

# Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



## Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee

Date: Wednesday November 16, 2023

Location: Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre, Middle Musquodoboit and virtually via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Time:  
6:45 pm

Adjourned:  
8:15 pm

Member name and position		Agency/Representation
Attendees	Andrew Faulkner (AF), Principal Planner/Development Officer, (virtually)	Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)
	Barry Geddes (BG), Watershed Manager ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )	Halifax Water
	Anna McCarron (AnM), Source Water Planner ( <i>Secretary</i> )	Halifax Water
	Matthew McFetridge (MM), District Forest Technician	NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNRR)
	Alana Murray (AIM), Manager Water Supply Plants	Halifax Water
	Hugh Parker (HP), Community Group Representative	Musquodoboit River Watershed Society (MRWS)
	Mark Sutherland (MS)	Agriculture Sector Representative
	Kerry-Anne Taylor (KT), ( <i>Chair</i> )	Customer Representative
Guests	Alan Streach (AS),	Musquodoboit Valley Quality Sod
Vacancy	TBD	Forest Sector Representative
Regrets	Mike Allen (MA), Watershed Planner	NS Environment and Climate Change (NSECC)
	Greg Cummings, Watershed Planner	NSECC

### 1. Attendance / Introductions

*Meeting called to order by Chair, KT.*

Notes: See above for attendance – one member attended virtually.  
Quorum noted, see above.  
Minutes recorded electronically via Teams.  
The Committee was reminded that the meeting is recorded for note-taking purposes. Once Minutes/Notes are approved, recordings are destroyed.

### 2. Review and Approval

a. November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Meeting Agenda

Discussion: Approved as presented.

b. March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023, Meeting Minutes		
Discussion:	Approved with minor edits.	
Motion to approve Minutes with minor edits by BG;	seconded by AnM;	Motion approved.
<b>3. Old Business</b>		
a. Education and Awareness/Community Outreach Strategies:		
i. Signage update (Sign 8):		
Discussion:	AnM reported that the last sign was installed over the summer near Dean. KT reported that the Elmsvale Bridge sign was vandalized and is missing a number from the Halifax Water contact number.	
Decision:	Replace Elmsvale Bridge Sign	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Install large sign near Upper Musquodoboit/Dean Settlement in the watershed area.	AM	Complete
2. Replace Elmsvale Bridge sign	BG	ASAP
ii. Presentation to <a href="#">Federation of Agriculture</a> membership		
Discussion:	Background: The Committee is considering presenting at the next Federation of Agriculture (FA) AGM to promote educational awareness about Halifax Water's Source Water Protection program and watershed protection for the Middle Musquodoboit watershed area. BG reported that the FA was contacted. Halifax Water's request to attend this year's AGM was declined because the agenda was full. The FA wants to meet to discuss the benefit of a Halifax Water presentation at a future AGM.	
Decision:	Halifax Water to discuss with the FA the benefit of presenting at future AGM.	
Action Item:	Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Contact Federation of Agriculture about presenting at their next AGM.	BG	Complete
2. Meet with the FA to discuss the benefit of Halifax Water presenting at a future FA AGM.	Halifax Water	Next Meeting
iii. Newsletter/Outreach:		
Discussion:	BG reported that Halifax Water Corporate Communications is developing a communication strategy, which will include source water protection communication and education. The publication of the next newsletter is on hold until Halifax Water's communication strategy has been developed.	
Decision:	The next newsletter publication is on hold.	
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Newsletter is on hold.	Halifax Water	Pending

b. Musquodoboit River Watershed Society (MRWS) future projects:		
Discussion:	<p>Background: HP reported that Nova Scotia Public Works (formerly Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal) was working with the Nova Scotia Salmon Association's Adopt-a-Stream program to complete the in-stream work on a project above the intake. The project involved installing deflectors and digger logs, using hand tools along a portion of Benvie Brook, from Hwy 224 to the Musquodoboit River.</p> <p>HP advised that the MRWS will revisit the list to prioritize what to do next.</p> <p>ST/BG to confirm whether Halifax Water has any funding for any MRWS projects upstream of the intake.</p> <p>At this meeting, BG advised that Halifax Water has no funding available for any wetland compensation projects. All funding has been allocated for this year. However, Halifax Water is interested in funding future projects within the Halifax Water watershed area when funds are available.</p>	
Decision:	No opportunities for Halifax water to support MRWS projects at this time.	
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Identify and prioritize project timing and develop associated costs for funding purposes.	HP/MRWS	Pending future opportunities inside watershed
2. Determine whether wetland compensation funds are still available for MRWS to use in any of their proposed projects.	ST/BG	Complete
3. Discuss with Halifax Water Executive whether there is an opportunity to ask the province to conduct a study similar to the <i>SWEPS Wetland Vulnerability Study</i> for the Middle Musquodoboit public water supply area using compensation funding from other projects (e.g., Pockwock/ Lake Major).	BG	Complete
c. NSECC to provide watershed map data to DoA as awareness tool for farm community (MA)		
Discussion:	<p>At a previous meeting, MA advised that he needs authorization from Halifax Water to release municipal watersheds and PWA files to the Department of Agriculture (DoA) for GIS mapping data.</p> <p>At this meeting BG advised that a Data Sharing License Agreement (DSL) with DoA is required prior to providing data to them. A DSL will be discussed with the FA, if they are interested in watershed boundary data, when Halifax Water meets with them.</p>	
Decision:	Leave on agenda pending outcome of meeting with the FA.	
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Pending outcome of meeting with FA, create a DSLA.	MA/BG	Next meeting
d. Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Program to protect riparian areas:		
Discussion:	<p>At the last meeting MA reported that he contacted the names provided by Tim O'Brien. One person was interested in the program. MA passed the program information to this person and has not received any responses. MA noted that this action item has been on</p>	

	the agenda for a while, and they are not sure if these programs are still funded under the new government. MA not available for this meeting to provide any update.		
Decision:	Leave on agenda		
Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
Follow up with the EHJV contact again to determine if the EHJV program is still active.		MA	Next meeting
<b>e. Potential pond pollution:</b>			
Discussion:	At the last meeting, BG reported that after discussion with Dr. Rob Jamieson from Dalhousie University it was determined that the vegetative cover on the pond is likely duckweed and that any concerns of cyanobacteria are low due to the shade that duckweed provides. To alleviate any concerns, samples will be collected this year (2023). BG reported at this meeting that samples were collected in September 2023. Results showed non-detect for Microcystin. Cyanobacteria counts were very low with no detection of toxin-producing genes.		
Decision:	There is no concern to the water supply resulting from the duckweed in the pond. Remove from agenda.		
Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Collect water samples when duckweed is present during the summer (2023).		BG	Complete
2. Remove from Agenda		AnM	Complete
<b>f. Terms of Reference (ToR):</b>			
<b>i. Forestry and large landowner sector membership:</b>			
Discussion:	BG shared the ad for the vacant forestry and large landowner member(s) positions with the Committee, who advised minor formatting changes.		
Decision:	The Committee will seek members to fill the vacant positions via social media and community news websites. KT will reach out to someone who may be interested in the forestry sector position. AS will stay on as an invited guest and will be considered for the large landowner position per the Terms of Reference along with any others who may seek the position.		
Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
Seek members to fill the vacant forestry and large landowner positions on the Committee.		BG/AnM/KT	Next meeting
<b>ii. Membership Selection Process vis-à-vis Terms of Reference:</b>			
Discussion:	At the last meeting, the Committee discussed redefining the membership selection process in the ToR to improve the selection process. At this meeting, minor changes were proposed to the ToR: section 15. – Membership and Meetings and accepted by the Committee.		

Decision:	Accept proposed changes to the ToR with respect to the selection process.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Circulate the ToR with suggested changes to the selection process for the Committee's review.		BG	Complete
<i>iii. Code of Conduct and ToR update:</i>			
Discussion:	At the last meeting, the Committee considered reviewing all aspects of the ToR while making the changes to the membership selection process. See section 3.f.ii above. At this meeting, instead of a separate code of ethics, a new section (Section 11) was proposed to be added to the ToR that defines what is expected of the Committee with regard to confidentiality. The Committee agreed to this change to the ToR.		
Decision:	AIM moved to approve the ToR as presented to the Committee, seconded by BG. Motion passed. Circulate the approved ToR to the members.		
Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Circulate the Code of Conduct with suggested changes for the Committee's review.		BG	Complete
2. Send out the updated version of the approved ToR to the Committee		Halifax Water	Next Meeting
<i>g. Source Water Protection Plan update:</i>			
Discussion:	AnM presented a digital view of the draft Middle Musquodoboit Source Water Protection Plan with an overview including the background, definition of risks and detailed maps.		
Decision:	Continue to work on SWPP. Update the Committee as needed.		
Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
Update as needed.		BG/AM	Ongoing

#### 4. New Business:

##### a. Charlie Parent – White Paper:

Discussion:	Background: Charlie Parent, a Dalhousie University student of the Aquatic Systems Professional and Industrial training for the Restoration Economy (ASPIRE) program drafted a White Paper for Halifax Water about farming practices with respect to nitrate levels near the Middle Musquodoboit water supply intake. Once the White Paper is reviewed and approved for circulation, it will be posted on the Halifax Water website as a tool to support source water protection efforts within a watershed that supports agriculture activities. At this meeting, the Committee was updated on the White Paper status; i.e., it is being reviewed by Halifax Water Senior Management. Once Senior Management and the landowner have reviewed the Paper, the Committee will be able to review it.		
Decision:	The Committee will wait for Halifax Water Senior Management's review of the Paper.		

Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
Circulate White Paper for the Committee to review when available.		BG	Pending review by Halifax Water
<b>b. Annual Source Water Protection Report:</b>			
Discussion:	The Committee discussed the main points of the 2022 Source Water Protection Plan Report – Middle Musquodoboit Excerpt. The whole Report will be submitted to NSECC the end of March. The Committee is to provide comments to BG by Mid-March.		
Decision:	Complete		
Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
Committee to provide comments to BG by March 15.		All	Complete

<b>5. Member Q &amp; A:</b>			
Discussion:	<p>KT asked who to contact with respect to Halifax Water projects that impact the Village. Examples discussed were a) a water main break in the village that occurred two years ago whereby the road has not been fixed properly since; and b) a recent Middle Musquodoboit wastewater treatment plant upgrade.</p> <p>BG advised that the best way to address concerns that are beyond the scope of this Committee is to contact the Halifax Water Customer Care centre at (902)-420-9287. BG will also contact Corporate Communications to share concerns as they relate to public service announcements in the Middle Musquodoboit area.</p>		
Decision:	Contact Corporate Communications to share concerns as they relate to public service announcements in the Middle Musquodoboit area.		
Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
Contact Halifax Water Corporate Communications in relation to concerns in the Middle Musquodoboit area regarding Halifax Water projects.		BG	Next meeting

<b>6. Municipal Updates:</b>	
Discussion:	Nothing to report

**7. Election of Officers –Fall 2024**

**8. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:30 at Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre and Cultural Centre and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

**9. Adjournment of meeting at 8:15 pm.**

*Minutes Recorded and respectfully submitted by:  
Barry Geddes, Watershed Manager, Halifax Water and Vice Chair of the MMWA Committee.*