

Collin's Park Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



Collin's Park Watershed Advisory Committee

Date: October 18, 2023		Meeting Time: 6:30 pm	Adjourned: 8:52pm
Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams.			
Member name and position		Agency/Representation	
Attendees:	Mike Allen (MA), Watershed Planner (virtual)	NS Environment and Climate Change (NSECC)	
	Phil Francis (PF), Community Representative	Lake Fletcher	
	Barry Geddes (BG), Watershed Manager	Halifax Water	
	Bev Lawson (BL), Customer Representative (virtual)	Collin's Park WSP User	
	Anna McCarron (AnM), (<i>Vice Chair</i>), Source Water Planner	Halifax Water	
	Tom Mills (TM), Representative	Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society (SWEPS)	
	Alana Murray (AIM), Manager Water Supply Plants	Halifax Water	
	Peter Nightingale (PN), Planning and Development Officer	Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)	
	Dick Pickrill (DP), (<i>Chair</i>) Community Representative	Wellington	
	Wayne Stobo (WS), Community Representative	Waverley	
Regrets:	Ken Burrows (KB), Representative	Development Sector Representative	
	Greg Cummings (GC), Watershed Planner	NSECC	
	Jean-Charles Finnigan (JC), Engineer	NSECC	
	Colin Waddell (CW), Senior Manager Water Services, Acting Director of Operations	Halifax Water	
Guests:	Kevin Gray (KG), Senior Manager, Regulatory Approvals	Halifax Water	

1. Attendance / Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair, Dick Pickrill

Introduction of members and guests. Two attended virtually (see attendees above).

Quorum noted. Minutes recorded electronically. BG reminded attendees that the meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes. Recordings are destroyed once minutes have been approved.

2. Shubie Canal Utility Corridor Presentation – Kevin Gray

<p>Discussion:</p>	<p>KG provided a presentation on the Shubie Canal/Port Wallace Utility Corridor, displayed to the members via Power Point. An abridged presentation is available here.</p> <p>Since the 1980's, the Cities of Dartmouth and Halifax (HRM) envisioned future growth nodes, which included Port Wallace. To provide water and wastewater services to the Port Wallace area, a utility corridor is required.</p> <p>With the development of Dartmouth Crossing in the mid-2000s, HRM deemed the utility corridor necessary in the near future.</p> <p>In 2015, HRM began the Port Wallace land use suitability study. This was followed by a water/wastewater and transportation infrastructure study, contracted to CBCL by HRM to complete in 2016/2017 to provide different options for servicing water/wastewater.</p> <p>The new utility corridor will carry close to 10 new utility lines including water/wastewater and gas. The plan is to upgrade the existing infrastructure, including stormwater, increasing its life expectancy from 15 yrs. to 75-100 yrs. Throughout the upgrading process, disturbance in the area will be mitigated.</p> <p>In 2018, HRM began meeting with the Shubie Canal Commission to plan the crossing. The new crossing is 1.4 km long and located just north of the existing crossing. Once the tender is issued and the contractor is selected, the public will be re-engaged about the construction plan and schedule.</p> <p>Some of the land in Shubie Park is Crown land. Executing this project over Crown land entailed a 2-year application process to the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNRR). The application process was initiated in 2020 and involved Mi'kmaq consultation, an archeological assessment, a legal survey and public participation.</p> <p>The timing of the construction is uncertain. Installation is expected to take 18-24 months to complete. Halifax Water is waiting for final approval from HRM before this project goes to tender.</p> <p>The Collin's Park water supply area has also been considered in the project development process as it falls just inside the southernmost boundary of the Collin's Park watershed area. The risk to the water supply is considered low.</p> <p>WS asked if the purpose of the corridor is to develop the Port Wallace area.</p> <p>KG replied that the corridor is to deliver the sewage effluent for treatment from the new growth area to a wastewater treatment plant. The potable water pipeline for the growth area is already there. The new water line connector that is being constructed in the corridor is to provide a second line to the Burnside area, for redundancy – a cost-effective way to build more resiliency into Halifax Water's infrastructure. Similarly, Heritage Gas is taking advantage of this opportunity to install more connections and are cost-sharing this project with Halifax Water and HRM.</p> <p>DP asked if the new corridor will be built before Port Wallace is completed.</p> <p>KG replied that there was enough capacity at the 200 Waverly Road pump station to allow for a 2-phase development. The first phase is ongoing. It is expected that the 2nd phase of construction will begin this spring (2024). Eventually, all sewer from this area will be sent through the North Dartmouth connector.</p>
<p>Decision:</p>	<p>No action items were generated from the presentation. Remove from agenda.</p>

3. Review and Approval:

a. October 18, 2023 Meeting Agenda:

Discussion: Review of October 18, 2023 Agenda.

Decision: Agenda approved as presented.

b. March 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Discussion: Review of March 2, 2023 Minutes

Decision: Motion to approve the Minutes.

Motion: WS moved to approve Minutes. Seconded by TM.

4. Education and Awareness:

a. Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan Applications (HRM Speaker Opportunities):

Discussion: *Erosion and Sedimentation Presentation*

This has an agenda item since October 2018. PN indicated that HRM is committed to delivering a presentation in 2023.

The Committee is considering inviting other like-minded committees to the presentation for information-sharing purposes; i.e., the [East Hants Source Water Advisory Committee](#).

The Committee decided to host the HRM erosion and sedimentation presentation on a separate date from the ECC presentation on enhanced wastewater systems to allow time for meaningful discussions at each presentation. A doodle poll will follow, to finalize the date for the HRM presentation.

There was further discussion on the feasibility of having presentations about phosphorus loading and the recent enhanced OSSDS and cyanobacteria presentations, as follows:

HRM Phosphorus Loading:

PN advised that Erin McIntyre, Director of Development Services at HRM, recently presented to HRM's [Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee](#) about HRM's phosphorus loading policy. The presentation starts at 1:26:00 at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8YQ3NhTTvcE&t=99s>.

The Committee was asked to view this presentation to see whether it answers the members' questions regarding HRM's phosphorus loading policy. Depending on the feedback from the Committee members, a presentation on phosphorus loading by HRM may be requested as well.

NSECC Enhanced STP Presentation (Oct. 10, 2023):

PN asked whether the NSECC OSDSS presentation recording could be made available to him since he was not able to attend the live event. PN was advised that meeting recordings are for note-taking purposes only and not for circulation, due to permissions issues. Once meetings are approved, the recordings are destroyed.

Further, Stefen Furey, when he provided the enhanced STP presentation, advised that he needed approval from his superiors to share the presentation. DR will follow up with Stefen.

Moving forward, hard copies will be requested for distribution to the membership.

Cyanobacteria:

	<p>TM reported that SWEPS is sampling for cyanobacteria throughout the watershed. TM advised that NSCC has provided lab space for SWEPS to assess the chemical and biological water samples they collect. The NSCC's new sampling processes have improved reporting time from days to within the same day.</p> <p>BG to follow up with Halifax Water's Water Quality Manager on the cyanobacteria program within Collin's Park.</p> <p>AIM advised that Halifax Water has a cyanobacteria monitoring program for its main water supplies; there is growth in the sampling assessment capabilities for basic analysis there as well.</p>												
Decision:	<p>PN and AnM to continue to work on the E&S presentation logistics. This will be a special meeting outside of the two (2) regular meetings per year.</p> <p>PN to share link to the phosphorus presentation by HRM to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.</p> <p>DP to follow up with Stefen Furey about sharing his presentation.</p> <p>BG to verify Halifax Water's cyanobacteria program and how it relates to Collin's Park.</p>												
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b. Education Strategy and Draft Materials:													
Discussion:	The education strategy is pending collaboration with Halifax Water's Corporate Communication (CC) team as they develop Halifax Water's overall communication strategy (see more in c. below).												
Decision:	AnM & DP to meet to discuss once the strategy has been developed.												
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c. Newsletter re stormwater management (e.g., Sobey's):													
Discussion:	To reduce the burden on resources, Halifax Water is considering an umbrella approach to education and outreach. Halifax Water CC is the lead. In the short-term, immediate needs may be tackled separately until a plan is in place, i.e., filling vacant CPWAC positions.												

Decision:	Ongoing priority for 2023		
Action Items:	Person responsible	Deadline	
1. Halifax Water’s Watershed Team is to meet with the Corporate Communication (CC) Team to develop an education and awareness strategy as part of broader communications strategy led by Halifax Water CC.	BG/AM	Pending	
2. Future newsletter item – Fall River carwash. Hold for future article.	BG/AM	ASAP (pending CC Strategy)	
d. Signage:			
Discussion:	Preliminary sign locations were presented to the Committee via Google Earth by BG at the March 2023 meeting. Preliminary sign locations are proposed to be along main connector routes at key entry points into the watershed. Site visits are planned for this spring to assess locations. If locations are acceptable, then landowners will be contacted for permission. In the meantime, signs will be designed.		
Decision:	Ongoing priority for 2023/2024		
Action Items:	Person responsible	Deadline	
Install large watershed signs.	BG/AM	Ongoing	
5. Old Business:			
a. Aerotech Park Connector to Hwy 2:			
i. Wetland compensation next steps:			
Discussion:	<p>TM reported that McCallum Environmental Ltd.’s SWEPS Wetland Compensation project lead (Andy) has left McCallum. Sarah Scarlett has been assigned to replace him.</p> <p>Since the last CPWAC meeting, TM reported that McCallum has contacted him for land information in the East Hants area below the Collin’s Park water supply area. Also, field verification is ongoing to improve their GIS database. McCallum has been invited to the November (2023) SWEPS meeting to provide an update on the GIS vulnerability tool.</p> <p>BG reported that CPWAC members met with McCallum to provide information for the vulnerability tool. Further, Halifax Water has shared GIS and water quality information relating to the Collin’s Park water supply area with McCallum through a data-sharing license.</p>		
Decision:	Keep on agenda. Update as necessary.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
1. Meet with McCallum regarding the vulnerability tool.	CPWAC members	Complete	
2. Keep on Agenda	BG	Next meeting	
ii. Community Liaison Committee (CLC)			
Discussion:	<p>BG advised that no Aerotech Community Liaison Committee meetings have been held this year (2023) and none are scheduled.</p> <p>BG reported that he completed a site visit with Nova Scotia Public Works (NSPW) and</p>		

	<p>Dexter Construction (the contractor doing the work) on October 16, 2023. Subgrade work is ongoing. The current work area is roughly halfway to Exit 5-Hwy 102, at the large wetland (Hollands Brook wetland). BG observed a large clay pit being used as fill in the subgrade near the Holland's Brook wetland. He did not observe any sediment-laden water leaving the site. There was a report on Oct.17 of sediment runoff in the area, which turned out to be related to recent CNR ditch work near Kings Landing below Lake Fletcher. BG observed ongoing ditch and sediment pond work to improve the water quality from the runoff from the bedrock and wetland drainage work at the Aerotech construction site. Limestone was applied to the ditches and pond on the down slope to Hwy 2 to improve water quality pH. The bulk of truck deliveries were via Hwy 2. Halifax Water will continue to monitor the site and water quality as the project moves toward Exit 5-Hwy 102. Concerns were raised about creosote ties from CNR rail work contaminating the water supply area. TM indicated that they contacted CNR and NSECC in the past. Ties continue to be left raiaside. No action items were identified.</p>	
Decision:	BG will continue to attend CLC meetings as the CPWAC and Halifax Water representative.	
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Continue to attend CLC meetings and provide updates to the CPWAC.	BG	Ongoing
iii. Sedimentation release events in late January (2023):		
Discussion:	<p>At the last meeting, it was reported that multiple sediment release events in Dec 2022/Jan 2023 were due to a combination of extreme wet conditions and poor erosion control measures at the construction site.</p> <p>BG sent emails to NSECC and NSPW seeking information on what improvements have been made to mitigate these events. There has been no response. BG will continue to monitor the site and provide updates to the Committee as they become available.</p> <p>BG reported that there have been short-term water quality changes since the project began. All samples collected to date are within acceptable CCME Guideline limits. TM requested a copy of the WQ sample results collected from Holland Brook.</p> <p>At this meeting, KB reported that the ponds on his property are still exhibiting dark/muddy water and are filling in with siltation from the Aerotech connector. NSECC, the contractor and KB are working to remediate the situation.</p> <p>Regarding sharing Holland Brook data with TM, Halifax Water requires a data-sharing license agreement with SWEPS to share the water quality information requested.</p>	
Decision:	Continue to monitor and provide updates. BG to contact TM with data sharing agreement.	
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Continue to monitor and provide updates on the project.	All	Ongoing
2. Send water quality data for Holland Brook to TM after TM has signed data-sharing agreement, provided by BG.	BG	By next meeting
b. Scotian Materials Goff's Quarry Community Liaison Committee (CLC):		
Discussion:	BG reported no outstanding items since the last Scotian Materials CLC meeting.	

Decision:	BG to continue to attend Scotian Materials CLC meetings on behalf of CPWAC.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Keep on Agenda for reporting purposes.	BG	Next meeting
c. HRM Shubenacadie River Watershed Floodplain Mapping Study		
Discussion:	<p>Over concerns that the floodplain study would not be released to the public at our last meeting, TM moved to FOIPOP the study, WS seconded and the motion was passed.</p> <p>BG reported at this meeting that HRM appointed Helen Langille as the new project lead for the Shubenacadie Floodplain Study. Helen contacted Halifax Water in late August to say that the study has been reopened. HRM is in the process of developing an action plan. The first order of business is to develop an interactive mapping tool similar to that of the Sackville Rivers floodplain (Sackville Floodplains Halifax).</p>	
Decision:	Hold FOIPOP. BG to inform the Committee once the new information for the Shubenacadie River Floodplain is posted to the website.	
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Investigate the status of the Floodplain Study.	PN/CDG	Complete
2. Send FOIPOP request to HRM for Floodplain Study.	DP/AM	April 2023 (On hold)
3. Send link to CPWAC once HRM posts to website.	BG	Pending release
d. Carwash Stormwater Design Specifications – implementation and effectiveness:		
Discussion:	<p>At the last meeting, the Committee expressed concern about whether the carwash was operating according to the design specs and treatment system. To determine who is responsible for overseeing the impacts of its operations, BG suggested starting with Halifax Water and going from there, which the Committee supported.</p> <p>BG reported at this meeting that Halifax Water Compliance staff confirmed it was Halifax Water’s responsibility to investigate the concerns of the wash-water leaving the carwash area because the water was entering Halifax Water’s stormwater system.</p> <p>Sample results were non-detect for any soapy carwash effluent. It was subsequently determined that the water leaving the site was residual rinsewater on cars leaving the site and that the carwash was operating as designed. Evidence of hydrocarbons was also tested for, which also came back non-detect. The investigation is complete.</p> <p>This was a previously identified as a newsletter item for Collin’s Park. The Committee requested adding this to section 4. c of the minutes as a future newsletter article.</p>	
Decision:	Remove from agenda	
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Remove Agenda item regarding whether the car wash design specs are or could be included in Halifax Water’s Design Specifications & Supplementary Standard Specifications for Water, Wastewater & Stormwater Systems .	BG	Complete

2. Send PN address of the carwash site.	AnM	Complete
3. PN will investigate whether HRM is responsible.	PN	Complete
4. Contact Halifax Water Compliance to investigate if carwash is uncompliant with Halifax Water Regulations.	BG	Complete
5. Remove item from Agenda	BG	Next meeting

e. Nova Scotia Lands Montague Mines Reclamation Project:

Discussion:	BG reported that the Montague Mines Reclamation Report is still being prepared.	
Decision:	BG to provide an update when its available.	
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Keep on agenda	BG	Pending

f. Water Quality – SWEPS Report (cyanobacteria)

Discussion:	<p>Rob Jamieson’s April 19, 2023 cyanobacteria presentation, hosted by SWEPS at Inn on the Lake, was sent to AnM for her to distribute to members interested in acquiring a copy understanding that it is not to be circulated outside the Committee or posted on the web. TM informed the Committee that the WQ database is ongoing.</p> <p>Further to section 4.a.: <i>Cyanobacteria</i>, TM offered the following update: SWEPS is working with NSCC to develop a cyanobacteria monitoring program using weather stations and geomatics to predict where cyanobacteria may be found.</p> <p>It was suggested that the NSCC and SWEPS partnership may be a good newsletter article.</p>	
Decision:	Update as necessary. No new action items at this time.	
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Inform Committee when SWEPS’ database prototype is ready to be presented to those interested.	TM	Pending

g. Membership:

i. Fall River Vacancy:

Discussion:	<p>The Fall River Community representative seat remains vacant. Halifax Water is working on posting a position in time for the next meeting.</p> <p>The plan is to follow the recruitment process per the Committee’s Terms of Reference.</p>	
Decision:	Halifax Water will post the Fall River Collin’s Park community representative vacancy before the next meeting.	
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Post Fall River Community Representative vacancy	CDG/AM	By next meeting

h. Broadening Scope of CPWAC:

i. East Hants representative on CPWAC:

Discussion:	BG reported that the Municipality of East Hants (East Hants) is open to a partnership between the East Hants Source Water Advisory Committee and the CPWAC while	
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	<p>maintaining the independency of each source water committee. The CPWAC discussed what processes may work best to improve working relationships between them. DP suggested holding a high-level annual meeting to discuss common watershed issues (i.e., policy/regulations/presentations). Meeting on topics relevant to only one of the watershed committees would be reserved for that committee's respective regularly scheduled meeting. The Committee agreed with this approach. The Committee asked BG to contact East Hants to discuss this approach.</p> <p>PN reported that MEH has asked for someone from HRM to sit on the MEH Committee to answer HRM business-related questions. HRM has appointed a representative.</p>		
Decision:	Contact East Hants to discuss this high-level meeting approach.		
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline	
Contact East Hants to discuss merits of annual high-level joint meeting between Collin's Park and East Hants Source Water Advisory Committees.	BG	Next meeting	
i. Phosphorus Loading Baseline:			
Discussion:	<p>At the last meeting, TM advised that SWEPS plans to write to NSECC Minister Halman about addressing non-point sources of pollution (phosphorus loading) from historic OSSDS.</p> <p>At this CPWAC meeting, TM reported that the letter referred to above has yet to be sent. TM reported further that SWEPS submitted a letter to NSECC requesting the development of a public registry of onsite wastewater systems that is similar to the registry for on-site wells. NSECC responded that they are not able to consider a registry for OSSDS; however, they are considering other methods.</p> <p>TM reported that NSECC is investigating the implementation of maximum phosphorus levels on the drinking water side. WS inquired what data NSECC is using to base this on. TM responded that it is unclear how this is going to be presented/developed.</p> <p>PN highly recommended viewing the HRM Phosphorus presentation identified in section 4. a., which may address some of the concerns raised over phosphorus loading.</p>		
Decision:	Committee to review the presentation indicated above and report back regarding whether it answers the members' questions/concerns about phosphorus loading with respect to HRM.		
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline	
1. TM will advise the Committee on the letter's progress and any responses from the Minister.	TM	Ongoing	
2. Members to review the presentation indicated above and report on whether it answers the members' questions/concerns about phosphorus loading with respect to HRM.	All	Next meeting	
j. Merits of new on-site sewage disposal systems designs:			
Discussion:	<p>At the March 2023 Committee meeting, it was determined that there was a need for better understanding of enhanced wastewater treatment systems. MA advised he would consult with his manager, Paul Currie, Manager of Water and Industrial Facilities, about who from</p>		

	<p>NSECC might present on this topic.</p> <p>NSECC delivered the presentation to the CPWAC on September 27th, 2023 at the Gordon Snow Centre.</p> <p>DP commented that the key takeaway from this presentation was the apparent lack of policy around the output of phosphorus generated by OSSDS, regardless of the system – enhanced or traditional.</p> <p>AnM asked whether HRM is aware of the province’s limited policies around the phosphorus generated by OSSDS.</p> <p>PN advised that all they get is the notification receipts. HRM only makes sure developers have contacted NSECC.</p> <p>There was further discussion on phosphorus-loading vis-à-vis wastewater treatment system types and the impact new enhanced systems are having on municipal planning. Neither traditional nor enhanced on-site septic systems are specifically designed to treat phosphorus; they are rather designed to deal with bacteria, though enhanced systems are purported (studies need to be conducted and/or reviewed to support this claim) to have the ability to handle more phosphorus than traditional systems, causing them to be the preferred on-site septic system for larger developments. This has led to large, high-density projects in areas where traditional on-site septic systems used to limit the size of the development, usually to single, not multiple units. Enhanced systems promote higher water consumption through increased density and therefore higher wastewater effluent to receiving waters, potentially leading to increased phosphorus levels in receiving waters.</p> <p>The Committee discussed whether HRM should consider the use of new enhanced systems as factors in land-use planning policy. PN commented that HRM relied on NSECC to control the density vis-à-vis OSSDS. However, now that OSSDS are no longer limiting density the way they used to, due to the rapidly changing technology demonstrated by enhanced OSSDS systems that support large density developments, HRM may need to consider modernizing its bylaws and policies around density.</p> <p>WS added that the cumulative input of phosphorus is the overall concern. Are there receiving water studies for enhanced systems?</p> <p>TM still wants to know whether we get a list of all the classified systems in the watershed.</p>								
Decision:	The action item is complete. Remove from the agenda.								
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2. MA to provide the background to Paul Currie to help determine who should do the presenting.	MA Complete								
3. Remove from Agenda.	BG Next meeting.								
k. Letter from Halman/Fuller:									
Discussion:	At the previous meeting, the Committee expressed concern about the response from Halman/Fuller to the letter the Committee sent to NSECC about the impacts of NSECC’s approval process for OSSDS and wetland infilling. The Committee agreed to wait for the NSECC presentation (see discussion above) to see what responses are generated.								

	As a result of the NSECC OSSDS presentation, the Committee decided to send a letter to NSECC’s Bedford office requesting an inventory of all OSSDS within the Collin’s Park water supply area, starting with the classified systems.		
Decision:	DP/AnM/BG		
Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
CPWAC to write a letter to the Bedford NSECC office requesting an inventory of the classified wastewater systems within the Collins Park Water supply area.		DP/AnM/BG	Next Meeting
I. Source Water Protection Report:			
Discussion:	This was left over from the last meeting. All information was reviewed.		
Decision:	Remove from today’s agenda; but add to the spring agenda as new business.		
Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
Committee to review and provide comments on the Annual 2022 SWPP Report – Collin’s Park Excerpt to BG.		All	Complete
5. New Business			
a. CPWAC Meeting Frequency			
Discussion:	Determine whether 2 meetings per year is enough to cover all of the agenda topics.		
Decision:	BG/DP/AnM to meet to discuss meeting format moving forward.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Meet to discuss CPWAC meeting format		BG/DP/AnM	ASAP
6. HRM Planning and Development Update			
a. HRM Regional Plan Review – Phase 4			
Discussion:	PN reported that no new major applications have been received since the last meeting. Minor applications have been sent to Halifax Water per HRM/Halifax Water review process.		
Decision:	PN to continue to provide updates as they come up.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
PN to provide updates when necessary.		PN	Ongoing
i. Other “Parking Lot” Case updates as required			
Discussion:	No discussion		
Decision:	Update as necessary		
Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
Not applicable		N/A	N/A
7. Election of Officers – Spring 2024			

8. Community/Customer Updates

9. Next Meeting: March 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm – 8:30 – Gordon Snow Centre with hybrid format.

10. Adjourned at 9:25pm.

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Barry Geddes, Secretary/Anna McCarron, Vice Chair
Collin's Park Watershed Advisory Committee*