

# POCKWOCK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2017 10:00 am 2 Park Avenue, Lower Sackville Halifax Water Conference Room



# Attendance:

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Jeff Brown (JeB), Forestry Technician	vironment (NSE)Halifax Water unicipality (EH) ironment (NSE)Halifax Water ironment (NSE) Mount Uniacke
Regrets:	
Reid Campbell (RC), P. Eng., Director of Water Services	
Pockwock Watershed Management Committee Meeting Called to Order by Chair	<u>Action</u>
1. Attendance / Introductions:	
<ul> <li>Regrets were expressed (listed above);</li> </ul>	
Quorum noted; and	
AM and BG distributed copies of:	
<ul><li>a. Meeting Agenda</li><li>b. DRAFT Oct. 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes</li><li>c. Source Water Protection (SWP) Report.</li></ul>	
2. Old Business:	
a. Review of Oct. 20, 2016 Minutes and Action Items:	
Appointment of Special Constable Status (SCS):	
<ul> <li>Training completed week of May 2, 2016;</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Allows Halifax Water to enforce Protected Water Area Regulations under Section 106 of the Environment Act; and</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Halifax Water still needs to be appointed SCS by NSE; however, the MOU is awaiting NSE's signature.</li> </ul>	
Action: NSE to sign MOU. JiB to inquire with NSE to see where it is in process.	JiB
ToR Changes Approval:	3110
<ul> <li>Changes accepted. Include updated version as an attachment to the Annual Source Water Protection Report and send to NSE.</li> </ul>	

Action Action: Attach ToR to Annual 2016 SWP Report and send to NSE. Complete (BG) Action: Prepare an electronic and hard copy version of the Protected Areas Complete (BG) (PA) map for March 2017 Committee meeting. See 2(b) below. Complete (BG) Action: Present findings of geosmin report at March 2017 Committee meeting. See 2(c) below. Action: Briefly present how Pockwock water quality has changed over time Complete (BG) based on sediment core sample results. BG briefly described the data collection activity: Data was collected from deep and shallow areas of Pockwock Lake and carbon dating was conducted to track impacts of landscape activities on the watershed over time (1700s – present). Impacts from human activities such as mining, forestry, and road construction have been reduced by watershed regulations introduced in the 1970's, as well as technological advances. Levels of contaminants are returning to pre-colonization levels. Q: Clarification requested on the aspect of lake recovery. Is it a good thing? (CM) A: Lake recovery is a good thing; however, changes to air pollution regulations resulting in changes to water quality are creating challenges that the existing Water Supply Plant (WSP) was not designed to handle. For example, Pockwock Lake has been experiencing increases in organic carbon, which may be a result of the upward trend of pH, which is increasing due to the reduction in emissions (sulfur dioxide) that create acid rain. When Chlorine mixes with organic carbon it creates a disinfectant byproduct that is harmful to the environment. The existing Pockwock WSP uses chlorine to disinfect the water, therefore, creating the disinfectant byproducts. It is a treatment plant issue. Halifax Water is still gathering data. (BG) Q: If an asphalt plant were to be built in the business park (inside the non-designated PWA area of Pockwock watershed) would the water quality be impacted? (CM) A: The water quality would need to be monitored to determine the impacts. (BG)

process? (DM) A: The information gathered from sediment cores suggests human activities impact water quality and the watershed (i.e., the asphalt plant would have a negative

A: You do not want to find out if the asphalt plant has a negative impact after the fact. A more relevant question is; could Halifax Water inform the decision-making

impact). (BG)

A: The data shows the efficacy of watershed regulations. (BG)

Action: Invite expert (Ian Spooner) to present lake recovery data findings to Committee after more data has been collected.

Complete

Action: EH Planning and Development staff to contact JiB to discuss the activity of allowing an asphalt plant inside the Mount Uniacke Business Park (inside the non-designated portion of the Pockwock watershed area).

Action Complete

• RG informed the Committee that she forwarded JiB's contact info to EH's Economic and Business Development staff. JiB confirmed that she was contacted by EH's EBD staff.

Complete
although followup required
RG

# Action: Bring mapping error to East Hants Planning and Development's attention.

• RG confirmed that she did bring the new Lakeshore mapping bylaw zone error to the attention of the EH GIS and mapping staff, but did not follow up to see if it was completed. RG to confirm for next meeting.

#### Motion to accept the Oct. 20, 2017 Minutes (BG); seconded by JiB.

- Oct. 20, 2017 minutes approved.
- b. Protected Areas (PA) update (HO):
  - Cabinet approved the Pockwock area PA designations last year (2016); however, a PA cannot be legally designated until the license is signed.
  - Halifax Water signed the license March 1, 2017; now awaiting Minister's signature.
  - Signs will be posted after legal designation is signed.
  - Electronic version of PWA map was presented to the Committee.
- c. Resource Management Update.
  - i. Forest
    - Nothing to report
  - ii. Water Quality
    - Geosmin update per the SWP report:
      - Geosmin levels continue to persist within the Pockwock watershed;
         and
      - Research indicates that the shorter winters and reduced ice thickness provide ideal conditions for higher than normal populations of algae (e.g., geosmin) to persist over the winter months; therefore allowing the algae population to increase during the warmer months.
- **Q:** Is Halifax Water looking at new treatment options to correct the geosmin problem? (CM)
- A: Yes, but geosmin may present from different sources; one source may be treated in one year, but another source may need to treated the following year. It is difficult to treat and can be very expensive. (BG)
- Q: There must be computer-based water treatment technology available somewhere that measures water as it comes through the process and adjusts according? (CM)

A: The industry is getting there, but the problem is not that old. The industry has made big improvements, but still has a way to go. (BG)

Q: Are water quality problems shared within the industry? (CM)

(AWWA) is one of the lead agencies and Halifax Water is an AWWA member. (DM)

Q: Are water quality problems shared within the industry? (CM)

A: Yes, there are mechanisms in place. The American Water Works Association

Action

• BG explained there is work being done in the water treatment industry to catalogue effects of algae, fungi and bacteria.

- iii. Lake Recovery
  - See Action item in section 2(a) above.
- iv. Sediment Core Sampling
  - See Action item in section 2(a) above.

#### 3. New Business:

- a. Annual SWP Report highlights (BG):
  - SWP Report is an NSE requirement.
  - Digital Lake Bathymetry:
    - Conducted with depth sounder and GPS to assess whether the position of the intake pipe for the water treatment plant has an effect on the geosmin levels in treated water.
  - Interpretive signage for Pockwock is outstanding.
  - Pockwock/Tomahawk source water has been shown to be in a healthy state.

Action: Committee members requested to read the report and return comments by mid-March.

All

Action: Send SWP report in its entirety to NSE (DM and JiB).

BG

RB excused herself from the meeting.

### 4. Landowner Q&A:

- Q: CM inquired about a business in the Mount Uniacke Business Park that was recently purchased within the EH Pockwock Protected Water Supply (PWS) municipal bylaw zone. The new owner is interested in establishing a new business use at that location, but is not allowed to because of the existing land use bylaw. Considering neither the old nor new business meet the bylaw zoning requirements, why was the previous owner allowed to conduct his business and the new owner not permitted to conduct his new business activity?
- A: The old business was grandfathered-in because it was established and actively in use before the new bylaw was established. Because the new business is a change-in-use from the old business and is not an allowable use under the existing land use bylaw, this triggers the existing land use by-law to take effect, which disallows the new business operator from operating the intended business. (DM)

A: The EH Pockwock PWS bylaw zone is municipally governed and enforced by EH; the Pockwock WM Committee can only make recommendations to MEH. Statements of Provincial Interest (SPI) through the Municipal Government Act provide guidance to municipal governments to make land use decisions that support SPIs. In this case drinking water. It would be difficult for MEH to justify rescinding the bylaw, knowing it could negatively impact the water supply. (BG)

Action

- There is a salvage yard just north of the Mount Uniacke Business Park that is also grandfathered in. Halifax Water has a sample point below this area to monitor water quality. It has the poorest water quality in all of Pockwock and close to the poorest among all Halifax Water supplies. A number of factors could influence the water quality, including geology and/or land uses.
- **Q:** Is the Committee concerned about the salvage yard? (CM)
- A: The salvage yard is governed by NSE and must meet the conditions of the permit. If the owner fails to meet the conditions, s/he could lose their permit. (JiB)
- **Q:** How was the watershed boundary developed? (CM)
- A: EH and Halifax Water staff together established the boundary using provincial GIS data for water table depths, contours and other information. Joint site visits by EH and Halifax Water staff were also conducted to verify any discrepancies. (BG)

### 5. East Hants Planning and Development Update:

Moved up in agenda (followed review of Oct. 20 minutes) to accommodate RG's early departure from meeting.

• Nothing to report at this time.

#### 6. Education and awareness

 CM requested hard copies of the SWP brochure to distribute in the community.

## Action: Provide SWP Brochures to CM to distribute within the community.

- The new **Discovery Centre** includes a water science component that was provided some sponsorship from Halifax Water.
- Halifax Water will be participating in the **Kids in the Forest** event in May 2017.

Completed following meeting

#### 7. Election of Officers

Deferred to 2018

#### 8. Next Meeting:

- September 21, 2017 10:00 am (postponed to Oct. 19th due to office closure)
- Location: 2 Park Ave., Lower Sackville, Halifax Water Office Boardroom

<ul><li>9. Adjournment</li><li>12:00 pm</li></ul>	
Tim O'Brien – Chair Barry Geddes – Vice Chair Anna McCarron –Secretary	