

POCKWOCK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



September 12, 2019 – 10:00 am
Meeting Minutes
Conference Boardroom, 2 Park Avenue, Lower Sackville

Attendance:

Barry Geddes (BG), (*Vice Chair*) Watershed ManagerHalifax Water
Rachel Gilbert (RG), Manager of Planning ServicesEast Hants Municipality (EH)
Andrew Houlihan (AH), Supervisor, J.D. Kline Water Supply Plant.....Halifax Water
Dawn MacNeill (DM), Watershed PlannerNova 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)
Michael Perry (MP), Community Representative.....Mount Uniacke

Regrets:

Jeff Brown (JeB), Forestry TechnicianDepartment of Lands and Forestry (DLF)
Jillanna Brown (JiB), P. Eng., Regional Engineer.....Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)
Reid Campbell (RC), P. Eng., Director of Water ServicesHalifax Water
Sally Steele (SS), Protected Areas Coordinator, Western Region.....Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)

1. Attendance/Introductions:

- a. Michael Perry (MP), the new Mount Uniacke Committee representative on this Committee introduced himself. Michael is also the Council Representative for District 8.
- b. Committee members introduced themselves;
- c. AM distributed copies of the following:
 - i. Meeting Agenda; and
 - ii. DRAFT March 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes;

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

- d. Regrets were conveyed (listed above);
[Note: Sally Steele is replacing Heather O’Keefe as the Protected Wilderness Area Coordinator representative on the Committee; her coverage area is South West Nova]; and
 - e. Quorum noted
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<p>2. Old Business:</p> <p>a. Approval of March 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes:</p> <p><u>Minutes approved as presented – Moved by BG, seconded by AH, all in favour.</u></p> <p>b. Special Constable Status (SCS)/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BG still waiting for final approval on his SCS from the Department of Justice/Nova Scotia Environment; <p>Q: Can BG issue a Summary Offense Ticket (SOT)? A: No. BG cannot issue a SOT until he has received SCS from the province.</p> <p>Action: BG will show signed SCS MOU for Halifax Water at the next meeting.</p> <p>c. Protected Wilderness Area Signage Update (HO/BG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SS provided BG with details via email about Pockwock Wilderness Area (WA) signage in the Protected Water Area (PWA) portion of the Pockwock Lake Watershed Area;• BG displayed to the Committee the Pockwock WA boundary in relation to the Pockwock Watershed Area (see <i>Error! Reference source not found.</i> for graphic illustration):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the Pockwock WA gained wilderness protection designation status on March 27, 2017, as part of the province’s commitment to protect at least 13% of provincial land;○ the WA in the Pockwock watershed follows along most of the west side of Pockwock Lake and includes Haverstock Island, the top west boundary of the watershed area, to and including Peggy’s Brook and Island Lake, crossing Highway 101 and ending at West Lake;• There are access issues for those requiring it:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ part of the criteria to protect a WA is it must be signed and/or gated;• <i>Protected Water Area (PWA)</i> regulatory signs and gates are strategically placed to deter unauthorized access into the <i>PWA</i>; and signs along the boundary and the main road provide public awareness;• Halifax Water cost-shares with DLF and NSE to protect the area;• Protected WA signage is approved but not in the ground yet;• Halifax Water is erecting a gate at one of the culverts that will be closed on weekends and open weekdays;• gate installation timeline is pending NSE Protected Areas group; <p><u>Discussion regarding different agencies’ watershed access:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to consider agencies’ responsibilities and ability to gain access: i.e.;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ emergencies and fire departments will obtain watershed access by conventional means, as necessary;○ DLF offices and conservation officers have keys;	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p>Pending</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to determine a protocol regarding various other agencies; e.g., contractors’ and researchers’ access to the watershed after hours. <p>Action: BG to send TO (DLF) a protocol for contractors and others to access the watershed area through locked gates.</p> <p><u>Send locations and request for signage at the boundaries so Conservation agents can enforce Wilderness Protected Area regulations; and cc to DM, JeB and Terry White.</u></p> <p>d. Mount Uniacke Signage:</p> <p><i>i. Signage at Bell Park:</i></p> <p>a. Public Water Supply Signage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM provided background re watershed signage placement at Bell Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Harold Carroll, at (then) Department of Natural Resources granted sign placement and content approval at Bell Park entrance in 2011; ○ Jim Foster (Chairman of Bell Park Association) was also consulted in 2011 and requested sign placement near road instead of parking lot; ○ signage did not get placed at that time; • AM recently was in contact with Carrie Drake, DLF Planner, who advised discussing sign branding and placement with Sandra Fraser, DLF; • BG displayed a street view of the sign location at the Bell Park entrance; <p>Q: Do you need to put “Public Water Supply” on the sign in that area? (MP)</p> <p><u>Discussion of sign branding and wording:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Lake Water Supply sign is a good template; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Simply states “Grand Lake Water Supply” and “Emergency Call 911” and was funded by East Hants; • remove Halifax Water reference from Bell Park sign; • suggest proposed wording be “Pockwock Lake Water Supply Area” – and “Emergency Spill call (911)”; • Bell Park is not in PWA so specific regulatory wording is not needed and neither is provincial flag logo; • should we consider “for more information” (FMI) contact number? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ still need Sandra Fraser at DLF’s approval of sign content, including provincial branding, etc.; ○ The Grand Lake highway sign is assumed to be Halifax Water’s, which is why it is important to differentiate with the FMI numbers; ○ most important is to call 911 in an emergency; ○ keep wording simple and eliminate need to upgrade changed branding; ○ intent is to ID water supply area and call 911 in emergency spill. • 4 x 8 sign is proposed at Bell Park and one at nearby gate beside Church. 	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p>BG</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p>
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<p>Action: Remove Halifax Water’s and provincial branding and keep sign simple: i.e., call 911 in emergency and state “Pockwock Lake Water Supply Area”;</p> <p>b. Interpretive Signage throughout Bell Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussed with Jim Foster interpretive signage inside the park 8 years ago, as an education tool about watershed protection; • the Bell Park Association has been revitalized, so there now may be an audience receptive to placing educational signage in the park; 	<p><u>Action</u> AM</p>
<p><u>Consult with new community member about community signage once the member has been instated on Committee.</u></p>	<p><u>Complete</u></p>
<p>Action: After the other watershed signage has been put into place, approach the Bell Park Association about interpretive signage in the Park.</p> <p>ii. <i>Pockwock Watershed Protected Water Area Awareness Signage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 old wooden <i>Protected Water Area (PWA)</i> signs need replacement; • BG displayed the locations of the 4 <i>PWA</i> signs on Google Earth: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. East Hants Business Park off Exit #3 on Hwy 101; 2. Just before marker 284, Halifax bound, on Hwy 101; 3. Off Exit 3 ramp at gate to watershed area; and 4. Entrance to J.D. Kline Water Supply Plant; • propose to cover the old wooden signs with aluminum laminate signage; • NSTIR protocol states we need to inform adjacent landowners before placing signs; East Hants Municipality is hereby being informed; • 2 highway signs may be installed by NSTIR (pending report back from Brian Storrie) and remaining 2 signs by Halifax Water contractor. <p>iii. <i>Regulatory Signage</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • replacing regulatory signs in <i>PWA</i> portion of the watershed due to vandalism of old signs; • stickers with DLF hotline number will be put on these signs; • restricted activities wording includes restricting pet swimming because there has been an extreme increase in dog swimmers; • remove government logo to decrease need for more agency approvals. 	<p>AM/BG</p>
<p>Action: Continue working on signage for Pockwock watershed area.</p> <p>e. Resource management updates:</p> <p>i. <i>Forest:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG explained forest harvesting activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ completed the following blocks (see Appendix for illustrations): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HN068462A, B and C (individual tree selection) ▪ HN068463A (partial / “group section”); 	<p>AM/BG</p>

<p>3. New Business</p> <p>a. Tour of water supply plant and watershed area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 24 – a one-hour tour at 11 am with BBQ in between plant and 1-hour watershed tours; <p>Action: AM to send out an Outlook invitation and timeframe for response.</p> <p>b. Water Storage and Withdrawal Permit</p> <p>Action: Deferred until the next meeting.</p> <p>c. Barrier work to prevent ATV traffic entering watershed from St. Margaret’s Bay area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATV Club – contacted Westfor inquiring why one of their trails was blocked as they were given permission to use the trail which runs through the western boundary of the watershed. Westfor contact BG who confirmed with DLF that no permit was issued for that trail; The barrier rocks were left in place. BG contacted ATVANS and provided mapping information to prevent ATVAN members from mistakenly entering the watershed. <p>Q: Has Waverley Office been contacted to see if a permit was issued? (TO) A: BG contacted JeB who was not aware of any permits being issued from DLF that allows ATV access through the watershed.</p> <p>d. Source Water Protection Report (2018 Report action item)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JiB wants to see all the water quality parameter data. <p><u>Provide all water quality parameter data to JiB.</u></p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> <p>AM</p> <p>All</p> <p><u>complete</u></p>
<p>4. Landowner Q & A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> concern about plant growth in West Lake; (MP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a concern throughout Canada; (BG) typical culprits don’t seem to be the problem; i.e., septic systems are not leaking, fertilizer is not used, but there is lots of plant growth; (MP) water quality samples collected at West Lake Brook and Pockwock and Island Lakes show increases in pH; (BG) wildlife is thriving but worry is about invasive aquatic species and other plant growth that swimmers are encountering; (MP) Lake recovery (higher pH) is believed to be causing an increase in organics; <p>Q: Can an aquatic herbicide be applied? (MP) A: Low alkalinity in lakes would provide no buffer and would kill everything in the lake if herbicides were applied. (AH)</p> <p>5. Municipal Planning Update</p>	

	<u>Action</u>
<p>a. Development within natural watershed boundary / Business Park Expansion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Hants Municipality (EHM) is going ahead with the expansion; • road construction waiting until RFP/procurement process is complete; • Acid-bearing slate is a concern and is considered in the RFP review process; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BG/DM is offering Halifax Water and NSE data to East Hants regarding the short- and long-term impacts of handling slate. <p>6. Education and Awareness Update</p> <p>a. Information Package for Watershed Area Developers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously discussed creating and distributing an information package to Mount Uniacke area / East Hants developers buying or developing lots inside the watershed area; • RG spoke to East Hants Economic Business Development; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It may be useful for EHM to develop a brochure of the LUBs; ○ worried about confusing information if it were to come from Halifax Water. <p><i>Q: Is there anything that the Committee should provide to EH when permits are being sold inside the watershed? (AM)</i> <i>A: We could provide BMPS and links to our website. (RG)</i> <i>Q: What kind of format would you like to provide? (RG)</i> <i>A: We have developed newsletters for Lake Major and Middle Musquodoboit. (AM)</i> <i>Q: What kind of information would you like to get out to property owners? RG</i> <i>A: Watershed-related information. (AM)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • previously considered using local publications; • instead we could use Legion, local businesses, pizza shops, library and posting information in well-trafficked areas to get messages out; <p><i>Q: Try a yearly publication to inform residents about new signs for example? (MP)</i> <i>A: Whatever is developed must come from PWMC, not Halifax Water. (MP/RG)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee is ok with an annual Newsletter, when there is news to share. <p>Action: Create and distribute a Newsletter from the PWMC, only as needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to distribute something around the Business Park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only work through East Hants Development Association. <p>b. Branding (Logo):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress. <p><u>Committee to ask EH whether they can provide an information package for the municipality to give to landowners to educate them about the issues that could affect the water quality of the Pockwock watershed.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ongoing</u></p>

<p><u>Send SWEPS' survey to TO.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. <i>Election of Officers – October 2020</i> 8. <i>Next Meeting – March 5, 2020</i> 9. <i>Adjournment moved by DM 12:03 pm</i> <p><i>Respectfully submitted by AM</i></p>	<p><u>Action</u> <u>Complete</u></p>
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Appendix 1