

**POCKWOCK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

November 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes – 10:00 am

2 Park Avenue, Lower Sackville  
Halifax Water Conference Room

**Attendance:**

Jeff Brown (JeB), Forestry Technician .....Department of Lands and Forestry (DLF)  
 Jillanna Brown (JiB), P. Eng.....Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)  
 Barry Geddes (BG), (*Vice Chair*) Watershed Manager .....Halifax Water  
 Rachel Gilbert (RG), Manager of Planning Services .....East Hants Municipality (EH)  
 Dawn MacNeill (DM), Watershed Planner .....Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)  
 Anna McCarron (AM), (*Secretary*) Source Water Planner .....Halifax Water  
 Tim O’Brien (TO), (*Chair*) Crown Forester .....Department of Lands and Forestry (DLF)  
 Heather O’Keefe (HO), Protected Areas Coordinator Central Region....Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)

**Regrets:**

Reid Campbell (RC), P. Eng., Director of Water Services .....Halifax Water  
 Andrew Houlihan (AH), Supervisor, J.D. Kline Water Supply Plant.....Halifax Water

**Guest:**

Marcus Zwicker (MZ), General Manager.....WestFor Management Inc. (WFI)  
 Jason Casey (JC), Forest Technician.....Elmsdale Lumber Company (ELCO)

**1. Attendance / Introductions:**

- AM distributed copies of:
  1. Meeting Agenda;
  2. DRAFT April 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes;

**Pockwock Watershed Management Committee Meeting Called to Order by Chair (TO)**

- Regrets were conveyed (listed above); and
- Quorum determined.

**2. Presentation by Marcus Zwicker – WestFor Management Inc. (WestFor)**

**Action**

- The province bought 850,000 acres between 2008 and 2012 (primarily on western Crown land), formerly owned by large forest industry companies. These lands were used to fulfill the province's *Protected Areas* commitment and to boost the forest industry.
- [WestFor](#) is a privately owned company formed in 2014 by 13 shareholder mills located primarily in the western areas of the province. The province urged the smaller companies to form one large one because it no longer wanted to issue forest harvest agreements to many small forest companies. Western NS companies who did not join forfeited their right to Crown wood.
- WestFor operates under one-year timber license volume-based agreements while the province maintains the forest management responsibilities through forest management plans. The province issues blocks for which WestFor is responsible to survey, conduct pretreatment assessments, locate road access and ID land features, and submits the plans to DLF for an operations approval.
- The seven NS eastern counties operate under a Forest Utilization License Agreement (FULA) that provides a longer term agreement with more forest management responsibilities, which is held by Port Hawkesbury Pulp and Paper.
- A large percentage of the Pockwock watershed, situated mainly in Hants County takes up a small portion of WestFor's operation area but makes up a significant portion of operations.

**Q:** *Where does most of the volume come from?*

**A:** 70% of volume comes from Queen and Shelburne counties.

- DLF has a regimented compliance system. They hold certification on the lands and have an allocation compliance system with on-the-ground certification auditing of WestFor's operations to ensure they are meeting the forest management requirements.

**Q:** *What is certification? (BG)*

**A:** Certification is an auditing system that meets a specific standard; e.g.,

([Sustainable Forestry Initiative](#)) SFI and ([Forest Stewardship Council](#)) FSC.

Government bought the land and maintained the certification. A third of the land is independently certified and varies by region. Certification standards include public engagement requirements, SAR, and involve 2-3 week audits. Most multinational corporations such as Home Depot and Home Hardware require forest companies that they buy from to demonstrate they are practicing good environmental stewardship to show customers that they are buying sustainably grown and harvested products. There are different options forest companies can pursue to become environmentally certified; SFI, CSA, and FSC. It is very expensive to become certified. Pulp and paper companies are demanding certification. 30% is

<p>independently certified with SFI standard on former Bowater lands. (MZ)</p> <p><i>Q: Why isn't the rest? (DM)</i>  A: There is no consumer demand for the rest of it. There is a significant cost to get the remainder certified. The value isn't there for today's landowner.</p> <p><i>Q: Is Pockwock included in the certification? (BG)</i>  A: No. Pockwock is not part of the annual forest certification audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 1/3 of WestFor lands are SFI certified. Pockwock does not fall within the SFI area, however, the practices on the ground would be the same as the SFI area.</li> <li>• WestFor accounts for about 12% of the annual wood supply to all the mills across the province, which includes Pockwock.</li> <li>• WestFor has four land management types over 40,000 ha that allow for non-timber values where harvest levels are very low that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Industrial</li> <li>○ Recreational</li> <li>○ Protected</li> <li>○ Other</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Q: Where does Pockwock fit in? (AM)</i>  A: Currently, Pockwock does not fall into any, but it would follow water quality protection guidelines. Harvesting in other water supply areas depends on its specific governance regime and is treated with special consideration. (MZ)</p> <p>A: Pockwock in particular has 92 ha of water and 5 land managers; i.e., Protected Wilderness Areas (NSE); Mi'kmaq (MFI), WestFor, Community Forest and DLF. In Pockwock, forest management is conducted to maintain water quality. Forest management is dictated by the primary objective for the value of the land.</p> <p><i>Q: How much of the area falls within a Protected Wilderness Area? (TO)</i>  A: Roughly 34%. (MZ/BG)</p> <p><i>Q: How much of WestFor's area falls within a Municipal Watershed? (DM)</i>  A: About 2%. MZ/TO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing operating plans is a 3-5 year process involving rigorous consultation processes where plans are reviewed by Mi'kmaq chiefs of NS, steering committees, NGOs, culminated with a 40-day public review period followed by signatures from the Deputy and Minister. The whole process could take months to years for Crown lands.</li> </ul> <p><i>Q: On the Stakeholder Interaction Committee, is the Municipality of Annapolis the only municipality represented on the Committee? (DM)</i>  A: No; Lunenburg, Chester and Shelburne municipal units also sit on the Committee. Other municipal units have been invited and are not interested to be on the committee. However, proactive engagement at council meetings provides input on the operations that place on land within the municipal unit.(MZ)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WestFor's desired outcome is to support shared use on most land;</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p>
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<p><b>Action: HO will contact BG about Protected Area signage in PWA.</b></p> <p><b>d. Mount Uniacke Signage:</b></p> <p><i>i.</i> Initiated by Bell Park committee in 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to consult with community member (see 3(h)) to assist in development of signage.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b> <b>HO/BG</b></p>
<p><b>Action: Consult with new community member about community signage once they have been instated on Committee (see 3h below).</b></p> <p><i>ii.</i> New large Pockwock signage is needed along Highway 101</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG has discussed options with NSTIR who are receptive. Further communication is needed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>AM/BG</b></p>
<p><i>Q: Will wood be used or some other type of material? (TO)</i>  <i>A: Not sure at the moment. Want something modern, easily stands out and has emergency contact information on it. Same locations are planned to be used. (BG)</i></p>	
<p><b>Action: AM to explore signage replacement of Pockwock wooden signs.</b></p> <p><b>e. Resource management updates:</b></p> <p><i>i. Forestry:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing further to report besides the information provided during the presentation by MZ from WestFor. There is no timeline;BG is meeting with Forest Advisory Committee to discuss Pockwock objectives;Two bridges built in the 1960s, below the Pockwock Dam, were replaced in August 2018. The new bridges are longer and higher – engineered to a 100 year flood event – and to hold 170 metric tonnes.</li> <li>• Cheaper to use pressure-treated wood rather than steel stringers.</li> </ul> <p><i>ii. Water Quality:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geosmin update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For the first time since 2012 geosmin levels did not rise above the detection limit. Research is ongoing; however, there was a high level for geosmin near Island Lake that didn't work its way through the system.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Q: How were the water levels for this year in Pockwock? (DM)</i>  <i>A: AH (unable to attend this meeting) could give exact water levels. (BG)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake Recovery Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research is ongoing with Dalhousie University. Canadian Water Research Foundation conducted a 3-day field tour over the summer months and brainstorming session to come up with possible scenarios. Wendy Krkosek of Halifax Water is heading</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>AM/BG</b></p>

<p>up the project but she is away this week to attend the National Lakes Management Society AGM in Cincinnati.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A possible project being considered is to identify and catalogue lake biology to get a better understanding of what is living in the lake. With water quality changes, we do not understand what is living in the lake and what impact changes are having on them.</li> </ul> <p><b>f. Pockwock/NSTIR Lands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NSTIR lands are for sale.</li> </ul>	<b><u>Action</u></b>
<p><b>Action: RG to confirm if EH is still interested in pursuing the NSTIR property that is for sale.</b></p> <p><b>g. forWater Research Network:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research has been ongoing and Dalhousie has been collecting data in preparation for the areas to be harvested by WestFor. Waiting for final comments to see whether changes are required.</li> <li>● forWater Network AGM is being held in Halifax April 22-24, 2019.</li> </ul> <p><b>h. Terms of Reference Community Member Vacancy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vacant position of Community Representative for the Committee</li> </ul>	<b>RG</b>
<p><i>Q: Is there a procedure to follow to recruit new Committee members? (RG)</i>  <i>A: Yes, there is one in place. (AM) If no person comes forward as a result of the advertisement then Halifax Water may actively seek potential candidates.(BG)</i></p>	
<p><b>Action: AM/BG to advertise the vacant Community position for the Pockwock Watershed Management Committee and tap into the Council network.</b></p>	<b>AM/BG</b>
<p><b>Action: Contact Rosanne Bland to advertise in the Uniacke Newsletter.</b></p>	<b>AM</b>
<p><b>Action: RG to speak to EH communication person to see if they can help get the word out through social media that a new Pockwock Watershed Committee member is needed.</b></p>	<b>RG</b>
<p><b>4. New Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● None.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Q: Landowner Q &amp; A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● None.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. Municipal Planning Update</b></p> <p><b>i. East Hants – Development in Watershed Boundary (RG):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Companies are seeking clarification of the watershed boundary and what they can and can't do in the natural watershed area portion of the Business Park;</li> <li>● BG working on compiling info for RG to help answer questions;</li> </ul>	

	<u>Action</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developers are asking whether engineered solutions or amending regulations would be considered to allow a development agreement if companies are otherwise prohibited due to their operations;</li> <li>• Internal meetings are taking place between various agencies and the municipality, to determine appropriate options to address the watershed concerns such as altering the contours or other engineered solutions;</li> <li>• the area falls outside of the PWA leaving EH to consider the Statement of Provincial Interest regarding Drinking Water to provide protection to the water supply; also, NSE considers what input was sought by the municipality (DM);</li> <li>• in some cases, the <i>Activities Designation Regulations</i> apply as was the case for the asphalt plant which was not permitted to be built within the watershed area (JiB);</li> <li>• EH is looking for advice on how to come up with solutions to lessen the impact, especially on the business community within the Mount Uniacke Business Park. It's the municipality's decision, but ultimately it's Halifax's water supply, which requires discussion (RG);</li> <li>• Halifax Water will continue to work with EH to discuss solutions to allow for certain activities within the municipal overlay zone that otherwise would not be allowed.</li> </ul> <p><b>j. Business Park Expansion;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still working on the Business Park's design.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Education and Awareness update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halifax Water has a new contact number that services all calls including customer care and emergencies; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The new number is <b>902-420-9287 or 902-H20-WATR;</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Signs are being updated with the new contact number;</li> <li>• Halifax Water is getting a new website. We are moving away from HRM; and</li> <li>• EH sent out a brochure this past year aimed at educating the public about watershed protection.</li> </ul> <p><i>Q: Did Halifax Water or anyone else do any watershed protection surveys such as private septic system? If so would you be able to share them with us because one of the other watershed boards we sit on are looking for information? (TO)</i></p> <p>A: Yes. SWEPS conducted a similar survey within the Fletcher Lake area with Halifax Water funding support. (BG/AM)</p> <p><b>Action: AM/BG to send survey to TO.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>AM</b></p>

<p><b>8. Election of Officers – October 2018</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim O’Brien re-elected as Chair</li> <li>• Barry Geddes re-elected as Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Anna McCarron re-elected as Secretary</li> </ul> <p><b>9. Next Meeting – March 8, 2019</b></p> <p><b>10. Adjournment 12:00 pm</b></p> <p><i>Tim O’Brien – Chair</i>  <i>Barry Geddes – Vice Chair</i>  <i>Anna McCarron – Secretary</i></p>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p>
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