



**BENNERY LAKE WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

March 2, 2017 – 2:00 p.m.
2 Park Ave., Lower Sackville Halifax Water Office Boardroom

Attendance:

Trevor Creasor (TC), Subdivision Approvals.....Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)
 Barry Geddes (BG) (*Vice Chair*), Watershed Manager.....Halifax Water
 Jan Jachimowicz (JJ).....Landowner Representative
 Dawn MacNeill (DM), Watershed PlannerNova Scotia Environment (NSE)
 Anna McCarron (AM) (*Secretary*), Source Water PlannerHalifax Water
 Heather Olivella (HO), Protected Areas Coordinator.....Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)
 Garry Oxner (GO), Superintendent of Supply PlantsHalifax Water
 Paul Parusel (PP), Brookhill Estates.....Community Representative

Regrets:

Reid Campbell (RC), Director of Water ServicesHalifax Water
 Bernie Matlock (BM), P. EngNova Scotia Environment (NSE)
 Tim O’Brien (TO), Crown Land Forester.....Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

<u>Meeting called to order by Acting Chair (Vice Chair - BG).</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p><i>1. Attendance / Introductions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regrets acknowledged (listed above); • Quorum noted; and • AM distributed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i.</i> Meeting Agenda; <i>ii.</i> DRAFT Sept. 17, 2015 Minutes; <i>iii.</i> DRAFT March 3, 2016 Notes; <i>iv.</i> DRAFT Oct. 27, 2016 Notes; <i>v.</i> Source Water Protection (SWP) Annual Report – Bennery Lake section; and <i>vi.</i> Letter to NSE dated Feb. 27, 2017 Re: On-site Sewage Disposal System (OSSDS) Regulations <p><i>2. Old Business:</i></p> <p>a. <u>Approval of Sept. 17, 2015 Minutes and March 3, 2016 Notes</u></p> <p>Motion to approve the Sept. 17, 2015 Minutes and March 3, 2016 Notes (JJ); and HO seconded.</p> <p>b. <u>Review Action Items of October 27, 2016 Notes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Constable Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BG completed Special Constable Status (SCS) training May 2016, which fulfills the NSE requirement to enable Halifax 	

<p>Water to fulfill its SCS requirements to enforce the <i>Protected Water Area (PWA) Regulations</i>;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The SCS MOU has been signed by Halifax Water and sent to NSE; and ○ NSE to sign and return MOU to Halifax Water before trained staff can be recognized with SCS under the <i>PWA Regulations</i>. 	<p><u>Action</u></p>
<p>Action: NSE to send approved copy of MOU to Halifax Water recognizing Halifax Water staff that are trained as Special Constables under the PWA Regulations.</p>	<p>NSE</p>
<p>Motion for Action: JJ Moved that a letter be written to NSE’s Director of Industrial Management and Water Resources on behalf of the Bennery Lake Watershed Management Committee and sent to NSE expressing:</p>	<p>Complete (BG/AM)</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. concern over changes to the On-Site Sewage Disposal System (OSSDS) Regulations and the application process; 2. the need for OSSDS to be flagged and regulatory authorities and Halifax Water to be notified when installed in the watershed area, and how NSE proposes to address this concern; and 3. the need for OSSDS inside municipal drinking water supply areas to be installed at a higher standard than those outside municipal drinking water supply areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG, a check box was removed from the original on-site sewage disposal system installation form, which provided a flag to NSE that the installation was inside a <i>Protected Water Area (PWA)</i>, which triggers stronger OSSDS Regulations. • DM clarified the changes to the OSSDSR Regulations. The installer has to follow the OSSDS Standard; section 5(1) (i) of the Standard states that the <i>PWA Regulations</i> regarding on-site sewage disposal systems (in this case, Sec. 11 of the Bennery Lake Watershed PWA Regulations) must be followed. If installers do not follow either the Standard or the <i>PWA Regulations</i>, then they are out of compliance and may be charged. • Letter to NSE was sent on Feb 2017 (copy provided to members). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waiting for response from NSE. 	
<p>Action: Halifax Water to send electronic copy of the proposed ToR changes to existing membership to vote on the changes.</p>	<p>Complete (AM)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action completed and proposed changes to ToR approved 	
<p>Action: Halifax Water to contact PP to see if he wishes to re-offer for community representative position. If he declines, Halifax Water to re-advertise the position in the local papers.</p>	<p>Complete (PP)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PP reoffered for 2017-2018 	

Action: Deliver new Source Water Protection brochure to residents within the watershed area within the area of Hartland and Cindy Drives. (See Item 6.)

- TC offered to take brochures to the Halifax Home Show for distribution

Action: Distribute brochure to Water Supply Plants.

Motion: Approve Oct. 27, 2016 Notes (HO); GO seconded.

c. Protected Areas

i. Update:

- Bennery Lake Nature Reserve is officially designated a Protected Area (PA).
- Remove from Agenda

ii. PA Signage

- Installed
- Remove from Agenda

d. Terms of Reference

i. Membership Status.

- ToR changes accepted and approved by the Board.

ii. Membership election year

- All positions have been filled

iii. Committee Executive Election

- Next election will be at next meeting for Chair and Vice Chair positions.

3. *New Business Arising:*

a. Land acquisition

- Halifax Water reached an agreement with a private landowner to purchase a large piece of land (97 acres) within the Brookhill Estates subdivision.
- Approximately one half of the parcel is outside of the watershed area.
- This new acquisition means Halifax Water owns 42% of land in the Bennery Lake watershed area, a 10 percent increase from just over 2 years ago.
- Crown land (now mostly PA under NSE's jurisdiction) amounts to ~30% of the watershed area.

Q: *What is the life of an existing development agreement?*

A: A development agreement is typically applicable for 5 - 10 years.

Action
PP

Complete
(AM)

	<u>Action</u>
<p>Action: Check on the life of a development agreement.</p> <p>b. <u>Annual Source Water Protection Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG provided an overview of the SWP Report and requested that committee members read the report and return comments by mid-March. 	<p>TC</p>
<p>Action: Committee members to read SWP Report and provide comments by mid-March.</p> <p><i>Q: Is geocaching a concern? (GO)</i></p> <p>A: No. The policy developed in partnership with the Association of Nova Scotia Geocaching (formally Atlantic Canada Geocaching Association) has worked very well. (BG)</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual SWP Report is required by NSE. • Digital Lake Bathymetry was done with depth sounder and GPS. This was done to assess whether the position of the intake pipe for the water treatment plant has an effect on the geosmin levels in treated water. • DNR NS ToR membership requirement was removed in 2016 as the majority of the Crown land has been converted to Protected Area (NSE). • Halifax Regional Watershed Board ToR membership requirement has been removed because the HWAB no longer exists. • Halifax Water landownership inside the Bennery Lake watershed increased ~10% to 42% ownership. • Dry weather conditions caused levels of Bennery Lake to drop in the summer of 2016. Halifax Water reduced water flow through the day and stopped production through the night to allow the lake to regenerate. <p><i>Q: How are the levels now? (DM)</i></p> <p>A: Back to normal. Levels have recovered as of November 2016. (GO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sediment core sampling was done in Bennery Lake to track the changes in water quality over time. Compared to Lake Major and Pockwock watersheds, Bennery is a small watershed with more potential for development due to the relatively high percentage of private land. • Water quality is good. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water Quality research has been conducted with Ian Spooner of Acadia University. 	<p>All</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The BLWMC is interested in hearing a presentation by Ian Spooner regarding research results once more data has been analysed. <p>Action: Invite Committee to hear Ian Spooner’s presentation.</p> <p>Action: Provide full SWP Report to NSE BLWMC members (DM and HO).</p> <p>4. Municipal Planning Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an application for a quarry – asphalt plant below Aerotech Park. <p>5. Landowner Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report <p>6. Education and Awareness</p> <p>a. Brochure distribution to residents:</p> <p>Action: Canvas residents inside the watershed while delivering the SWP brochures; PP to introduce himself as community rep for the BLWMC.</p> <p>b. Signage (general)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report <p>7. Next Meeting Date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept. 21, 2017 – 2:00 pm. <p>8. Adjournment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:00 pm <p><i>Barry Geddes: Vice Chair</i> <i>Anna McCarron: Secretary</i></p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p>BG</p> <p>BG</p> <p>PP</p>
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