

Meeting Minutes



Pockwock Watershed Management Committee			
Date: September 9, 2021 Location: Virtually via Microsoft Teams		Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m.	Adjourned: 12:00 pm
Member name and position:		Agency/Representation:	
Attendees:	Michael Allen (MA), Watershed Planner	Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC)	
	Jeff Brown (JeB), Forestry Technician	Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNRR)	
	Jillanna Brown (JiB), P. Eng., Reg. Engineer,	NSECC	
	Barry Geddes (BG), (<i>Vice Chair</i>) Watershed Manager,	Halifax Water	
	Rachel Gilbert (RG), Manager of Planning Services,	Municipality of East Hants (MEH)	
	Anna McCarron (AM), (<i>Secretary</i>) Source Water Planner,	Halifax Water	
	Neil Moorehouse (NM), (for Dawn MacNeill) Manager Protected Areas & Ecosystems,	NSECC	
	Tim O'Brien (TO), (<i>Chair</i>) Regional Forester,	DNRR	
	Michael Perry (MP), Community Representative,	Mount Uniacke	
	Sally Steele (SS), Protected Areas Coordinator, Western Region,	NSECC	
	Sanjeev Tagra (ST), Manager of Water Supply Plants	Halifax Water	
	Colin Waddell (CW), Senior Manager, Water Services,	Halifax Water	
Regrets	None		
Guests	Tricia Isnor (TI), Regulatory Services,	Halifax Water	

1. Attendance / Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair, Tim O'Brien

Discussion:	Attendance recorded. No regrets conveyed. Minutes recorded electronically. AM displayed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 9, 2021 Meeting Agenda; and• DRAFT March 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes.
-------------	--

Decision:	Quorum determined.
-----------	--------------------

2. Review and Approval

a. September 9, 2021 Meeting Agenda

Discussion:	No additions added to the Agenda.
-------------	-----------------------------------

Decision:	Approved as presented.
-----------	------------------------

b. DRAFT March 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Discussion:	Change NSE to NSECC.
-------------	----------------------

Decision:	Approve Minutes with changes.
-----------	-------------------------------

Motion to approve March 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes with changes expressed above:

Moved by BG, seconded by MP. All in favour.

3. Old Business

a. Water Storage and Withdrawal Permit Application (TI Presentation)

Discussion:	<p>TI presented a 5 page presentation to update the Committee on the J.D. Kline (Pockwock) Water Storage and Withdrawal Permit Application (see Error! Reference source not found. in separate attachment).</p> <p>The following summarizes the main points from the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application deadline change: The existing permit expires Sept. 21, 2021. Halifax Water hoped to submit the application by June 3, 2021, but that date has been extended to June 1, 2022.• Consultant's field work and sub reports for wetlands, aquatic habitat and hydrological assessments are complete. Finalizing the 3 sub-report contents into the application document.• At the last meeting, the results of the wetlands and aquatic assessments were presented. Data was still being collected and compiled for the hydrological assessment. Now that all the info is in, this update will focus on the hydrological assessment, the main points of which follow:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The existing average daily withdrawal rate was used for the application, i.e., 110 MLD.2. Modeling determined that Pockwock Lake has sufficient capacity to sustain the 110 MLD.3. Dam Safety Review
-------------	---

- a. Completed every 5 years. Pockwock dam review was started in 2019, finalized in 2020. No significant repairs or changes were identified.
- 4. Water demand – Determine how much water is needed over the next 10 years:
 - a. Factors to consider – operational demands for treatment including climate changes, population growth, regional development, inter-system redundancy (with Lake Major), water supply enhancement, etc.
 - b. The water supply over the next 10 years looks sufficient, but it’s possible we may need to draw water from Tomahawk to supplement Pockwock.
 - c. A Safe Yield Study must be completed to better understand how much water can safely be drawn from any of our water supplies without taking too much, including Pockwock and Tomahawk. A consultant has been hired to define the best way to do a Safe Yield Study.
- 5. Next steps:
 - a. Submit water withdrawal needs for the Pockwock water supply plant (WSP) over the next 10 years. Meet with Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) to discuss terms of Pockwock application.
 - b. Perform additional hydrological modeling and safe yield studies for both Pockwock and Tomahawk to see if there is enough water to meet future growth demands.
 - c. If we learn that we need Tomahawk, another full assessment, very similar to the Pockwock assessment, will need to be completed.

Q: *What about maintenance flows? Not sure if DFO would set that or if the consultant would look at it. As part of determining how much can be safely taken out of the lake, the maintenance flow leaving the lake (Pockwock) must be considered. This will probably trigger when water would be taken from Tomahawk or not. NSECC have been hearing a lot about this (i.e., maintenance flow) lately. (JiB)*

A: We started these talks 1-2 years ago before the application process was started for Pockwock and maintenance flow was one of the items discussed. We are aware of it. (TI)

Q: *Sanjeev indicated yesterday (during the forWater field tour) that Pockwock was at 50% capacity. Does this withdrawal impact the capacity? Is that withdrawal above the 50% capacity? (TO)*

A: The design of the Pockwock WSP is around 220 MLD. The withdrawal is <= 50% (i.e., 110 MLD) of what the plant was designed for. (ST)

A: Its (referring to withdrawal application) half of the design of the plant, not half of the approval (referring to the plant running at 50% capacity). (CW)

Q: *The safety guidelines you have identified for dam maintenance, does not identify repairs or planned maintenance. Are the guidelines you prescribe to, the same as the CDA (Canadian Dam Association) guidelines? (MA)*

A: Halifax Water has established a Dam Safety Management System that conforms to CDA guidelines, as amended 2013. We will be conducting DSR (Dam Safety Reviews) every 5 years, on a go forward basis. The work that goes on at Pockwock is around design criteria for the classification for the structure. Making sure the design criteria for the dam meets the current design criteria for the classification of the structure. We are doing engineering assessments and some work around public safety around dams for several of Halifax Water’s structures. There is no plan or assessment that indicates the Pockwock dam needs any major interventions in terms of restructuring or replacement of sections currently. (CW)

Decision	Ongoing		
Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
TI will pass the Lake Trout information along to the consultants.		TI	Pending from March 4, 2021 Meeting
Provide NSECC Protected Areas Branch a copy of report.		CW	Pending from March 4, 2021 Meeting
b. Pockwock Wilderness Area			
<i>i. Signage Update</i>			
Discussion:	Wilderness signs have yet to be picked up.		
Decision	Pick up wilderness area signs from NM. Leave on agenda until signs are picked up.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Tell SS and NM how many signs are needed, and they will be provided.		BG	Pending
<i>ii. Website Update</i>			
Discussion:	NM indicated that communications staff priorities were focussed on the recent election and the action item (see below) fell by the wayside after the election. NM indicated he will make it a priority to have the website updated by the end of 2021.		
Decision	Dawn MacNeill of Protected Wilderness Area was to investigate updating the Wilderness Areas websites to provide a link to the Protected Water Areas regulations for those falling within wilderness areas across the province. The action item has been redirected to NM.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
NSECC to create a link on the <i>Pockwock Wilderness Area</i> webpage to the <i>Pockwock Watershed Protected Water Area</i> and the <i>Pockwock Watershed PWA Designation and Regulations</i> attached to the area.		BG/NM	Ongoing
c. Sackville River Wilderness Area			
<i>i. Public Consultation</i>			
Discussion:	<p>No further comments were received from the Pockwock Watershed Management Committee on the Parks and Protected Areas Public Consultation Review, which BG invited members to provide comments on in an email dated February 12, 2021.</p> <p>Halifax Water advised NM via email on April 7, 2021 of the following requests, which were previously discussed with NSECC staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the Sackville River designation from Nature Reserve (NR) to Wilderness Area (WA). This designation provides the tools Halifax Water needs to effectively manage the watershed while NSECC fulfills its commitment to increasing WAs in Nova Scotia. • NSECC to provide Halifax Water with a “License to Operate” inside the WA like existing Lake Major and Pockwock licenses. • Publicly identify the portion of the <i>Pockwock Watershed Protected Water Area</i> within the Sackville Wilderness Area and acknowledge its importance to Halifax Water. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a link to the Sackville River Wilderness Area (SRWA) webpage to the <i>Pockwock Watershed Protected Water Area Regulations</i> to provide the public with as much information about the applicable restrictions that apply, i.e., <i>Wilderness Area regulations</i> and <i>Protected Water Area Regulations</i>. • That the SRWA webpage indicate that camping is not encouraged within the Pockwock Watershed portion of the Sackville Wilderness Area, to reduce risks from campfires and garbage. • The area be signed as a Wilderness Area within the first month of designation. <p>NM indicated that public consultation was closed April 13, 2021. They are still reviewing the public consultation comments period due to the election and new government priorities.</p> <p>NM provided the following summary of the remaining steps for the Wilderness Area to become officially designated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSECC staff will finalize an R&R. • It will then go to cabinet. • A legal survey will need be completed and registered with the Province. • Once registered it is officially designated. 		
Decision	NM identified that most of the things that are in the email from Halifax Water will happen once the area is designated.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Halifax Water will meet with NSECC Protected Areas Branch to discuss the impacts on the portion of the SRPA inside the Pockwock PWA.	BG	Pending	
ii. Boundary Lines			
Discussion:	<p>Halifax Water wants to maintain its access road on the western side of the SRWA, which travels along the power line, just below the WA, to access the harvesting areas on the east side of the WA.</p> <p>When the SRWA receives protection status, Halifax Water requests that signage be posted along the WA boundary.</p> <p>NM commented that clarification of the boundary lines around the portion of the Sackville River WA southwest of Hwy 101, as well as on the Crown land boundary line extending southward from the eastern WA boundary, will be finalized once report and recommendation is completed.</p>		
Decision	Boundary lines will be finalized once report and recommendation is completed.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Request clarification from NSECC of the Sackville Rivers WA boundary southwest of the 101.	BG	Pending	
d. Mount Uniacke Signage			
i. Bell Park Interpretive Signs			
Discussion:	Halifax Water contacted the Bell Park Association several years ago and proposed new interpretive signage throughout Bell Park, which is inside the Pockwock Watershed area. Interpretive signage would help increase awareness of the watershed as a water supply.		

	MP thinks it would be a good idea to reach out to Jim Foster (Bell Park Association) soon, as they are preparing to do some fall work on the trails in Bell Park. It may be a good time to see if they are interested in putting in signs.		
Decision	Ongoing		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Contact Bell Park Association President, Jim Foster, about interpretive signage in the Park.		AM	Pending
ii. Regulatory Signs			
Discussion:	<p>BG updated the Committee on the status of the two outstanding regulatory signs to be installed by Halifax Water:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An existing sign just inside the gate at Hwy 101 exit 3 has been replaced; and 2. Installation of a new sign on the old trail to St. Margaret's Bay is pending. <p>BG also informed the members that new watershed signs have been installed along Hwy 101 at Exit 3 and along the Pockwock access road off Exit 3 for several kilometres. The new signs include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "No Parking" signs near Exit 3 and by the main gate off Exit 3; 2. "No ATV" signs, which includes posting a maximum fine of \$2422.50; 3. "No Swimming Including Pets"; and 4. "Dogs Must Be on Leash and Clean-up After Your Pet" <p>Q: <i>Do dogs have to be on leash in the watershed? (TO)</i> A: The Pockwock PWA regulations do not specifically require dogs to be on a leash, however Nova Scotia legislation requires that dogs must be on a leash and under the owner's control. We (Halifax Water) have been experiencing a significant increase in off-leash dog walkers in our watersheds where dog feces and dog feces bags have become a real concern, especially since Covid-19 restrictions have been applied. Video surveillance at several of our main access points supports these findings. Many of the dog walkers use the destination as a place for the dogs to swim, which the PWA regulations prohibit. They also do not clean up after their pets. Dogs carry many of the same diseases that humans do. To curb off-leash pets and keep pets out of the water, new signs have been posted along the roadway and at the major water crossings.</p>		
Decision	Watershed signs are an ongoing requirement of NSECC. The Committee will be updated on an ongoing basis		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Complete regulatory signage for the Pockwock watershed area.		BG	Ongoing
e. Resource Management Updates			
i. Forestry			
Discussion Notes	<p>BG updated the Committee on the forestry activities in the Pockwock watershed area as follows:</p> <p>Two bridges were replaced – Peggy's Brook and Long Ponds.</p> <p>Harvesting was late to start pending completion of the bridge replacements. Harvesting operations started in late July and are ongoing. No concerns to date. The plan is to move out by early October before the fall rains start because the soils in the area are</p>		

	<p>prone to rutting and erosion. It will take another 1-2 years to complete the block due to the large size of the area.</p> <p>No silviculture operations were planned inside the watershed for 2021.</p> <p>JeB advised that a harvesting inspection the previous week was completed; no concerns were found.</p>		
Decision	Ongoing agenda item		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
No action item. Information only.		BG	Ongoing
ii. Water Quality			
1) Geosmin update:			
Discussion:	<p>CW provided the following Geosmin update for 2021:</p> <p>Geosmin levels continue to be monitored. They are slowly leveling off and following the same pattern as they did in 2020. The expectation is that levels will fall below detection limits in the next couple months and return in the early winter months of 2022.</p> <p>Q: Why would Geosmin appear in the winter months as opposed to summer? (TO)</p> <p>A: Several factors affect geosmin level detection in water quality readings, including algae species and water temperature. There is a theory that this year's population was above the thermocline and did not impact the intake. We think this year's geosmin detection could be last year's die off, which is being taken in through the intake.</p> <p>We think we have identified the main contributor to geosmin. We are looking at research to understand how it behaves, including what are the conditions it likes to breed in and what are the sources it could be coming from.</p> <p>We haven't had any positive hits on algae toxins, and we have an enhanced monitoring program to make sure we keep on top of it. (CW)</p>		
Decision	Ongoing agenda item		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Keep on agenda		All	Ongoing
2) Lake Recovery Research:			
Discussion:	<p>Lake recovery research looks at water quality changes and water quality composition since the reduction of industrial emissions in 2006-2008.</p> <p>The changes we are seeing include an increase in pH and in total organic carbon (TOC), which interferes with our treatment processes.</p> <p>Our major plants (Lake Major and Pockwock - J.D. Kline) were designed to treat water supply sources heavily impacted by industry emission fallout. The changes observed lately, in water quality and its composition, have wreaked havoc on our primary water treatment plants, so we are looking at a ways to pre-treat the land base so we don't have so much organics coming in, which is part of the forestry research we are working on now (see Item g. below).</p> <p>CW advised that Halifax Water currently has a partnership with the Water Research Foundation (WRF) on decision analysis tools for making decisions to augment treatment processes in the face of lake recovery and climate change. A meeting is set for the end</p>		

of this month to discuss how the WRF project is progressing and when it is going to conclude.

Q: Rob Jamieson (Dalhousie University) asked me during the tour of the watershed yesterday whether any of our water supplies have been affected by the reports of the algae blooms this summer. (AM)

A: None of our water supplies have been impacted by any kind of toxin or alae bloom that have impacted raw surface water quality or any sort of threat to public health. We have done some genetic testing on the algae we found in our source water. It doesn't have the gene capable of producing the toxins like microcystin. We have a research meeting to discuss what the next 5 years of the NERC project looks like. I think algae research will be a prominent component of the research that is already looking at climate change and lake recovery. (CW)

Decision Ongoing agenda item.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Keep on the agenda.	All	Ongoing

f. forWater Research Network

Discussion Notes

Lake recovery, geosmin and the forWater research project are intertwined.

The [forWater research](#) project is an ongoing 5 year international study involving Australia, US and Canada that looks at forest management in a watershed setting as a water quality improvement technology; i.e., how can forest management be conducted to positively impact water quality.

Halifax Water took part in a joint watershed tour for the Western Region Crown Land Stakeholder Interaction Committee (WRSIC) on September 8, 2021 (yesterday). Details of the tour were shared by BG, ST, TO and JeB who attended the tour, as follows:

The tour was led by the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NSDNRR) in partnership with Halifax Water, Dalhousie University, and Westfor. The tour was for the benefit of the WRSIC who want to learn more about the forWater research and Pockwock watershed forest activities, as they relate to drinking water source water quality impacts.

The WRSIC is a group of diverse stakeholders who provide input into how the NSDNRR manages its forest lands, which includes reviewing forest management plans, practices, and policies. There are 23 organizations on the committee that represent various interests including recreation, conservation, research, forest management and forest use.

It was a great opportunity for participants to ask questions to better understand each other's objectives and how they may impact each other.

The current research focuses on TOC entering the waterways. The research may need to be refined further to isolate specific carbon that may have more of an impact on water quality more than other types. Could it be refined to target trees that have carbon that is deemed unfavourable to water quality, as opposed to other types of trees? (BG)

Halifax Water is concerned with TOC, which the research focuses on, but in terms of water treatment we (Halifax Water) are more focused on DOC (Dissolved Organic Carbon). It would be good to find out what component of the TOC transportation, or the cycle that is happening in the watershed, is DOC. How is that DOC impacting the lake and interacting with the biota, and what is the result of this. Is there a way to intervene at the tree level to stop the transportation? It used to be that water treatment started in the lake, now water treatment starts in the forest. (CW)

	The 2021 forWater Network AGM was held virtually on April 28 th -29 th . Trends are beginning to appear, but it is still too early to suggest any theories. We see research going beyond the 5-year period. Research applied at the forest level may not be seen until well into the future (50+ years). (BG)		
Decision	Ongoing agenda item		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Keep on the agenda.			
a. Tours of the Watershed Area			
i. Helicopter			
Discussion:	<p>TO suggested that a helicopter tour could be done anytime. He just needs to know the number and a date.</p> <p>Q: <i>Can Halifax Water host a tour considering Covid restrictions? (AM)</i></p> <p>A: The restrictions create complications at the Pockwock Plant. Once restrictions are removed, we can talk further about logistics. (CW)</p>		
Decision	Pending Covid-19 restrictions. Keep on agenda.		
ii. Ground Tour of Harvest Areas			
Discussion:	Still an option if the Committee chooses to.		
Decision	Pending Covid-19 restrictions.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
All tours on hold pending Covid-19 restrictions.		AM/TO	Pending

4. New Business

Discussion:	Nothing to report
-------------	-------------------

5. Landowner Q & A

a. Mount Uniacke Community

i. Uniacke Trails Association (Trail Development)

Discussion:	<p>MP provided the following Uniacke Trail Association update:</p> <p>Regarding the section of the Windsor Junction rail that the Uniacke Trails Association is interested in developing into part of the rails to trails system, the Utilities and Review Board (UARB) ruled that they shouldn't be the intervener. It should be the Department of Public Works (PW) who makes the ruling on the private rail lease.</p> <p>With the recent election, everything is on hold. We plan to meet with the new Minister of PW soon to discuss the future of the Windsor Junction rail lands. The rail is in poor shape where road crossings are paved over, large section are grown in since the rail hasn't been used in 15 or more years. The trail is a big benefit to the Mount Uniacke community as well as for watershed protection because it provides a link for ATV's and other recreational activities to circumvent the watershed rather than driving through it. (MP)</p> <p>The new Uniacke River bridge (also referred to as the Ellershouse bridge) was installed last summer, north of the watershed. The new bridge now provides a way for ATV's and</p>
-------------	---

	other motorized traffic to access the St. Margaret's Bay Crown lands area. The rails to trails project is an important connector for the public to access this crossing from the Mount Uniacke area. (BG)		
Decision	MP will ask the Uniacke Trails Association (UTA) for feedback regarding whether it wants to ask the PWMC for a letter of support in their effort to lobby the Department of PW to continue the push to have the Windsor Junction – Windsor railway converted to a trail.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Ask the Uniacke Trails Association (UTA) whether it wants to ask the PWMC for a letter of support in their effort to lobby the Department of PW to continue the push to have the Windsor Junction – Windsor railway converted to a trail.		MP	Pending new government taking effect
b. Crown			
Discussion:	Nothing to report		
c. Municipality of East Hants			
i. Planning and Development within Pockwock's natural watershed boundary:			
1) Business Park Expansion:			
Discussion Notes	<p>The following update on the Mount Uniacke Business Park expansion activities was provided by RG:</p> <p>Phase 2 road construction of the Mount Uniacke Business Park is about to go out for tender.</p> <p>RB indicated that Phase 2 lots will probably not be sold until late this year and/or early next year, but the roads will be constructed this year.</p> <p>The Municipality of East Hants notifies parties who are interested in purchasing land where pyritic slates may be present and who would have responsibilities in that regard.</p> <p>The Municipality of East Hants is working on regulations for the future planned areas of the Municipality, but that won't affect the Mount Uniacke area. There may be some changes to the currently planned areas, but most of the policies are going to relate to the areas that currently don't have zoning.</p> <p>Q: <i>I noticed that MEH are taking comments for an update on the Municipal Planning Strategy? Is that Correct? (AM)</i></p> <p>A: Yes, part of this update was about that. The Province is requiring all areas of the province to having planning strategies. Currently 1/2 - 1/3 of the Municipality does not have zoning. There are some other proposed planning changes, but most relate to the areas that don't have zoning. Community engagement opportunities are planned for October. (RG)</p> <p>Q: <i>Have there been any draft changes in relation to the MEH Watershed Protection Overlay Zone? (BG)</i></p> <p>A: Yes, I have been in contact with Mike Allen, who has been helping me with some of the proposed changes. I have also been in contact with AM who was looking for some clarification on a few items. I have been using Kings County as an example for jurisdictional guidance in watershed land-use zoning. I am interested in learning where Kings County got their amounts that could be stored in their watershed. I haven't reached out yet, but it's on my-to-do list. (RG)</p>		

	<p>Q: Will the road construction related to Phase 2 be in the watershed? (BG)</p> <p>A: Yes. It is clearly set out in the tender document that the road is inside the watershed. (RG)</p> <p>Q: Is there a communication plan, if something were to happen, to contact Halifax Water and/or NSECC? With the proximity to Lacy (Mill) Lake, if something were to happen, we (Halifax Water) want to be prepared. Also, regarding the road constructed, are there storm water retention being implemented into these road areas? (BG)</p> <p>A: I haven't seen the plan, but I can check with our engineers. Do you want me to contact you with the stormwater plan? (RG)</p> <p>A: Yes. Could we share the plan with the Committee for educational purposes? It is common practice for Halifax Water to share plans with our advisory committees in other watersheds, to allow them the ability to review and provide comments that are subsequently shared with HRM. (BG)</p> <p>A: I have not been involved in the process, but I think the plans have already been finalized. I think this is more about the construction tender, but I can ask about sharing the plans with the committee. So at least you are aware of what's being constructed. (RG)</p>
--	---

Decision	RG to share Phase 2 Mount Uniacke Expansion Plans with the Committee.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Provide Phase 2 Mount Uniacke Expansion Plans with the Committee.		BG/RG	Prior to construction

1) Regulations regarding pyritic slate and salt impacts in the watershed

Discussion:	RG was speaking with her economic and business development colleague about the procedures in place to notify people about the potential for sulphide bearing materials (SBM). They have had discussions in the past with people purchasing land about the potential for exposing SBM. MEH does not have a formal procedure in place to notify people of the potential for SBM (RG). There is ongoing discussion on how to make people aware that there is potential for exposing SBM in the area. (RG)		
Decision:	No decision on this item was expressed except as it relates to sharing the Phase 2 Mount Uniacke development plans with the Committee.		
Action Items:		Person Responsible	Deadline
RG to provide Phase 2 Mount Uniacke Expansion Plans to BG to be share with the Committee.		RG	Prior to Phase 2 starting

6. Education / Awareness Update

a. Newsletter

Discussion:	<p>At our last meeting we talked about creating a newsletter on an as needed basis; however, it is not a priority at this time.</p> <p>Q: MP, you mentioned in the last meeting that you would be open to Halifax Water using your office to do some open-house public presentations about the Pockwock watershed. Is that something that is still available? (AM)</p> <p>A: Probably not until the new year due to Covid-19 restrictions. Priority is given to the non-profit organizations right now like Cadets, and Girl Guides to provide a safe place to meet. (MP)</p>		
-------------	---	--	--

	<p>We did educational session with RG in the past for the Mount Uniacke area. We are hoping to continue it once Covid restrictions are relaxed. (AM)</p> <p>Q: <i>Is there an opportunity for any of these groups to work towards one of their badges? Like Girls Guides? (BG)</i></p> <p>A: Once a schedule is ready, I will be in contact with you to see if any opportunities exist. People seem to be more informed since the pandemic, so hopefully we can get something happening. (MP).</p> <p>The idea of having an open house/presentation at MP's office is to help identify what topics Mount Uniacke residents are interested in about the watershed, which could be further expressed in a newsletter and to make watershed information more available to the public. The recent signage is a good example of a newsletter topic, to help people understand what they mean and why they are posted. (AM)</p> <p>RG has not heard anything lately about the watershed regulations (Watershed Protection Overlay Zone) since being created. RG indicated that MP may be a better community resource in this matter.</p> <p>MP provided some history about the area. There is a legacy left in the area, not a lot, but still some misconceptions that Halifax Water is part of the City of Halifax, which is trying to take over the Uniacke area, when in fact, Halifax water is a business that provides municipal services. Originally, Pockwock was going to be developed by the Municipality (East Hants), creating more opportunity for the area to grow. It was also thought that when the water supply plant was built that it would provide clean water to Mount Uniacke, which never happened. Water quality in the Uniacke area is poor due to the acidic bedrock and legacy issues created from past mining practices. I think we can revisit the idea of a newsletter and presentations a year or so down the road when things look normal. (MP)</p> <p>Q: <i>A Public Service Announcement is about to be released into the HRM public domain explaining what recreational activities are restricted within the watershed lands. Would East Hants be interested in Halifax Water posting an ad in the local media? (BG)</i></p> <p>A: I think it would be more beneficial to contact the Municipality of East Hants to see if they are interested in posting an ad to cover more area. Due to the recent issues they had with water quality, as it relates to Grand Lake, the feeling is that if it was just sent to the Mount Uniacke community, then they would feel targeted as the problem. (MP)</p> <p>The structure of the PSA is focused on PWA regulations rather than recreational use.</p> <p>Action Item BG to reach out to MEH to discuss posting the regulations as a municipal wide PSA rather than just targeting the community of Mount Uniacke.</p>	
Decision	Revisit newsletter and presentations a year from now. MP to reach out to Halifax Water should an opportunity rise to host public educational presentations open-house style.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Reach out to MEH to discuss posting the regulations as a municipal wide PSA rather than just targeting the community of Mount Uniacke.	BG	March 2022
MP to contact Halifax Water when opportunities arise, for Halifax Water to provide a presentation to the public or targeted to specific groups/organizations.	MP	Pending lifting of Covid - 19 restrictions.

7. Election of Officers – Fall 2022

8. Next Meeting – Thursday March 3, 2022 @ 10am, Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Respectfully submitted by BG/AM

See separate attachment for Appendix A: Pockwock Surface Water Storage and Withdrawal Application: Update To PWMC