

Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.

Lake Major Water Treatment Plant Boardroom

Attendees:

Sherry Bernard (SB), Lake Loon/Cherry Brook Development Association.....Community Representative
 Spencer Colley (SC), East Preston Ratepayers Association.....Community Representative
 Rev. Wayne Desmond (WD), North Preston Rate Payers Association (NPRPA).....Community Representative
 Julie Ernst (JE), Lake Major.....Community Representative
 Barry Geddes (BG), Watershed Manager (*Vice Chair*).....Halifax Water
 Dawn MacNeill (DM), Watershed Planner.....Nova Scotia Environment
 Anna McCarron (AM), Source Water Planner (*Secretary*).....Halifax Water
 Heather O’Keefe (HO), Protected Areas Coordinator.....Nova Scotia Environment
 Derrick Stoddard (DS), Area ManagerDepartment of Lands and Forestry
 Colin Waddell (CW), Lake Major Water Supply Plant Supervisor.....Halifax Water

Regrets:

Reid Campbell (RC), Director of Water Services.....Halifax Water
 Andrew Faulkner (AF), Development Officer.....Halifax Regional Municipality
 Bernie Matlock (BM), P. Eng.....Nova Scotia Environment
 Matt Nelson (MN), Forest TechnicianDepartment of Lands and Forestry

Guest:

Jonathan MacDonald (JM), Project Engineer.....Halifax Water
 Carlin Newcombe (CN), Co-op Student.....Nova Scotia Environment

1. Attendance and Introductions:

- AM distributed copies of:
 - i. Meeting Agenda;
 - ii. DRAFT April 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes;

Meeting called to order by BG (Acting Chair)

- Regrets/Absentees as listed above;
- Quorum noted;
- CW reviewed plant safety plan;
- Agenda items 3.c. and 8. were moved up in the Agenda:



Item 3.c.: Lake Major Dam Replacement Project Update (JM)

Committee relocated to WTP control room to view live on-site security cameras of the dam progress.

- JM reviewed site progress, environmental concerns and safety concerns.
- Overall, the project is going well. It is about one (1) week behind schedule.
- The 1st phase will be completed by end of December. The plan is to complete the 2nd phase through the winter; however, extension of the existing approval is required and pending NSE approval. Halifax Water and NSE are discussing the approval extension.
- If the approval is extended, the plan is to complete the dam by summer 2019 and then to remediate the Salmon River in front of the old dam.

Committee relocated back to the Board room.

Item 8. (moved up in Agenda): Vacant Chair position

- Due to Brenton Sparks' resignation, the Board Chair position is vacant;
- The Board discussed the Chair's role; i.e., to lead meetings and sign/adjust letters on behalf of the Board;
- The Board agreed to vote for a Chairperson at the end of the meeting per the Terms of Reference; i.e., the Chair position is filled by a community representative; and
- BG agreed to chair this meeting

Motion: SC moved BG to chair this meeting and elect new chair at end of meeting. WD seconded.

2. Minutes/Notes:

a. Review of Actions:

- Moving forward, action items will be addressed in the *Old Business* section of the Agenda; and "Review of Action Items" will be removed from future agendas.
 - i.* Sewage Disposal Systems
- See section 3.d.ii.

b. Approval of April 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve the Minutes; Moved by WD; seconded by SC; all in favour.

3. Old Business

a. Protected Areas Update:

- Nothing to report at this time.
- Halifax Water has requested exchanging Crown land for Halifax Water land to make the ownership areas consistent rather than having a checkerboard ownership pattern.
- Seems to have come to a standstill.
- By exchanging and consolidating parcels it will improve management concerns for both HW and NSE.

Q: *The Halifax Water land swap is only with Crown land? (WD)*

A: Yes. (BG)

Action: HO to discuss with NSE Protected Areas Branch staff regarding status of land swap.

Action
HO

Q: *How do people know what land they are on and what rules apply to it? (WD)*

A: Ultimately it is the responsibility of the person on those lands to know what rules apply and when they apply. Maps are available online or by visiting your local Department of Lands and Forestry. (DS)

- The land access and land use discussion arose from the Protected Areas discussion;
- Land claims in the North Preston area was touched upon; however, since this meeting is not the correct forum to discuss or resolve land claim issues, DS invited Board members with land claims concerns to meet with him at a later date.

Q: *Is the Board interested in a presentation on Protected Areas? (DM)*

A: Yes. Board members agreed that a presentation would be beneficial, especially regarding what activities are or are not permitted on specific areas of land and where jurisdictions overlap (e.g., Wilderness Areas, Game Sanctuary, etc.). (WD/SB/AM)

Action: HO to provide a presentation on the Protected Areas Branch at the next meeting, especially regarding what a person is or is not permitted to do on specific areas of land.

HO

b. 76 Johnson Road Update:

- HRM continues to work with the owner to bring his business into compliance with the by-laws;
- Because it is an HRM by-law matter, the item will be removed from the agenda. Should any new issues pertaining to Protected Water Area (PWA) regulations arise around this property, then it will be brought forward to the Board.

Q: *Does this mean that he will no longer be bothered? (WD)*

A: It is HRM's case to resolve. It will be up to HRM and the landowner to come up with an agreement. The only reason Halifax Water would re-engage is if the landowner is violating the Lake Major Watershed PWA regulations. (BG)

Action: Remove item from the Agenda.

AM

c. Lake Major Dam Update

- The update was given at the beginning of the meeting.
- JE has concerns about the lighting on the finished dam.

Q: *What type of lighting will be on the finished dam, because the lighting currently used for construction brightly lights up my property at night, which is a real concern? (JE)*

A: The final lighting will definitely be different than what is in place right now. The lighting right now is for construction safety. When the dam is completed, the lights will be downward facing and concentrated on the dam itself, for security purposes. The final lights are proposed to be more of a street light. (JM).

- **It was suggested that JM conduct a site visit to JE's property** to see the lighting and how the new lighting plan will least impact her property. JM confirmed impacts to the local residents will be taken into account for the new lighting.

d. Lake Major Regulation changes/considerations

- i.* On-site Sewage Disposal Systems (OSSDS)

Action: Halifax Water requests that NSE provide notification when an OSSDS is being

redacted

installed inside the watershed area, prior to installation.

- NSE (DM) has no control over this request and therefore this cannot be an action item for NSE. The following action item would be the first step to this desire of Halifax Water, i.e., to have some sort of indication that OSSDS are being installed.

Action: AF will check into whether HRM was aware that they have the opportunity to receive notification of OSSDS notifications and approvals. (Deferred)

Action

AF

Q: If HRM is not receiving notification then what is the next step for Halifax Water? (AM)

A: Wait and see what AF comes back with then go from there. (DM)

ii. Swimming in Long Lake

- No meeting between Halifax Water and the North Preston Rate Payers Association (NPRPA) has been held to discuss further.
- Only a few people have come forward. There is concern with access across private property.
- Suggest that WD ask the NPRA what their concerns are to address the issue.

Action: WD to discuss the concern about access to Long Lake and private property at the next NPRPA meeting.

WD

e. North Preston Recreational Field Update:

- The recreation field is complete and expected to open after bleachers are installed;
 - The field is located in the area of the old school next to the reservoir;
 - Drainage may be an issue; and
- Keep on agenda until it is determined whether the inspection/compliance issue between HRM and the province has been resolved.

4. New Business

a. Bundy Lane subdivision application Case 21907:

- LMW Board was sent the subdivision application to review;
- The Board's comments on the application were received and sent to HRM planning;
 - Application met PWA rules and regulations;
- Applicant seeking extension of municipal service;
 - Service extension falls under the authority of HRM Council; however, the Board may make the recommendation to HRM Regional Council to extend services within the watershed boundary in order to protect the water supply;
 - The Board agreed to support the extension of services and the application; however, they must be dealt with as two separate matters;

Motion 1: AM moved to accept the Bundy Lane subdivision application. SB seconded.

Motion passed.

Motion 2: SC moved to support sending a letter to HRM asking for municipal service extension within the watershed boundary to service the Cherry Brook (Bundy Lane) area. SB seconded. Motion passed.

- DM abstained from voting on Motion 2 due to conflict of interest because NSE is a waste water industry regulator.

Action: The Board to send the letter to HRM Planning in support of the Bundy Lane Subdivision Application.

Action Board

Action: The Board supports sending a letter originating from the Cherry Brook Development Association to HRM supporting the extension of municipal services into the Lake Loon/Cherry Brook area of the watershed as a way of reducing the risk of contamination to the water supply through OSSDS.

Board

5. Landowner Questions/Update

Q: Are there concerns with private septic systems around the community of Lake Major? (JE)

A: Concerns are the same for any community within the watershed boundary that do not have municipal services since OSSDS present risks to the water supply. (BG)

- Halifax Water demolished the dwellings on the properties it owned around Lake Major due to many problems, including failing OSSDS.

Q: Could Halifax Water develop a map of the watershed boundary in relation to each community boundary so that community members would have a better understanding of where the watershed boundary runs through their community? (DM)

A: Yes. (BG)

Action: Halifax Water to prepare a map and a presentation of the history of the development of the LMWAB, showing watershed and community boundaries.

BG/AM

Q: How were the water levels this summer? (DM)

A: Water levels were low but not as much as in 2016. They are back to normal now. Halifax Water put on water restrictions at the end of the summer for 6 weeks, but were able to maintain water for downstream maintenance, which we were unable to do in 2016. (BG)

6. Education Update

a. Arnold D. Johnson Sr. Water Resources Award Update

- Despite information being circulated through schools and community agencies, there were no applications this year (2018).

Q: When is the application deadline? (SB)

A: Nov. 6, 2018 was the cut-off date. The application criteria was described to the Board. (AM)

- Student Support Workers at the School Board need to be sent this information for them to disseminate.

Action: Circulate [Arnold D. Johnson Award application website](#) to Board members.

AM

b. Lake Major Newsletter Update

- Next newsletter will profile the North Preston Recreational Field, the Lake Major Dam, and SB membership profile.
- January is the targeted time to start working on the Newsletter.

c. Halifax Water Emergency contact update

- Halifax Water has a new customer care centre and new contact number for all queries, including emergencies – (902) 420-9287 or (902) H2O-WATR.
- The new number has been added to the watershed signs.

7. Municipal Development Update

- Nothing to report.

8. Election of Officers:

- New Chair – Spencer Colley.
- Vice Chair – Anna McCarron
- Secretary – Barry Geddes
- Next election of officers – March 2020.

9. Next Meeting Date/Time:

- **Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

10. Adjournment: 4:20 p.m.

Barry Geddes – Vice Chair (Acting Chair)

Anna McCarron – Secretary