; and
 - Accrual is required under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
- (e) Spending and Payment Authority shall be, in effect, exercised twice in respect of an accrual; once when the debt is recorded by AFNWA, and once when the debt is settled.
- (f) Regular recurring services such as telephone paid for at monthly dates other than month-end shall not be accrued.
- (g) No accruals are required for amounts less than \$500.
- (h) Accrued Liability accounts shall be reviewed and reconciled monthly.

4.8 Authorities

- (a) The Manager of Corporate Services prepares and/or reviews all monthly, quarterly and annual reports for submission to the CEO.
- (b) The CEO approves all quarterly and annual reports for submission to the Audit and Finance Committee.

5.0 Procedure for General Accounting

5.1 Objective

To prescribe the accounting procedures covering AFNWA financial accounting activities.

5.2 Accounting and Control of Disbursements

5.2.1 Payment of Accounts

- (a) The Manager of Corporate Services and Finance Staff will be responsible for ensuring that requests for payments are accompanied by supporting documentation and are in accordance with budget, financial signing authorities or other specific limitations.
- (b) The Manager of Corporate Services and Finance Staff will be responsible for establishing that all relevant information is provided to ensure that accurate posting of accounts will be maintained throughout the accounting system.
- (c) The Manager of Corporate Services shall be responsible to provide monthly departmental budget updates. Each Department Manager shall be responsible for the adherence to the budget for the fiscal year and presenting any forecasted material deviations from budget to the Manager of Corporate Services and CEO for approval.
- (d) The Manager of Corporate Services reviews and approves all expenditures for payment, unless otherwise delegated through an Acting Grant.
- (e) Periodic reviews of material vendor accounts (including employee travel claims) must be completed and documented to ensure that accounts are current and that no duplicate requisitions/expense items exist.
- (f) All purchase orders, invoices, and payments stubs must be maintained in a shared database, with access restricted to relevant staff, with an identified data continuity strategy. The database must be organized in such a way that all relevant documents can be easily located.

5.2.2 Supporting Documentation

- (a) The Manager of Corporate Services will be responsible for ensuring that all original invoices and associated Spending Authority payment form (IE: Purchase Order, Service Contract Payment Form) are accurate, complete, and stored in the database.
- (b) Aged Vendor listings must be reviewed weekly. At all times, payment information must be recorded and reviewed for accuracy within the accounts payable system.
- (c) The Finance Staff will examine all invoices or financial claims to ensure that all discounts have been claimed and that payments are scheduled to conform to the terms of payment as set out on the invoice or as previously agreed to with the supplier.
- (d) Only AFNWA Employees with Spending Authority shall have the authority to request a Purchase Order from the Finance Office.

- (e) The Finance Staff will be responsible for ensuring that the Purchase Orders are attached to all invoices. Purchase Orders are required for all expenses, with the exception of those noted below:
- Recurring overhead expenses (e.g. Utilities, cellphone, internet, garbage/snow removal, security), in which case a detailed list of pre-approved vendors is to be maintained and reviewed quarterly.
 - Contract payments – in which case, a detailed invoice and status report(s) are to be reviewed and approved by the CEO and Manager responsible for the project (if applicable) prior to payment issuance.
 - Employee Travel Claims, in which case a travel claim form is to be signed by the employee and approved by a manager.
 - Workshop Participant Travel Claim signed by the participant and approved by the hosting manager of the workshop.
 - Items paid by Credit Card do not require a Purchase Order. Refer to Appendix ANNEX B for details regarding credit card payments.
- (f) The Finance Staff will be responsible for coding invoices that have no purchase orders and for following up with Departments on variances between purchase order and invoice amounts. For invoices that require detailed review and recommendation for payment by senior staff, proper documentation will be completed to ensure proper coding and an approval by the relevant Spending Authority.
- (g) The Finance Staff will be responsible for proper filing of support documentation and matching of Purchase Orders to invoices received. Purchase Orders will be held in a file until the approved invoice is received. It is then attached to the invoice as part of supporting documentation. Outstanding Purchase Orders with no associated invoice shall be reviewed monthly by the Finance Office.

5.2.3 Preparation of Cheque/Electronic Payment

The Finance Office will coordinate:

- Obtaining signatures by two authorized signing officers in accordance with the Financial Signing Authorities, on all cheques and electronic fund remittances.
- Mailing original Cheques to the payee, stubs shall be filed in sequential order.
- Emailing payment remittance notification to the payee, signed direct deposit logs shall be filed sequentially.

5.2.4 Cheque Cancellations/ Electronic Fund Transfer Recalls

- (a) Where a cheque is cancelled before issuance, the Finance Office shall stamp the original and the copies Voided. The original and copies shall be filed sequentially in the system. Similarly, where an EFT is cancelled before it is uploaded to the Bank, the payment is to be corrected in the accounting system and a corrected Direct Deposit Log is to be created.
- (b) Where a cheque is cancelled or lost after issuance to the Payee, the Finance Staff shall immediately issue a stop payment at the bank following the appropriate procedures as directed by the bank. Similarly where an EFT needs to be cancelled, the Finance Staff shall immediately recall the payment following the appropriate procedures as directed by the bank.

- (c) The replacement payment shall not be issued until confirmation from the bank is received that the stop payment is in effect or the EFT has been successfully recalled, as applicable.
- (d) The Manager of Corporate Services is to confirm that the payment cancellation is accurately recorded in the accounting system, with appropriately detailed notes, and arrangements for replacement payment is made.

5.2.5 Outstanding and Stale Dated Cheques

The Manager of Corporate Services will review the monthly list of outstanding cheques. All cheques outstanding for more than six (6) months should be reversed. A replacement cheque or replacement payment will be reissued where it is deemed necessary.

5.3 Staff Travel

5.3.1 Purpose and scope

The purpose of this directive is to ensure fair treatment of all parties travelling on AFNWA business. The provisions contained in this directive are mandatory and provide for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses necessarily incurred while traveling on AFNWA business and to ensure individuals are not out-of-pocket. These provisions do not constitute income or other compensation that would open the way for personal gain.

This directive applies to all AFNWA employees, Board members or affiliates traveling on AFNWA business.

5.3.2 Administration

AFNWA has the responsibility to authorize and determine when business travel is necessary, and to ensure that all travel arrangements are consistent with the provisions of this Directive.

Following consultation between AFNWA and the employee, Board member, or affiliate, the determination of travel arrangements shall best accommodate the individual's needs and interests, and AFNWA's operational requirements.

Business travel shall be authorized in advance in writing to ensure all travel arrangements are in compliance with the provisions of this directive. In special or emergency circumstances, travel shall be post authorized by AFNWA. Such situations shall be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Expenses resulting from misinterpretations or mistakes are not a basis for reimbursement or non-reimbursement. However, such situations shall be reviewed on a case by case basis.

5.3.2 Loyalty programs

Provided that there are no additional costs to AFNWA, employees and Board members traveling on business can join loyalty programs and retain benefits offered by the travel industry for business or personal use.

5.3.3 Overpayments

Overpayments, namely amounts reimbursed or paid to travelers, which are not in accordance with the terms of this directive, shall be recovered from the traveler as a debt owing to AFNWA.

5.3.4 Receipts

Where the traveler certifies that the receipt was lost, accidentally destroyed or unobtainable, a personal declaration may replace the receipt.

5.3.5 Responsibilities

The Finance Office shall:

- (a) establish the proper delegation framework to comply with this Directive;
- (b) ensure that this directive is available at the employee's normal workplace during the employee's working hours;
- (c) in consultation with the employee and responsible Manager,
 - i. determine whether travel is necessary;
 - ii. ensure that travel arrangements are consistent with the provisions of this directive; and
 - iii. ensure that accommodation of needs is provided to the point of undue hardship.
- (d) authorize travel;
- (e) verify and approve travel expense claims before reimbursement;
- (f) The AFNWA Chair or Vice-Chair must approve and sign off on the Travel Claim for AFNWA Board members and the CEO for any payment being processed. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be looking to ensure that expenses are reasonable, all appropriate documentation is attached, the standard rates have been used and expenses are claimed within the required timeframe; and

The traveler shall:

- (a) become familiar with the provisions of this directive;
- (b) consult and obtain authorization to travel in accordance with the directive;
- (c) complete and submit travel expense claims with necessary supporting documentation as soon as possible after the completion of the travel. In travel situations exceeding one month, the traveler may submit interim travel expense claims prior to the completion of the travel; and
- (d) be responsible for canceling reservations as required, safeguarding travel advances and funds provided, and making outstanding remittances promptly.

5.3.6 Travel advances

Employees, Board members, and other affiliates on business travel for AFNWA shall be provided with a travel advance to cover travel expenses where services and products are not prepaid or cannot be paid with an individual designated travel card or at the Manager of Corporate Services' discretion when travel is expected to be for an extended period.

- (a) Travel advances for travel and other expenses incurred when conducting AFNWA business should be issued not more than one week before the trip or planned expenditure. Requests

for advances must be approved by the CEO in the case of Department Managers, Department Manager in the case of employees and the Chair or Vice-Chair, in the case of Board members and CEO. Employee and Board member travel advances and expenses will be issued in accordance with Appendix A (Approved Travel Rates), and the amount of the travel advance shall not exceed 90% of the anticipated travel expenses.

- (b) Travel advances for travel and other expenses incurred when conducting AFNWA business are intended to regulate and minimize the amount of transactions relating to advances. Employees shall be required to sign for the indebtedness on the Travel Advance form (**Annex G – AFNWA Employee Indebtedness Form**) indicating they have received the advance funds and that they are responsible for ensuring that all travel expenses are accounted for with the full amount of the travel advance deducted with the new travel expense form submission (**see Annex F – AFNWA Employee Travel Advance Form & Annex H – AFNWA Employee Travel Claim Form**).
- (c) Travel advances for travel and other expenses incurred when conducting AFNWA business may be granted for the following:
 - i. Meals and incidentals;
 - ii. Car rentals, taxis, accommodations and other AFNWA approved travel related expenses; and,
 - iii. Out-of-town travel by car is allowed at (per kilometer) rates established by the AFNWA. In some circumstances, a rented car with unlimited kilometers may be more economical than use of a personal vehicle. In any case, the most economical method of transportation shall always be used.
- (d) The Employee, Board member, or other affiliate must submit an expense claim by the end of each month. If the amount of the advance was higher than the actual expenditures, the Employee must attach a cheque for the full balance of the outstanding amount.
- (e) Travel advances will be coded to the respective Employee accounts payable subledger account as “travel advance receivable” for each employee, or person who travel on the behalf of the AFNWA (if applicable).
- (f) The expense claim form shall form the basis for the processing of a journal entry for reallocating the advance to the appropriate general ledger accounts.
- (g) Excess funds are to be returned within one week (at the latest) following the completion of the trip.
- (h) The Manager of Corporate Services will follow up on all outstanding employee advances on a monthly basis and report any outstanding amounts to the CEO for employees and the Chair and Vice-Chair for Board members for their information and appropriate action.
- (i) The CEO shall confirm a repayment schedule for any outstanding charges for employees and the Chair or Vice-Chair for any Board members.
- (j) The Manager of Corporate Services will process a request for a reimbursement with a cheque or a signed ‘Acknowledgement of Indebtedness’ form to the Employee or Board member, where the approved expenses exceed the travel advance.

5.3.7 Travel forms

AFNWA approved travel forms shall be used in seeking business travel authority and submitting travel claims with the supporting documentation where necessary.

The Employee must, at a minimum, submit their travel expense claim(s) by the end of each month.

5.3.8 Vehicle Insurance

Refer to the AFNWA Fleet Management Policy (available from the Finance Office) for vehicle insurance requirements for rented vehicles as well as the use of personal vehicles while traveling for AFNWA business.

5.3.9 Additional business expenses

As the business of AFNWA broadens so does the need to travel outside of Canada. Therefore, to ensure AFNWA employees, Board members, and other affiliates are properly compensated for travel; expenses for hotels, meals and taxis will be reimbursed using the relevant Exchange Rate for the date of purchase. Receipts for all such purchases, except for meals which will have the base rate of the AFNWA allowable meal rates; will be required. Regarding transportation, the same rules apply as for transportation mentioned in Section 5.3.10.

The Employee, Board member, or other affiliate shall also be reimbursed business expenses not otherwise covered. This includes things such as administrative services, internet connections, rental and transportation of necessary office equipment and transportation of required personal effects. If the travelling individual has an AFNWA issued cellphone, they shall contact the Finance Office in advance of their travel to arrange for international access to networks.

In order to be reimbursed for any of the above expenses, with the exception of meals as they are per the AFNWA rates; employees must have written approval from their Department Manager or CEO in the case of Department Managers, prior to the expense being incurred, except in the case of an emergency. This approval must be submitted along with any other necessary documentation in order for the employee to be reimbursed.

5.3.10 Transportation

The selection of the mode of transportation shall be based on cost, duration, convenience, safety and practicality. In addition to provisions outlined in this section under commercial, vehicles and other modes of transportation, expenses associated with the selected mode of transportation such as ferries, tolls, docking fees, shall be reimbursed. Should an employee or Board member decide to travel via land rather than Air; the lesser of the two travel amounts will be reimbursable.

(a) Commercial Travel:

- i. Where commercial transportation is authorized and used, the employee or Board member shall be provided with the necessary prepaid tickets whenever possible.
- ii. Taxis, shuttles and local transportation services are alternatives for short local trips. Actual expenses shall be reimbursed, based on receipts.
- iii. The standard for air travel is economy class. Booking air travel shall be done in coordination with the Finance Office to ensure that the lowest available airfares appropriate to particular itineraries shall be sought and bookings shall be made as far in advance as possible.

(b) Vehicles

- i. The standard for rental vehicles is mid-size. Rental vehicles beyond the standard shall be authorized based upon factors such as but not limited to safety, the needs of the traveler and the bulk or weight of goods transported.
- ii. The kilometric rates payable for the use of privately-owned vehicles driven on authorized business are prescribed in **Annex F**. Travelers shall use the most direct, safe and practical road routes and shall claim only for distances necessarily driven on business travel.
- iii. Parking charges are payable when an employee is authorized to use a private vehicle on business travel, the employee shall be reimbursed the actual costs of parking provided receipts are submitted for the expense.

5.3.11 Accommodation

The standard for accommodation is a single room, in a safe environment, conveniently located and comfortably equipped.

Total cost of Hotel/Motel accommodations not to exceed \$200.00 per night taxes included within the Atlantic Provinces. Total cost of Hotel/Motel accommodation is not to exceed \$250.00 per night taxes included if traveling domestically outside of Atlantic Canada or Internationally. Any exceptions to this amount require the approval of the CEO for employees and the Chair or Vice Chair for Board members and the CEO.

Private accommodations will be paid at a rate of \$50.00 per night.

5.3.12 Incidental expense allowance

A traveler shall be paid an incidental expense allowance that covers a number of miscellaneous expenses not otherwise provided for in this directive for each overnight in travel status as per AFNWA approved travel rates (see Appendix A of Annex F).

5.3.13 Home communication

Home communication is included in the incidental expense allowance.

5.3.14 Meals

A traveler shall be paid the applicable meal allowance for each breakfast, lunch and dinner (if not provided for otherwise) while on travel status (defined as 200kms from your office), or when overnight accommodation is required.

AFNWA employees or Board members can claim meals based on the following criteria:

- (a) If they leave their residence before 6:30am they can claim breakfast;
- (b) At the end of the trip, if they arrive home later than 6:30pm directly from the event they are attending then they can claim dinner;
- (c) If the meeting or event organizer provides meals, then the AFNWA traveler cannot claim these meals on their travel claim form;
- (d) If a hotel offers a hot breakfast with the cost of the room, then the AFNWA traveler cannot claim breakfast.

- (e) Meal allowances shall be reimbursed in accordance with the AFNWA rates specified in Appendix A.

5.4 **Travel Expenses – Participants of Meetings/Workshops**

- (a) Participants of Meetings/Workshops must submit their expense claim within 30 days of the event, along with applicable receipts using the AFNWA Travel Form. **(see Annex H)**
- (b)** Travel expenses will be issued in accordance with the AFNWA **Travel Directive Policy (Annex F)**
- (c) It is the responsibility of the Department to submit the travel claims for any participants to their events.
- (d) Travel claims have to be signed off by both the participant and the Manager of the Department hosting the event.
- (e) All travel claims must have all relevant information attached to them to be processed.

5.6 **Bank Reconciliations**

- (a) A weekly summary of cash disbursements and receipts shall be prepared by the Finance Office and shall be reviewed and approved by the financial controller on a weekly basis.
- (b) The end of the month bank reconciliation shall be completed within AFNWA Accounting Software within 5 business days of the end of the month, to be reviewed/approved by the Manager of Corporate Services.
- (c) Any imbalance in the bank reconciliation shall be reported to the CEO and followed up by the Manager of Corporate Services.
- (d) The CEO will participate in a detailed bank reconciliation review on a random basis throughout the year. A detailed review will include reconciliation of outstanding cheques and deposits, review of bank statement transactions, and a review of cancelled cheques returned from the bank.

5.7 **Credit Card Reconciliations**

The following AFNWA employees are authorized to hold an AFNWA corporate credit card, subject to amendment, from time to time, by the CEO, with an updated list of authorizations to be maintained by the Manager of Corporate Services.

Position Title	Maximum Limit
CEO	15,000
COO	15,000
CFO	15,000
Manager, Operations	10,000
Manager, Engineering	10,000
Manager, Communications	5,000
Superintendent, Operations	5,000
Superintendent, Technical Services	5,000
Controller	5,000
Procurement Coordinator	5,000
Utility Techs	4,000
Supervisor	4,000
Operations Engineer	3,000
Safety & Security Coordinator	3,000
Regulatory Compliance Officer	2,000
Operators	1,000
Admin. Assistants	1,000

Any employee who is authorized to hold an AFNWA corporate credit card shall agree, in writing, to adhere to the AFNWA **Corporate Credit Card Usage Policy** by signing the AFNWA **Credit Card Agreement (see Annex B)**. Such employees must agree to the following:

- (a) To adhere to the AFNWA Travel Directive and the AFNWA policies for continued use of the credit card privilege;
- (b) The credit card is for approved specific AFNWA corporate/business related expenses only as per the policy directive. No personal charges whatsoever shall be charged on the credit card. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- (c) Diligent protection of the number and expiry date is the AFNWA employee’s responsibility.
- (d) A copy of the statement will be obtained directly by the Finance Office and scrutinized by the Manager of Corporate Services for any misuse.
- (e) The credit card reconciliation shall be completed within 5 business days of the statement date and shall comprise the following:
 - i. Matching of credit card charge with original receipt;
 - ii. Where original receipt is not applicable, verification of the expenditure;
 - iii. Employee signature representing agreement with the stated charges;
 - iv. Manager Signature representing Payment Authority for the purchases incurred during the respective month.
- (f) Any inconsistencies or unidentifiable entries in the credit card statement shall be reported to the Manager of Corporate Services immediately. If fraud is suspected, the affected credit card shall be put on suspension immediately and the Manager of Corporate Services will conduct an investigation to identify how the card details were compromised.

6.0 Policy/Procedure for Operating Budgets

6.1 Objectives

To provide guidelines and procedures for the preparation, monitoring and control of the AFNWA's Operating Budget.

6.2 Financial Management

Managers at all levels are accountable for the planning of all activities (output) within their area of responsibility, identification of resource requirements (input) in relation to plans, and performance reporting.

6.2.1 Business Plan

AFNWA Business Plan is a document outlining the critical priorities of the AFNWA, including all major activities to be undertaken within the specified year. It provides the basis for preparation of annual operating and capital budgets.

6.2.2 Division or Department Work Plans

AFNWA division or department work plans shall be prepared for the upcoming year following issuance, by the CEO consistent with Corporate Strategic Plans. The CEO will establish a deadline for draft work plans for each division or Department which will outline the achievement of objectives and outputs, and for the identification of required resources, in terms of staff- and budgets to produce stated outputs.

6.3 Operating Budget Preparation

6.3.1 General

- (a) The Operating Budget is an expression of AFNWA's Business Plan in financial terms. The Operating Budget serves three main purposes for the AFNWA:
 - i. To determine financial and other resources to carry out the Operating Plan;
 - ii. To obtain AFNWA Board approval of the resources required to meet corporate objectives; and,
 - iii. To provide a basis for financial monitoring and control.
- (b) The Operating Budget shall be prepared by the Manager of Corporate Services, in consultation with Department Managers, and forwarded to the CEO for approval prior to submission to the Board.
- (c) The Operating Budget shall provide the authority from the Board to the CEO to carry out operational activities in the upcoming year and to consume resources to achieve the objectives of AFNWA Business Plan.

- (d) Operating Budgets shall be completed annually, presented in a format with departmental and elemental breakdown readily identifiable, broken down monthly, and submitted to the CEO no later than December 31st in order to achieve Board approval on or before January 31st.
- (e) Departmental budget reports shall be available to the Department Managers monthly, within 10 business days of the month-end. Supplementary reports of material variances in budget shall be submitted to the respective manager as soon as the discrepancy is identified. Department managers shall submit, in writing to the CEO, commentary on material variances, within 5 days of receiving departmental budget.
- (f) A Quarterly Management Discussion and Analysis on budget variance shall be submitted to the CEO within 15 business days of the quarter end for onward submission and approval by the Board. Material variances shall be identified and alternative funding sources or re-allocation of resources shall be discussed in this quarterly report.

7.0 Procedure for Capital Budgets

7.1 Objectives

To provide guidelines and procedures for development of the Capital Budget.

7.2 Capital Assets

In keeping with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and the Accounting Standards for Not for Profit Organizations of materiality and consistency, the AFNWA shall treat as capital assets any items which meet the following criteria:

A useful life in excess of one year, and a per item cost of at least \$5,000.

7.3 Budget Preparation and Approval

- (a) The Manager of Engineering shall initiate and direct the preparation of the Capital Budget for submission to the CEO prior to December 31st each year.
- (b) The Manager of Engineering shall work in coordination with the Manager of Corporate Services and seek input from Departments for the preparation of the Capital Budget. The Manager of Corporate Services shall remain principally responsible for the final presentation of the Capital Budget.

7.4 Monitoring, Reporting and Control

- (a) The Manager of Engineering, in consultation with the Manager of Corporate Services, shall administer the Capital Budget during the fiscal operating year in accordance with the approved budget.
- (b) The Department Managers shall be accountable for and administer their respective allocated Capital Budget for their Divisions or Departments, including the acquisition of furniture and equipment in accordance with the approved plan.
- (c) Anticipated budget variances on capital projects are to be communicated in writing to the CEO as immediately as the overrun can reasonably be estimated, and summarized in the monthly report referenced below (7.4(h)i).

- (f) Reallocations of funds between projects, or the application of funds to new items, shall require approval of the CEO.
- (g) Transfers from operating budget to capital budget shall require the approval of the Manager of Corporate Services and the CEO.
- (h) The Manager of Engineering shall report the status of the Capital Budget to the CEO as follows:
 - i. Monthly commitments and Capital Project Budget Tracking by the fifth work day of each month; and,
 - ii. Management Discussion and Analysis on Project status (budget and timeline), to be submitted to the Manager of Corporate Services for inclusion in quarterly reports.

8.0 Classification of Accounts Procedure

8.1 **Objective**

- (a) To provide the framework for a classification of accounts designed to provide financial information necessary to manage AFNWA effectively and efficiently.
- (b) To describe the classifications and their relationships.

8.2 **Accounting Framework**

All transactions shall be posted in accordance with Accounting Standards for Not for Profit Organizations. Furthermore, AFNWA shall ensure that all transactions are associated with a department, and a funding source so that comprehensive reporting can be produced.

8.3 **Accounting Structure**

- (a) The Accounting Structure provides a breakdown of AFNWA activity.
- (b) Based on Funding Agreements and Departments, this structure will be used to provide Funders and AFNWA participating communities with reports which will indicate how funds were spent to attain organizational objectives.
- (c) The Accounting Structure shall enable the Manager of Corporate Services to plan, budget, account for, report and monitor program activities relative to approved objectives and goals.
- (d) AFNWA will allocate the costs of core administrative expenses to the appropriate operating and capital budgets.
- (e) The Accounting Structure shall provide the framework for the assignment of budget responsibility and for the identification of financial accountability.

8.4 **Authorities**

- (a) The CEO will be informed of additions, deletions and changes relating to the Accounting Structure.

- (b) The Manager of Corporate Services/Chief Financial Officer recommends additions, deletions and changes to the General Ledger Accounting Structure and Accounting Structure.
- (c) The Manager of Corporate Services/Chief Financial Officer will ensure that the accounting information system be set up to limit access or to ensure no unauthorized changes/additions/deletions of accounts/vendors/customers.
- (d) The Audit and Finance Committee will be informed of additions, deletions or changes to the Accounting Structure.

9.0 Policy/Procedure for Contracting Professional Services

9.1 **Purpose and Scope**

This policy is to establish guidelines for Employees to use when contracting for professional services and applies to all AFNWA Employees.

9.2 **Management Policy**

When contracting for professional services, the CEO must ensure that “Best Value” is obtained. Refer to the AFNWA Procurement Policy or the Finance Office for further information regarding Procurement Processes and Requests for Proposals.

9.2.1 **Capacity to Contract**

- (a) Only the CEO and one of the Officers of the Corporation may legally bind the AFNWA. Accordingly, the AFNWA Executive staff are the only employees that are authorized to draft or amend AFNWA contracts. Employees must fill out the applicable contract forms and attach appropriate written authorization and provide to the CEO.
- (b) The AFNWA Executive must ensure that two copies of the ‘Contract’ for the contractor are attached to the ‘Contractor Information/Authorization Form’. This package must be routed through proper approvals.
- (c) Every contract must have the written approval of the CEO. Should a contract be less than \$250,000.00, and previously identified and approved in the Annual Budget, the CEO has the authority to approve the contract.
- (d) If the contract is over \$250,000.00 then after the CEO gives the written approval of the contract, it is presented to the AFNWA Board for final approval.
- (e) Contracts must be authorized before the work begins. Under special circumstances, work may begin prior to a written contract based on written approval by the CEO. Where work commences before proper authorization, the responsible Department Manager must provide a letter to the CEO recommending justification on why this is required.
- (f) Each contract must have a contract number assigned by the Manager of Corporate Services.
- (g) Any amendments to existing contracts must be approved, in writing, by the CEO. Employees are required to complete the **Contract Amendment Request Form (see Annex C)**, attach appropriate authorizations and provide the same to the Legal Advisor when

deemed necessary.

9.2.2 **Sole Sourcing**

- (a) Where the total value of the contract is up to \$100,000, including amendments, the CEO may sole source to an individual or firm. Exceptions to this limit require the approval of the AFNWA Board. The CEO must ensure that he or she verify the professional daily or hourly rate for the contractor.
- (b) Resumes and references should be obtained prior to sole sourcing. Typically, two letters from another organization or government which also hired the contractor would be sufficient. Furthermore, a sole source justification must accompany the contract which states why this contractor was selected and why this is the only contractor who can perform the work.

9.2.3 **Competitive Bidding**

Refer to AFNWA Procurement Policy or Finance Office for further information regarding the competitive bidding/RFP/RFQ processes.

9.2.4 **Contract Splitting**

Contract splitting is not allowed. For purposes of this policy, contract splitting is defined as the dividing of a total contract requirement into one or more smaller contracts in order to avoid the contract authority guidelines set forth in this policy or any other financial or administrative policies of AFNWA.

9.2.5 **Employer - Contractor Relationship**

- (a) Under no circumstances may a contractor be in an Employee – Employer relationship with AFNWA. For example, a contractor may not:
 - i. have AFNWA assets (e.g. cell phone, computers, etc.);
 - ii. be provided with an office in an AFNWA premises;
 - iii. be on the AFNWA payroll;
 - iv. have their hours of work determined by an AFNWA Employee;
 - v. have a time sheet signed by an AFNWA Employee; and/or,
 - vi. be subject to the day-to-day direction of an AFNWA Employee.
- (b) Under no circumstances may a contract be entered into with an individual which would have, or could reasonably be seen to have, the effect of creating an Employer-Employee relationship with AFNWA.

9.2.6 **Professional Fees**

- (a) AFNWA will pay for Professional fees and travel expenses (with original receipts). The contract must clearly set out what AFNWA will be paying for (e.g. professional fees, travel up to a maximum amount).
- (b) Professional fees should only be paid upon receipt of a written invoice signed by the contractor and a previously agreed upon deliverable (e.g. report, activity report, etc.).

- (c) A contract advance may be provided to the contractor from 30 up to a maximum of 50 percent, of the value of the contract, depending on the circumstances. Under no circumstances may contract advance exceed 50 percent of the value of the contract. A contract advance may only be provided were the contractor is a:
 - i. sole proprietor and requires funds to commence the requested project
 - ii. universities, colleges or other educational institutions;
 - iii. small firm that requires financial assistance to commence the project.

9.2.7 **Amendments**

Contract Amendments must be properly authorized through the same procedure as outlined above. A Manager must use the '**Contract Amendment Request Form**' (see **Annex C**), available through the CEO or Manager of Corporate Services.

9.2.8 **Contract Management**

Every Manager must ensure that no payment is made in excess of the contract price. At year end, each Manager must ensure that all invoices are received by the contractor if the contract is to be charged to the old year.

Details regarding contract progress are to be included in the Quarterly Management Discussion and Analysis regarding progress, target completion dates, and anticipated total cost.

9.2.9 **Contractor Evaluation**

At the conclusion of each contract, the responsible Manager must complete an Evaluation Form, available through the Finance Office or Manager of Corporate Services. This completed form must be forwarded to the Manager of Corporate Services and made available to all other Department Managers.

9.3 **Roles and Responsibilities**

- (a) The CEO is responsible for making decisions within program budgets.
- (b) The Manager of Corporate Services is responsible for:
 - i. making decisions within program budgets; and,
 - ii. reporting instances of non-compliance to this policy to the Audit and Finance Committee.
- (c) Employees of the AFNWA are responsible for:
 - i. adherence to this policy; and
 - ii. ensuring that best value is obtained on contracts and all purchases.
- (d) A Department Manager has the responsibility to:
 - i. inform their staff of this policy for Contracting Professional Services;
 - ii. bring to the attention of the Manager of Corporate Services and CEO, any instances of noncompliance to this policy; and,

- iii. bring to the attention of the Manager of Corporate Services and CEO for decision any circumstances where there may be doubt.

Annex A

AFNWA Audit and Finance Committee

Terms of Reference

Specific Responsibilities

The Board delegates the following roles and responsibilities to the Finance & Audit Committee:

(a) Financial Statements

Delegated Committee Role	Responsibilities
<i>Review and recommend to the Board</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receipt and review of quarterly financial statements from the CFO and approval of annual audited financial statements 2. Approval of the financial content of the Annual Report 3. The appropriateness of accounting policies and financial reporting practices used by the AFNWA 4. Any significant proposed changes in financial reporting and accounting policies and practices to be adopted by the AFNWA 5. Appropriate resolution of all major financial issues 6. Approval of annual business plans developed by management, including balanced scorecard measures and targets 7. Approval of operating and capital budgets and amendments thereto
<i>Decide/approve and report to the Board</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Changes in financial and accounting disclosures to be adopted by the AFNWA; report same to the Board
<i>Monitor and report highlights to the Board</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Quarterly and annual financial performance of the AFNWA (budget year to date with variance analysis) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly reporting on operations with the level of actual to budget variance by functional area including an explanation of variances greater than 5% the functional area • Quarterly reporting on the level of actual to budget details of approved capital projects

- Annual carry forward of project budgets if required including details on unused amounts, reasons for carry-forwards and how amounts will be spent
10. Public reports on published financial statements (to the extent such releases discuss the financial position or operating results) for consistency of disclosure with the financial statements themselves
 11. Key estimates and judgments of Management that may be material to the financial reporting of the AFNWA
 12. New or pending developments in accounting and reporting standards that may affect the AFNWA

(b) Internal Controls and Risk Oversight Management

Delegated Committee Role	Responsibilities
<i>Review and recommend to the Board</i>	13. Review and recommend to the Board the approval of an enterprise risk management framework
<i>Monitor and report highlights to the Board</i>	14. Monitor and report to the Board on the effectiveness of the AFNWA enterprise risk management system through a bi-annual risk assessment 15. Monitor and report to the Board on the adequacy and effectiveness of the AFNWA internal control system and information systems through quarterly reports from the CFO 16. Reports from the CEO on any issues, events or pending matters that may affect the AFNWA’s relationship with its clients and business partners, or which place at risk the organization’s resources, reputation or achievement of its goals and objectives; report on these to the Board as the Committee considers appropriate 17. Annual overview and discussion of the inventory of AFNWA plans in place to address emergency response/business continuity issues

(c) External Audit

Delegated Committee Role	Responsibilities
<i>Review and recommend to the Board</i>	18. The appointment of an external auditor
<i>Decide/approve and report to the Board</i>	19. The terms of the annual external audit engagement plan, including but not limited to the following:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) engagement letter (ii) objectives and scope of the external audit work (iii) materiality limit set by external auditors (iv) areas of audit risk (v) staffing, and in particular, the lead audit partner and the audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit, including partner rotation (vi) timetable, and proposed fees <p>20. In advance, where the estimated fee for such services is greater than \$10,000, the non-audit services to be provided by the external auditor's firm or its affiliates (including the estimated fees) in accordance with a policy established by Management and approved by the Finance & Audit Committee, consider the impact on the independence of the external audit work and receive an annual report thereon from Management</p> <p>21. Assess the performance and independence of the external auditor</p>
<p><i>Monitor and report highlights to the Board</i></p>	<p>22. The work of the external auditor</p> <p>23. The plan, conduct and reporting of the annual external audit, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any difficulties encountered, or restriction imposed by Management, during the annual audit. • any significant accounting policies or financial reporting issues, alternative Accounting Standards for Not-For-Profit Organizations (ASNPO methods discussed with Management, ramifications and external auditors' preferred alternative, and any other material written communications with Management. • the external auditor's evaluation of the AFNWA system of internal controls, procedures and documentation. • the post audit or management letter containing any findings or recommendations of the external auditor including Management's response thereto and the subsequent follow-up to any identified internal control weaknesses. • any significant disagreements between management and the external auditor with regard to financial reporting. • any other matters that the external auditor brings to the attention of the Finance & Audit Committee; and • any issues relating to review or appointment of external auditors <p>24. Direct and open communication among the Finance & Audit Committee and the external auditor.</p>

(d) Compliance and Other Oversight

Delegated Committee Role	Responsibilities
<i>Monitor and report to the Board</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25. Annually the AFNWA insurance coverage of significant business risks and uncertainties 26. Annual report from the CEO of any litigation matters that could significantly affect the financial statements 27. Exception reports from the CEO regarding any significant actual or anticipated non-compliance with any legal or regulatory requirements, or inter-jurisdictional agreement 28. Quarterly Management Representations on regular, statutory reporting requirements 29. Responses by Management to material information requests from government or regulatory authorities 30. Receive annual report of expenses of Board, senior management and employees 31. Receive annual audit report of expenses of Board, senior management and employees.

(e) Other Duties

The Finance & Audit Committee will investigate (or cause an investigation to be undertaken) and recommend a resolution to the Board of any issues or concerns referred to it by the Governance and Policy Committee (as the point of entry for any complaints or concerns) arising from complaints under the AFNWA Code of Conduct that may relate to a breakdown of financial disclosure controls or internal controls over financial reporting. Depending upon the nature of the complaint, the Committee may delegate the investigation and resolution of the complaint to Senior Management.

The Committee will also carry out such other duties as may be determined from time to time by resolution of the Board.

Committee Functioning

The Finance & Audit Committee will have access to Management and AFNWA documents as required/appropriate. It will also be provided with the resources necessary to carry out its responsibilities. The Finance & Audit Committee may engage independent counsel and other advisors and set and pay the compensation for any advisors so engaged.

In co-ordination with the Governance and Policy Committee, the Committee shall annually review and assess the adequacy of its mandate in relation to evolving best practices and evaluate its effectiveness in fulfilling its mandate.

The Finance & Audit Committee may establish a subcommittee to review any matters deemed appropriate by the Committee Chair. The subcommittee will provide its recommendation to the Finance & Audit Risk Committee.

The secretary to the Committee shall be the Recording Secretary and is responsible for:

- Ensuring that minutes are prepared recording decisions, recommendations and general discussion of the Committee
- Ensuring that decisions and recommendations of the Committee are forwarded to the Board for its next meeting
- Compiling and distributing the agenda of Committee meetings at least five (5) days prior to the Committee meetings, and
- Ensuring that action points identified are carried out.

Membership

The Board appoints Directors to committees. The Finance & Audit Committee will consist of three (3) Directors, one of whom shall be appointed as Chair of the Committee by the Board Chair.

All members of the Finance & Audit Committee shall meet the standard of financial literacy, which entails the ability to read and understand financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of the issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by the AFNWA financial statements. Committee members shall exercise the care, diligence and skill that a person of ordinary prudence would exercise in dealing with the property of another person and shall use all relevant knowledge and skill that the member possesses.

All committee members shall be independent of management of the AFNWA. At least one committee member shall have accounting or financial management expertise.

Ex officio, non-voting members of the Finance & Audit Committee include: Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Recording Secretary.

Any Director who is a member of the Finance & Audit Committee serves at the pleasure of the Board Chair.

From time to time, additional non-voting resources may be added to the Committee by the Board Chair where considered necessary to enable the Committee to fulfill its mandate.

Meetings

The Finance & Audit Committee shall meet at least four (4) times per year, with additional meetings at the call of the Committee Chair, or as directed by the Board. The AFNWA external auditor, or any two members of the Finance & Audit Committee, may call a special meeting of the Finance & Audit Committee by contacting the Committee Chair.

The agenda will normally be set by the Committee Chair based upon the Committee's work plan and annual objectives. Committee members or the Board Chair may also suggest agenda items to the Committee Chair. The agenda and background material for meetings will be delivered to members at least five (5) days prior to the Committee meeting.

The Finance & Audit Committee will have separate private meetings with the external auditors, Management or any other persons to discuss any matters that the Committee or these groups believe should be discussed.

The external auditor shall attend meetings of the Finance & Audit Committee if either has requested the opportunity to do so or has been requested to do so by a Finance & Audit Committee member. The external auditors may be invited to make presentations to the Finance & Audit Committee, as appropriate.

Quorum & Decision Making

A quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Committee will be a majority of Directors appointed to the Committee.

The Committee will attempt to reach consensus on recommendations to the Board on decisions delegated to the Committee. In exceptional circumstances, where consensus does not appear to be possible, the Committee may refer the matter directly to the Board without a recommendation.

Accountability and Reporting to the Board

The Chair of the Committee will prepare written reports for the Board on the work of the Committee and will be guided in the preparation of these reports by a reporting template for Committees.

Committee Objectives, Annual Work Plan and Timetable

In consultation with the Board Chair, the Committee will formulate annual objectives for the Finance & Audit Committee for each year and review progress against them at least annually.

The Committee will annually establish a work plan for its scheduled committee meetings, which plan will include any specific priorities assigned to the Committee by the Board. The attached table sets out the basic work plan to be used as a starting point each year.

Finance & Audit Committee Agenda Item	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Financial Statements				
- Reviews external audited annual financial statements and recommends to the Board.	X			
- Recommends unaudited quarterly financial statements, including public reports on financial statements for consistency of disclosure with financial statements.	X	X	X	X
- Reviews quarterly and annual financial performance of the AFNWA and reports highlights to the Board.	X	X	X	X
- Approves financial content of the Annual Report.	X			
- Receive mid-year and annual report from the external actuary to understand the valuation of the organization's liabilities.	X			
Corporate Plan and Budget				
- Reviews and recommends Annual Business Plan, including balanced scorecard measures and targets and proposed rate of return.			X	
- Reviews and recommends operating and capital budgets, including proposed rate of return.			X	
Internal Controls and Risk Oversight				
- Monitors and reports to the Board on the effectiveness of the enterprise risk management system				X
- Reviews and discusses inventory of plans in place to address emergency response/business		X		

Atlantic First Nations Water Authority – Financial Policy and Procedures Manual

continuity issues and reports highlights to the Board.				
External Auditors				X
- Approves terms of yearly engagement letter.				
- Monitors and reports to the Board on the plan, conduct and reporting of the annual external audit.	X			
- Annual <i>in camera</i> meeting with External Auditor.	X			
Compliance and Other Oversight				
- Recommends quarterly reports on goods and services procurement, statutory employer remittances and OH&S compliance.	X	X	X	X
- Receives annual report from the CEO of any litigation matters that could significantly affect the financial statements.	X			
- Receives annual report of expenses of Executive Committee and Board	X			
- Receives annual audit report of expenses of Board, senior management and employees				X
- Receives results of annual Committee evaluation process			X	

ANNEX B

AFNWA CORPORATE CREDIT CARD AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

THE Atlantic First Nations Water Authority (hereinafter referred to as “AFNWA”)

and _____ (hereinafter referred to as the “Cardholder”)

All Cardholders have been issued an AFNWA Corporate Credit Card. This card is a privilege and thus carries a responsibility. The Cardholder agrees to adhere to the AFNWA Travel Directive (as approved and amended from time to time) and the applicable AFNWA policies for continued use of the credit card privilege:

- (a) This card is intended for AFNWA corporate/business expenses only.
- (b) All expenses are to be claimed on approved AFNWA Credit Card Reconciliation forms with original receipts attached.
- (c) Diligent protection of the number and expiry date is the AFNWA employee’s responsibility. It is not recommended to give this information out in emails or over cell phones.
- (d) Purchases that are outside the Cardholder’s ordinary business expenses (as listed below), as they may vary from cardholder to cardholder, require pre-approval from a Manager.

Any violations of the AFNWA Travel Directive and the above noted rules regarding the usage of the corporate credit card will result in the loss of use of the credit card privileges. There are to be no personal expenses charged to the Corporate Credit Card.

If you have read and understood the AFNWA Travel Directive and relevant policies and if you are in agreement with the above noted terms/conditions and the corporate credit card cardholder agreement, please sign and date below.

Identified ordinary business expenses specific to Cardholder:

Cardholder Signature: _____

Name, Title: _____

Date: _____

Manager Signature: _____

Annex C

AFNWA Contract Amendment Request Form

Contract Number: _____

Name of Contractor/Company: _____

Original Start Date/End Date of Contract: _____

Total Contract Value: _____

Amount of Contract paid out to date: _____

Reason(s) for Contract Amendment: _____

List the Terms and Conditions of the Contract to be Amended (new end date, revised products, timelines)

Recommended Amendment(s) by Manager: (please check if 'yes' and attach written authorization, if applicable)

Recommendation by Legal Advisor: _____ (please check if 'yes' and attach written authorization)

Authorization by Chief Executive Officer: _____ (please check if 'yes' and attach written authorization)

Dated: _____

Employee Name:

ANNEX D

**Atlantic First Nations Water Authority
Financial Policies and Procedures Manual**

Acknowledgement

I, _____, hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the
Atlantic First Nations Water Authority **Financial Policy
and Procedure Manual** (dated _____, _____).

I have read and understood that the provisions of the Financial Policy and Procedures Manual impacts upon
my employment or placement with the AFNWA.

Name (Please Print)

Signature

Date

Witness

ANNEX E - Atlantic First Nations Water Authority- Kilometer Chart

Atlantic First Nations Water Authority- Kilometer Chart				
First Nation Community	Province	Mileage in Km with links (Distance from Millbrook to FN Community)	Cost at \$0.55 rate for One Direction	Cost at \$0.55 rate for Round Trip
Abegweit - Morell (bridge)	PEI	280	\$ 154.00	\$ 308.00
Abegweit - Rocky Point (bridge)	PEI	234	\$ 128.70	\$ 257.40
Abegweit - Scotchfort (bridge)	PEI	258	\$ 141.90	\$ 283.80
Acadia - Gold River	NS	143	\$ 78.65	\$ 157.30
Acadia - Medway River	NS	204	\$ 112.20	\$ 224.40
Acadia - Wildcat	NS	214	\$ 117.70	\$ 235.40
Acadia - Yarmouth	NS	370	\$ 203.50	\$ 407.00
Elsipogtog	NB	244	\$ 134.20	\$ 268.40
Esgenoôpetitj	NB	335	\$ 184.25	\$ 368.50
Eskasoni	NS	271	\$ 149.05	\$ 298.10
Glooscap	NS	143	\$ 78.65	\$ 157.30
Glooscap	NS	117	\$ 64.35	\$ 128.70
Glooscap	NS	113	\$ 62.15	\$ 124.30
Kingsclear	NB	361	\$ 198.55	\$ 397.10
Lennox Island (Bridge)	PEI	249	\$ 136.95	\$ 273.90
Membertou	NS	310	\$ 170.50	\$ 341.00
Millbrook	NS	3.1	\$ 1.71	\$ 3.41
Oromocto	NB	323	\$ 177.65	\$ 355.30
Paqtnkek	NS	144	\$ 79.20	\$ 158.40
Pictou Landing	NS	80	\$ 44.00	\$ 88.00
Potlotek	NS	235	\$ 129.25	\$ 258.50
Sipekne'katik - Indian Brook	NS	39	\$ 21.45	\$ 42.90
Sipekne'katik - New Ross	NS	164	\$ 90.20	\$ 180.40
Neqotkuk	NB	522	\$ 287.10	\$ 574.20
Wagmatcook	NS	247	\$ 135.85	\$ 271.70

Annex F : Travel Rates

Mileage

The rates payable in cents per kilometer for the use of privately owned vehicles driven on authorized government business travel are .55 cents.

Allowances

The standard for accommodation is a single room, in a safe environment, conveniently located and comfortably equipped.

Total cost of Hotel/Motel accommodations not to exceed \$200.00 per night taxes included within the Atlantic Provinces. Total cost of Hotel/Motel accommodation is not to exceed \$250.00 per night taxes included if traveling domestically outside of Atlantic Canada or Internationally. Any exceptions to this amount require the approval of the CEO for employees and the Chair or Vice Chair for Board members and the CEO.

Private accommodations will be paid at a rate of \$50.00 per night.

Meals

The rates payable for Meals per day are as follows:

Breakfast	17.23
Lunch	17.04
Supper	42.92
Daily Rate	\$77.19

Incidental expenses

Incidental rate payable for each night in a hotel/private accommodation is \$17.30 per night of overnight stay.

Annex G – AFNWA Employee Indebtedness Form-Travel Advance

EMPLOYEE NAME: _____

DATE/PERIOD OF TRAVEL/EXPENSE: _____



AFNWA Employee Indebtedness Form

ADVANCE TRAVEL CLAIM EXPENSE FORM											
****NEW MAY 12, 2023****											
DATE	DESCRIPTION	MEALS	MILEAGE		LODGING	INCDTL	AIRFARE CABFARE CAR RENTAL	BRIDGE TOLL PARKING	OTHER	TOTAL	PROJECT #
			KM	\$ 0.55							
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
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				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
TOTAL		\$ 0.00	0	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	

TOTAL: \$ 0.00
 LESS ADVANCE: _____
 TOTAL PAYABLE: _____
 DATE: _____

BREAKFAST: \$17.23 INCIDENTALS: \$17.30
 LUNCH: \$17.04 PRIV ACC.: \$50.00
 DINNER: \$42.92

13 Treaty Trail, Millbrook, NS B6L 1W1 * www.afnwa.ca
 Phone 1.902.603-0312 Finance@afnwa.ca

Employee Signature _____

 (APPROVAL)

Please note that by signing and submitting the "Acknowledgement of Indebtedness – Travel Advance" form, you agree to use the funds solely for the purpose stated in the Advance Travel Claim Expense Form. It is essential to provide receipts for your travel expenses upon return to avoid any potential payroll deduction.

Annex H– AFNWA Employee Travel Claim Form

EMPLOYEE
NAME: _____

DATE/PERIOD OF
TRAVEL/EXPENSE: _____



ATLANTIC FIRST NATIONS WATER AUTHORITY STAFF TRAVEL & EXPENS CLAIM											
*****UPDATED JULY 2022*****											
DATE	DESCRIPTION	MEALS	MILEAGE		LODGING	INCDTL	AIRFARE CABFARE CAR RENTAL	BRIDGE TOLL PARKING	OTHER	TOTAL	PROJECT #
			KM	\$ 0.55							
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
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				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
				0						\$ 0.00	
TOTAL		\$ 0.00	0	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	

TOTAL: \$ 0.00
 LESS ADVANCE: _____
 TOTAL PAYABLE: _____
 DATE: _____

 (EMPLOYEE)

 (APPROVAL)

BREAKFAST: \$17.23 INCIDENTALS: \$17.30
 LUNCH: \$17.04 PRIV ACC.: \$50.00
 DINNER: \$42.92

13 Treaty Trail, Millbrook, NS B6L 1W1 * www.afnwa.ca
 Phone 1.902.603-0312 Finance@afnwa.ca