

# MIDDLE MUSQUODOBOIT WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 6, 2019 – 6:30 pm**  
**Nova Scotia Natural Resource Education Centre, Middle Musquodoboit**

**Attendance:**

Barry Geddes (BG), Watershed Manager (*Chair*).....Halifax Water  
Dawn MacNeill (DM), Watershed Planner.....Nova Scotia Environment  
Anna McCarron (AM), Source Water Planner (*Secretary*).....Halifax Water  
Matthew McFetridge (MM), District Forest Technician.....NS Department of Lands and Forestry  
Hugh Parker (HP), Representative.....Musquodoboit River Watershed Society (MRWS)  
Mark Sutherland (MS), Representative.....Agriculture Sector  
Dave Taylor (DT), Representative.....Forestry/Woodlot Owner

**Regrets:**

Andrew Faulkner (AF), Principle Planner & Dev. Officer.....Halifax Regional Municipality  
Kerry-Anne Taylor (KT), Representative.....Community Landowner

**Vacant:**

Vacant Representative.....Middle Musquodoboit Community/Customer

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**1. Attendance / Introductions:**

- AM distributed:
  1. March 6, 2019 Draft Agenda;
  2. November 7, 2018 Draft Meeting Minutes; and
  3. Source Water Protection Report – Middle Musquodoboit excerpt.

Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee meeting Called to Order by Chair (BG)

- Regrets conveyed (see above); and
- Quorum determined.

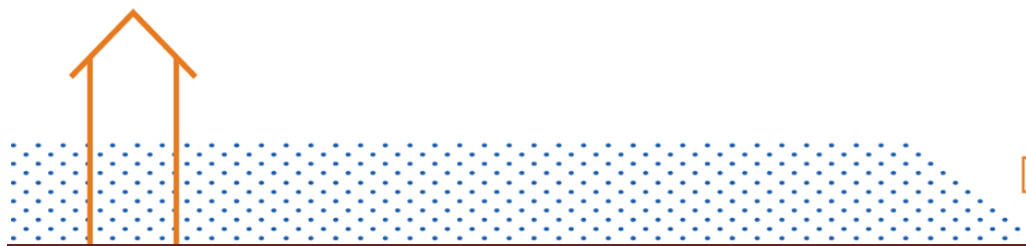
**2. November 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**a. Review of Meeting Minutes**

Action Item status updates are underlined; outstanding items incorporated into Agenda.

**b. Approval of Minutes:**

- Moved by DT, seconded by MM; and all in favour.



**STRAIGHT from  
the SOURCE**



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o priority action to distribute newsletter through customer bills;</li> <li>• Newsletter distribution and format considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o circulate one-pager to whole watershed area, not just to customers;</li> <li>o mailing costs is primary expense;</li> <li>o distribute at Halifax Exhibition booth;</li> <li>o allow MMWAC to review newsletter beforehand;</li> <li>o use Lake Major Newsletter as template, particularly earlier versions;</li> <li>o discuss branding with Halifax Water communications group;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Q: What effort should be first; customer base or broader community? (AM)</i>  <b>A:</b> Target customer base first through billing avenue. (All)</p> <p><i>Q: What is our priority for community outreach? (HP)</i>  <b>A:</b> Consider targeting industrial sectors through their communication avenues; e.g., agricultural, forestry sectors. (BG)</p> <p><i>Q: Is there an agricultural society that distributes a newsletter within the watershed? (BG)</i>  <b>A:</b> There is an Ag newsletter that is circulated through the federation that is province-wide. However, it is difficult to hit a select area like the Musquodoboit Valley through the Agriculture Federation Newsletter. (MS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concentrate on circulating a newsletter in bills and at Exhibition.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Create newsletter to distribute through bills and at exhibition booth.</b></p> <p>iii. <i>Logo Design Contest – Adopt-a-Watershed Awareness Program Design</i></p> <p><u>Talk to Halifax Water staff about putting out a call for customer membership through billing.</u></p> <p><u>Use contest entries at a future open house/community meeting to demonstrate to public about importance of watershed protection and community involvement.</u></p> <p><i>Q: Can we use logo creation contest as a draw for people to come to our booth at the Exhibition and to get it completed? (DT)</i>  <b>A:</b> We have had years of discussion about a logo. Recommend doing it ourselves (through Halifax Water’s communications team) to get it done. (BG)  <b>A:</b> It could be unveiled at exhibition booth. (DT)</p> <p><b>Action: Send two or three mock-ups of the logo for MMWAC comment.</b></p> <p><i>Q: Did the students hear back from the logo contest? (DM)</i>  <b>A:</b> They were asked to express what they got out of the education event more than challenged to a logo contest.  <b>A:</b> We should acknowledge their participation somehow; suggestions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• making a calendar out of some of the drawings (e.g., CBRM’s Water Utility calendar);</li> <li>• making a collage of the drawings; and</li> </ul> </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Action</b></u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AM/BG</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ongoing</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ongoing</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AM</b></p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in a letter thank students and teachers and inform them that we plan to display drawings in some format at booth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Create a plan for how to use the drawings for the booth.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Create two or three logos for MMWAC approval before August.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Send message to teachers indicating we would like to put select drawings on display as a thank you to students for creating the pictures</b></p> <p><b>Action: AM to look into getting a booth.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p> <p><b>AM/All</b></p> <p><b>AM</b></p> <p><b>AM</b></p> <p><b>AM</b></p>
<p><u>Mark arrived to the meeting</u></p> <p><i>iv. Community Outreach Strategies – Open House or Booth at Halifax Exhibition</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halifax Exhibition booth – August 14-17 – attention strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure local people/MMWAC members tend booth;</li> <li>○ Include information about N’Rich®; and</li> <li>○ Include student drawings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>c. Terms of Reference (ToR):</b></p> <p><i>i. Community (Customer)/Landowner representative:</i></p>	
<p><u>Members to continue asking around to help fill committee vacancy.</u></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><u>Mail out a newsletter to the community seeking recruitment for a community customer representative.</u></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>d. Livestock Access to Watercourses Impact – Water Quality Baseline</b></p> <p><i>i. NSSA NSLC Adopt-a-Stream (AaS) Project Application Status</i></p>	
<p><u>Provide a map of the watershed area including sampling points and extent of distribution area to the MMWAC.</u></p>	<p>Complete (emailed Nov 8, 2018)</p>
<p><u>Provide an AaS application example to HP as a guide to the application process.</u></p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p><u>Halifax Water to provide water quality information to HP to be used in the AaS application, if required.</u></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HP submitted an AaS application with input from AM who provided a proposal template;</li> <li>• HP and AaS coordinator Amy Weston determined that August would be best time to conduct stream restoration work with respect to flooding;</li> <li>• HP and MS to discuss hydrology and restorative actions of proposed site as well as costs and values for AaS funding application;</li> <li>• Halifax Water can provide in-kind and possibly financial support;</li> <li>• AaS updates could be provided at booth (carefully considering optics);</li> <li>• Funding could be available through the <a href="#">Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)</a>, however, program funding ends in March;</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Action: MS will look into funding opportunities available through CAP.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS also may be able to provide machinery and other in-kind support;</li> <li>• Conduct site visit soon to determine watercourse alteration and habitat restoration needs;</li> </ul>	<p><u>Action</u> MS</p>
<p><b>Action: HP and MS to conduct site visit and discuss costs and values to include in AaS funding application ASAP.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other committee members could provide advice as well;</li> <li>• HP is waiting for the weather to improve before assessing the restoration areas and getting AaS technical assistance;</li> <li>• In the meantime, HP and MS will discuss what may be accomplished with the tools at hand and restoration needs; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ E.g., Lindsay Brook backs up and floods adjacent fields; partially due to water flow direction changes and beaver dams;</li> <li>○ Want to direct the main outlet of the stream into the main brook that crosses the highway;</li> <li>○ ditch brook runs across the field and used to be the main brook;</li> <li>○ in the 1980s, two fields were tiled at the same time to drain both fields at once; now when water gets into ditch brook it gets too full and doesn't drain; MS wants to fix it so the two fields will drain;</li> <li>○ need to somehow restore ditch brook and keep it open to prevent it from flooding and to allow waterways to flow as they were meant to and to prevent issues such as fertilizers running into waterways;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>HP/MS</p>
<p><i>Q: Are riparian areas part of the restoration plan? (AM)</i></p>	
<p><i>A: Yes. HP</i></p>	
<p><i>Q: Would MS be amenable to planting willows or other plants along the edge of the fields?</i></p>	
<p><i>A: MS had a biodiversity study done on his fields; and got a really good report because of the hedgerows and habitat for birds, including a wetland area.</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guarantees that cattle will not be in the brooks that run through his fields again; (MS)</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Q: Should we promote AaS restoration activity at the Halifax Exhibition booth to drum up volunteer help? (AM)</i></p>	
<p><i>A: Need to consider how the community perceives Halifax Water's involvement in the AaS project. (DM/BG)</i></p>	
<p><b>Action: Assess how Halifax Water promotes Middle Musquodoboit AaS project activities; should that be done at the exhibition booth?</b></p>	<p>BG/AM/ HP/MS</p>
<p><b>e. Tour of Water Supply Plant:</b></p>	
<p><u>Determine tour date after new committee member chosen.</u></p>	<p><u>Pending new</u> <u>committee</u> <u>member</u></p>
<p><b>f. Agriculture Regulations</b></p>	
<p><i>i. Presentation by Agriculture Department</i></p>	

<p><u>MS to contact the Agricultural Department to find out who would be best to deliver presentation to the MMWAC.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS recommended Michael Kittilsen present about Agriculture policies.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. New Business:</b></p> <p><b>a. Source Water Protection Report – Middle Musquodoboit Excerpt</b></p> <p><i>BG reviewed the SWPR with the members:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DT and MS were thanked for fulfilling the roles of Forestry and Agriculture representatives on the MWAC, respectively; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correct the SWP Report omission – acknowledge MS for generously fulfilling role of Agriculture Representative on MMWAC; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>• DM asked for a correction of the year-date; i.e., from 2019 to 2018;</li> <li>• Water Quality Data table needs to have more interpretation; e.g., what is the significance of turbidity?</li> <li>• Need to spell out the abbreviations in the table; i.e., Al = Aluminum</li> </ul> <p><i>Q: What are the averages – how do those in Middle Musquodoboit compare with those in other watershed areas – a “yard stick”? (DT)</i></p> <p><b>A:</b> The tables are a snapshot of what happened to the raw water quality in the given reporting year (2018). (DM)</p> <p><i>Q: How do we account for the anomalies in the table?</i></p> <p><b>A:</b> To provide the whole picture of water quality in the area, particularly for the new members on the committee, gradually explain what the influences on various water quality parameters are.</p>	<p><u><b>Action</b></u> <u>Complete</u></p>
<p><b>Action: BG will explain source water, water quality parameters.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fact sheets available on Halifax Water’s website could be at the exhibition booth, to provide answers about water quality;</li> </ul>	<p><b>AM/BG</b></p>
<p><b>Action: Provide fact sheets at Halifax Exhibition booth.</b></p> <p><i>Q: If well water detection limit numbers are the same as those outlined in the table, would that water be drinkable?</i></p> <p><b>A:</b> No. NSE recommends not drinking surface water or any well water that does not meet Health Canada Guidelines for drinking water.</p>	<p><b>AM</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Raw</i> water quality test values provide an early warning signal before treatment at the WSP;</li> <li>• Solutions to raw water quality issues may be resolved by working with landowners to address water quality issues identified through Halifax Water’s raw water quality sampling program;</li> <li>• <a href="#">Research led by Dr. Rob Jamieson</a> indicated that most <i>E. coli</i> in water samples in the MM watershed area, are sourced from humans not cattle, as assumed.</li> </ul>	

<p><i>i. Wellheads Labelled on SWPR map.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wellheads were labelled;</li> <li>If there are any other changes, omissions or deletions, send them directly to BG before the end of March;</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Provide any errors or omissions in the SWPR directly to BG before the end of March.</b></p> <p><b>5. Landowner Questions:</b></p> <p><b>a. N’Rich® Product Information and Tour</b></p> <p><u>MS to send N’Rich® product information to BG. Need assurances the product won’t affect water quality.</u></p> <p><u>MS to contact N’Rich® consultant about a presentation to the Committee to better educate them on its use.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggest having separate meetings for the presenters: Michael Kittilsen and BG at the same time; and a separate tour and meeting with N’Rich®.</li> <li>Suggested time for N’Rich® tour – days are preferred.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Conduct a Doodle poll for N’Rich® tour and for the next meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early April or fall best time for N’Rich® plant tour.</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Demonstration that Signage is Working</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Northern Pulp forest harvester came across the watershed sign and contacted Halifax Water to inquire whether there are any forestry operation restrictions.</li> <li>BG provided them with a copy of the BMPs and reviewed the plan.</li> <li>The signs are working to create awareness!</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Municipal Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing to report at this time.</li> </ul> <p><b>7. Next Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBD pending Ag rep, Michael Kittilsen’s availability.</li> <li>Wednesdays at 6:30 are best for most people.</li> <li>November 6, 2019 is proposed, storm date November 13</li> </ul> <p><b>8. Adjournment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:29 p.m.</li> </ul> <p><i>Respectfully submitted by: Anna McCarron, Secretary</i></p>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> <p><u>In progress</u></p> <p><u>In progress</u></p> <p><b>AM</b></p>
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