

**Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board****Meeting Notes****March 10, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.****Lake Major Water Treatment Plant**ATTENDEES:

Pearl Cain, North Preston Residents Association.....Community Representative
 Reid Campbell, Director of Water Services.....Halifax Water
 Julie Ernst, Lake Major.....Community Representative
 Andrew Faulkner, Development Officer.....Halifax Regional Municipality
 Barry Geddes, Watershed Manager.....Halifax Water
 Dawn MacNeill, Watershed Planner.....Nova Scotia Environment
 Anna McCarron, Source Water Planner.....Halifax Water
 Derrick Stoddard, Area Manager Halifax West.....Nova Scotia Natural Resources
 Colin Waddell, Lake Major Treatment Plant Manager.....Halifax Water

REGRETS:

Spencer Colley, East Preston Ratepayers Association.....Community Representative
 Bernie Matlock, P. Eng.....Nova Scotia Environment
 Matt Nelson, Forest Technician.....Nova Scotia Natural Resources
 Brenton Sparks, Lake Loon/Cherry Brook Development Association (Chair)Community Rep.
 Garry Oxner, Superintendent of Water Supply Plants (no longer on Board).....Halifax Water
 Heather Olivella, Protected Areas Coordinator.....Nova Scotia Environment



Table 1: Previous Minutes Action Items and Status				
Item Page #	Action Items	Date	Lead	Status
Page 3	Barry Geddes to Contact Krista Hilchey for an update on wetlands in quarry. Update: message left for Krista Hilchey on Mar 7, 2016 – awaiting response.	October 3, 2013 Update: April 23, 2015	Barry	Pending response.
Page 3	Promote Arnold D. Johnson Award to community: Update: Leave on Agenda but remove from Action Item List.	October 2, 2014 Update March 10, 2016	All	Complete
Page 3 and 8	Halifax Water to provide NSCC link to Arnold D. Johnson Award Board members to distribute to local community members. Update: Add promotion of Award as reminder on agenda.	October 2, 2014	Anna/Barry	Complete
Page 4	Make corrections and post approved September 30, 2015 Minutes on website. Update; Not approved due to lack of quorum at Mar 10, 2016 meeting.	September 30, 2015	Anna	Pending
Page 2	Contact Cameron Deacoff about presenting the Preston Area Watershed Study results to the Board. Update: Presentation arranged for October 6, 2016	Sept. 30, 2015	Anna	In progress.
Page 5	Arrange a meeting between Halifax Water and the North Preston Ratepayers Association (NPRPA) to discuss options for swimming in the North Preston Community. Update: Barry Geddes contacted Pearl Cain March 4, 2016 to arrange discussion time. No response to date from NPRPA.	Sept. 30, 2015	Barry/Pearl	In progress
Page 3	Contact the BEA to promote the Arnold D. Johnson Award. Update: Spencer to update.	Sept. 30, 2015	Barry / Spencer	In progress.
Page 3	Julie Ernst requests the name of the contact of the Highway 107 extension project	Sept. 30, 2015	Barry	Complete
Page 6	Send out the most recent letter regarding Bramco subdivision application.	March 10, 2016	Barry	Complete
Page 7	Provide a copy of final draft of the Lake Major SWPP to the LMWA Board for review.	March 10, 2016	Halifax Water	Action required
Page 8	Have educational opportunities, and tour of plant/watershed area.	March 10, 2016	Barry/Anna/Colin	Action required

Action

- Anna distributed copies of:
 - March 10, 2016 Agenda;
 - September 30, 2015 Meeting Minutes;
 - Letter Regarding LMWAB comments on Bramco Holding Inc. subdivision application for PID 40168353;
 - Resource Guide for African Nova Scotian Students; and
 - Annual Source Water Protection Report.
- Barry provided an electronic interactive connection to the Lake Major watershed area map to aid in watershed area discussions.
- Colin Waddell reviewed emergency procedures and facilities location.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Meeting called to order by Barry Geddes in Brenton Sparks' absence.

1. Attendance and Introductions.

- Regrets noted (listed on page 1).
- Lack of Quorum noted (ToR requires 3 of 4 community members); therefore, "Information Meeting Notes" rather than "Minutes" will be recorded.

2. Review of the Previous Minutes

Action Items were reviewed:

- **Wetland Area in close proximity to Quarry area – permit questions:** still waiting response from Krista Hilchey Wetland Program Coordinator for NSE.
- **Promote Arnold D Johnson Sr. award to the community:** Remove from action item in Minutes, add as a reminder to agenda.
- **Proposed Highway Extension:** Remove from Agenda until there is development progress.
- **Swimming in North Preston:** Halifax Water has informed the North Preston Ratepayers Association through Pearl Cain that it is prepared to discuss options; however, there has been no further progress beyond the initial discussion.
- **Spencer Colley's involvement in Arnold D. Johnson Sr. Award promotion through Black Educator's Association:** deferred due to Spencer's absence.
- **Julie Earnst's request for contact name for the Hwy 107 extension project:** Complete.

- **Circulation of Dam PowerPoint presentation to members:** Complete.

Motion to approve the Minutes:

- September 30, 2015 Minutes approval pending next meeting with a quorum.

3. Business Arising From the Minutes

See Action Items reviewed in section 2. of these Minutes.

4. Old Business:

a) Lake Major Newsletter:

- Ready for distribution within 2 weeks.
- Brenton Sparks is the Member Profile for this issue – Brenton has provided information and pictures for other newsletter topics as well.
- This issue also includes information on water quality and testing.
- There is also an update on the Lake Major dam water quality testing efforts.

b) Protected Areas (PA) Update:

- In Heather Olivella's absence, Dawn MacNeill shared an update: The addition to the Waverley Salmon River Long Lake Wilderness Area, which is partially located inside the Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area, has not been approved yet. Still working on some boundary details. Not aware of any specific date for this to happen.
- Halifax Water is still waiting for a decision on a possible land swap with the province.
- The Pockwock Wilderness Area and Bennery Lake Nature Reserve PAs have both been approved by Cabinet; however, a License to Operate for Halifax water within the Pockwock Wilderness Area is still being developed (legal process). Bennery's PA is a Nature Reserve and does not allow a License to Operate.
- The difference between Nature Reserves and Wilderness Areas is that no disturbance is permitted in a Nature Reserve while some activities such as hunting and fishing are permitted in a Wilderness Area.
- A License to Operate is required to allow Halifax Water to conduct its utility needs, even regarding such things as culvert repairs within a Wilderness Area. There is currently an agreement in principle; it's now a matter of creating the documentation.

c) Lake Major Dam Replacement Project Update:

- The negotiation phase regarding maintenance flow will soon be finished.
 - Maintenance flow in summer is 6m²
 - Maintenance flow in the other 9 months is 20m²
- Next steps:
 - Archeological assessment;
 - Dam design; and
 - Public meetings, targeted in the spring or summer of 2017:
 - Halifax Water is open to advice as to how the public information meeting information will be posted.
- The proposed new dam location was indicated on a map by Barry Geddes.
- The new dam is proposed to be half a metre higher than the existing one, subject to approvals and investigation.
- Last year over 40,000 fish (mainly gaspereaux, but included minor populations of sea trout and suckers) were carried over the dam by the fish pump.

Q: *When will construction start?*

A: Construction is scheduled to begin in Spring of 2017; however, it depends on timing around when we are permitted to work in the water and validation of the chosen area (based on bedrock and narrows).

Q: *Where will the placement of second dam be?*

A: Lake levels determine the feasibility and location of the second dam. The long term strategy is to potentially build a second dam 10-50 years down the road, depending on water consumption practices and conservation efforts.

d) Swimming in Long Lake:

- Halifax Water has attempted to contact the NPRA through Pearl Cain. No response from the NPRA to date.

5. New Business:a) Bramco Holdings Ltd. Subdivision Application

- November 2015 subdivision application.
- The application area falls partially inside the Lake Major Protected Water Area (PWA).
- Halifax Water provided a map and comments to the membership based on the Source Water Protection Plan and the provincial Wetland Conservation Policy. Under the Wetland Conservation Policy, the



province considers wetlands within a PWA as “Wetlands of Special Significance”, which require further protection. Following the specifications of the Wetland Policy and knowing there are wetland areas within the Lake Major PWA that were not identified on the application, the original application was not recommended for approval because they were considered to be at risk.

- The week prior to the LMWA Board meeting, a second application was submitted by Bramco, indicating the presence and location of the wetlands; therefore, Halifax Water recommends that the application be approved.

Action: Barry to circulate most recent letter.

b) 69 Bundy Lane

- A single lot was subdivided into 3 lots, of which two, situated in the back, fell within the Protected Water Area (PWA). Halifax Water provided comment to HRM including:
 - Site visits indicated that there were no wetlands or watercourses to be concerned about.
 - The 2 back lots require wastewater service by private on-site septic systems. Halifax Water would like to see a more robust approval process for on-site septic systems within the PWA which may require amending the PWA regulations.
- Communications between Halifax Water and HRM have greatly improved with respect to the development application review process, especially within Protected Water Supply zones. Halifax Water is working with NSE to develop a similar review process whereby Halifax Water is recognized within the PWA when it comes to permit approvals within the PWA.
- The resulting recommendation to the membership was: there were no concerns by Halifax Water with respect to watercourse/wetland issues except for on-site septic concerns which needed to be, and were addressed.

c) 2016 Annual Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) Report

- Barry explained the **review process to the Board for the annual SWPP**, which is that the report must be reviewed by the Board for review and comment, prior to being submitted to NSE.
 - The report is a “tell-all” to NSE on accomplishments and outstanding issues for the previous year and how to improve and build upon source water protection initiatives for upcoming years.
 - Pages 2 – 8, inclusive describe the general SWPP overall.
- **Section 2.2 Emergency Response and First Responders:**
 - Incidence Command System (ICS), a management system, began in 2012, which improved communications and allowed Halifax

Action

Barry



Water to learn about spill sites and accidents within the watershed in a timelier manner.

Action

- **Partnerships** (Page 8 of Annual SWPP Report)
 - Halifax Water was approached in 2014 by the Mountain Bike Association to put in a trail system in the Spider Lake area. Halifax Water met with the Mountain Bike Association to establish guidelines and criteria for mountain biking in the area, similar to the Geocaching Policy developed for that group in 2012. No response to date from the Mountain Biking Association.
 - The Geocaching Policy referred to above was created in Partnership with the Atlantic Canada Geocaching Society and Halifax Water, which provides strict guidelines regarding geocaching activity. As long as the guidelines are followed, they are permitted.
- The Board reviewed Section 3.1.1: Lake Major Watershed accomplishments/update in the Annual SWPP Report.
- Every 7 years, a **draft review of the SWPP** is completed and sent to NSE.
 - Currently in the process of reviewing the Lake Major SWPP.
 - The SWPP is a detailed plan which includes land-use history, identification and management of current activity, and water quality monitoring which takes place within the watershed area.
 - Dawn MacNeill indicated that the Board should be provided with an opportunity to review and provide input to the SWPP.
 - Barry indicated that the SWPP will be made available for the Board to review.

Action: Barry to provide the SWPP final draft for the Board's review.

Barry

- **House demolitions:** Pearl suggested relocating or salvaging houses slated for demolition if possible; i.e., if they are in good condition and in a good environmental state. This could be considered, if cost efficient and the work tender is conducted through a public process.
- **SWP Brochure.**
 - The draft brochure was circulated to the members for information purposes and comment.
- Dawn suggested that **Education** be a standing Agenda item (like Landowners and Municipal updates), to raise awards and events, etc., newsletter, brochure, any BBQs, tree planting events and other public relations information items.

Barry/Anna/
Colin

Action: Provide educational opportunities, e.g., tour of plant and the watershed area.

**Action****6. Landowner Questions:**

No questions were raised.

7. Arnold D. Johnson Sr. Water Resources Award Update:

African Canadian Student Services Resource Guide circulated:

- The Guide contains information on the Arnold D. Johnson Sr. Award.
- Copies of the Guide were circulated amongst the members to be posted at the Church and North Preston Community Centre.
- The Guide may be found online at <http://www.nsc.ca/docs/student-services/africancanadianguide.pdf> .

8. Municipal Development Update:

Nothing to report

9. Election of Officers – September 2016:

Remains on Agenda as a reminder when it is due for consideration.

10. Next Meeting Date:

October 6, 2016.

11. Meeting adjourned:

4:30 p.m.

Brenton Sparks – Chair

Reid Campbell – Vice Chair

Barry Geddes – Secretary – Acting Chair at this meeting