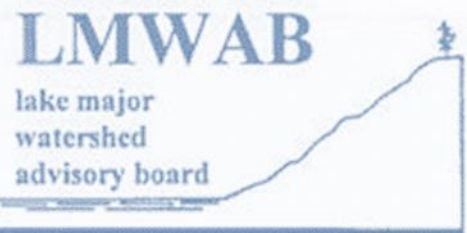


Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board Meeting Minutes



P.O. Box 8388 RPO CSC, Halifax, NS B3K 5M1 Fax: (902) 869-4319

Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board		
Date: March 6, 2024		Meeting Time: 2:00 pm
Location: Virtually via Microsoft Teams/ In-person Lake Major Water Supply Plant		Adjourned: 3:12pm
Status	Member name and position	Representation
Attendees	Mike Allen (MA), Watershed Planner (Virtually)	Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC)
	Sherry Bernard (SB), Community Representative	Lake Loon/Cherry Brook Development Association (LLCBDA)
	Spencer Colley (SC), (<i>Chair</i>), Community Representative	East Preston Ratepayers Association (EPRA)
	Gregory Cummings (GC), Watershed Planner (Virtually)	NSECC
	Rev. Wayne Desmond (WD), Community Representative	North Preston Ratepayers Association (NPRA)
	Andrew Faulkner (AF), Development Officer/Principal Planner (Virtually)	Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)
	William Golding (WB), Forest Technician (Waverley) (Virtually)	Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NSDNRR)
	Anna McCarron (Anna), (<i>Vice Chair</i>), Source Water Planner	Halifax Water
	Alana Murray (Alana), Manager, Water Supply Plants	Halifax Water
Regrets	Jean-Charles Finnigan (JC), P. Eng., Environmental Engineer	NSECC
	Barry Geddes (BG), (<i>Secretary</i>), Watershed Manager	Halifax Water
	Heather O'Keefe (HO), Protected Area Coordinator, Central Region	NSECC
	Colin Waddell (CW), Senior Manager Water Services	Halifax Water
Vacant	TBD	Lake Major (Westphal) Community Representative

1. Attendance / Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair, Spencer Colley	
Notes	Introductions and attendance recorded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attendance above. • Quorum noted. • Notes recorded electronically, via Teams.

2. Review and Approval

a. March 6, 2024 Meeting Agenda

Discussion	Accepted as presented.
Decision	Accepted as presented.

b. October 4, 2023 Meeting Notes

Discussion	Accepted as presented.
Decision	Remove from agenda.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Remove from agenda	Halifax Water	

c. October 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Discussion	Approved as presented
Decision	Remove from agenda.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Remove from agenda	Halifax Water	

3. Old Business

a. East Lake Dam Update:

Discussion	(<i>October 4, 2023</i>) Need to determine if the dam will be kept or decommissioned. (<i>March 6, 2024</i>) Deferred to next meeting
Decision	Pending Halifax Water’s consultant’s dam assessment report. Deferred to next meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Keep on agenda	BG	Ongoing

b. Lake Major Regulations Update (formerly Swimming and Boating in Long Lake)

Discussion	(<i>October 4, 2023</i>) BG advised that the proposed changes to the <i>Regulations</i> were submitted to the province in June (2023).
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	<p>MA confirmed that the provincial review is ongoing. Once all provincial agencies impacted by the <i>Regulations</i> have had a chance to review and submit their comments, they will be sent back to Halifax Water to address any concerns. A further public consultation maybe required pending provincial review.</p> <p>(March 6, 2024) Anna reported that the provincial review for the changes to the <i>Lake Major PWA Regulations</i> is ongoing. Supported by MA.</p>
Decision	Update the Board as needed.
Action Items	Person Responsible Deadline
Update the Board as needed.	BG ASAP
c. Nova Scotia Lands Montague Mines Remediation	
Discussion	<p>(October 4, 2023) BG advised that the Nova Scotia Lands Montague Mines Remediation Report is still being compiled. There is nothing new to report.</p> <p>BG reported that NS Lands contacted SB to address concerns of the potential impacts on private wells in the Lake Loon/Cherry Brook area from the mines in Montague Mines.</p> <p>(March 6, 2024) Anna reported that they have not heard back from Nova Scotia Lands regarding the findings or progress of the remediation efforts. The timeline for the submission of these reports was not specified, and it was noted that Nova Scotia Lands operates independently, not directly under the NSECC.</p>
Decision	Pending report.
Action Items	Person Responsible Deadline
Update the Board when report is ready.	BG Next meeting
d. Lake Loon Cherry Brook Development Association queries:	
i. Maps of the Lake Major Watershed Area vis-à-vis Lake Loon Cherry Brook Development Association (from Oct. 26, 2023)	
Discussion	<p>Stemming from a previous meeting, SB asked to see a map of the <i>Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area</i> showing the Lake Loon/Cherry Brook community boundary. The question arose out of land acquisition and who could build there.</p> <p>(March 6, 2024)</p> <p>Land Titles Initiative: The discussion touched on the Land Titles Initiative (LTI) and how it relates to land ownership and acquisition within the African Nova Scotian community, specifically inquiring about the historical acquisition of land by Halifax Water.</p> <p>Regulations and Land Use: The meeting also covered the regulations applicable within the Lake Major watershed area, including the Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area Regulations, and how these regulations impact land use and ownership within the watershed. The communities are waiting to see how the changes will influence development within the watershed area.</p> <p>Halifax Water's Land Ownership: The conversation included Halifax Water's legal Services findings that the lands were acquired through proper channels. Anna shared an online map of Halifax Water's ownership. The conversation further discussed that not all</p>

	<p>of the land within the watershed boundary is owned by Halifax Water. There are other landowners including Halifax Water within the boundary to which Regulations apply.</p> <p>Newsletter – Anna plans to include information in the newsletter about HRM bylaws affecting the Lake Major watershed area, specifically mentioning that HRM bylaws also impact what activities can be done in the watershed.</p> <p>SB suggested that next step is for the Land Titles Initiative (LTI) to further investigate the land acquisition process within the Lake Major watershed area, especially concerning the African Nova Scotian community. This is beyond the Board’s purview.</p>
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Decision	The Board agreed this item can be removed from the agenda as the landownership mapping has been addressed.
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Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Remove from agenda		

e. Long Lake Illegal Boat Launch (2022)

Discussion	<p>(October 4, 2023) The boat launch and dock are still in place on the shoreline of Long Lake in the PWA. The Board discussed their concern that this launch presents direct access to Long Lake, a potential source of contamination and a public safety concern. The Board is also concerned that the longer the boat launch and dock remain, the harder it may be to remove them.</p> <p>BG advised that the current <i>Lake Major Watershed PWA Regulations</i> do not give Halifax Water the power to enforce removal of the illegal boat launch and dock. The <i>Lake Major Watershed PWA Regulations</i> change review submission, provided to NSECC (June 2023) by Halifax Water, proposes provisions for Halifax Water to have authority to remove illegal boat launches and docks. Currently, approvals for the installation of boat launches and docks are the responsibility of NSECC through the provincial Watercourse Alterations Standard.</p> <p>Discussions continue with regard to the <i>Lake Major Watershed PWA Regulations</i> provincial review process, and the illegal boat launch and dock. Until the review process is complete, the boat launch and dock will remain in place and continue to be monitored. BG reminded the Board that if they see anything suspicious related to the boat launch or dock to contact Halifax Water and/or NSECC.</p> <p>(March 6, 2024) Anna provided an update. Halifax Water received two anonymous reports of such activity in 2023. However, no boats were observed by staff upon arrival at the site, and no witnesses came forward. It was mentioned that boat use is prohibited on Long Lake by the <i>Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area Regulations</i>, and Halifax Water will continue to monitor for illegal boat use. The discussion also touched on the potential for changing <i>Regulations</i> to allow boating on Long Lake, similar to other lakes in the watershed area, pending a review of the <i>Regulations</i>.</p>
Decision	Halifax Water to provide updates to Board.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Provide updates.	BG	Next meeting

f. Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board – Vacancy

Discussion	<i>(March 6, 2024)</i> Anna reported that efforts were being made to fill the Westphal (formerly Lake Major) community representative vacancy. Halifax Water sent out notices through social media and planned to call for representation in the upcoming newsletter. If no volunteers come forward, consideration will be given to directly contacting individuals in the community.	
Decision	Post the Westphal Community Representative vacancy in the Major Newsletter and distribute it to landowners living within the watershed portion of the Westphal community to solicit expressions of interest.	
Action items		
Post the Lake Major Community Representative vacancy in the Lake Major newsletter and distribute it to the landowners living within the watershed portion of Westphal community to solicit expressions of interest.	Halifax Water	ASAP

4. New Business

a. Annual Source Watershed Protection Report (2023) – Review

Discussion	<p>Anna requested the Board members to review the Annual Source Watershed Protection Report (2023) and submit any changes or comments to BG by March 22nd. This will give BG time to incorporate the feedback before the final submission to NSECC.</p> <p>Buffers: There was discussion on the differences between the buffer requirements set by HRM bylaws and those specific to the Lake Major watershed, highlighting the need for <u>clarity and potential adjustments to these regulations</u>.</p> <p>AF advised that 311 and halifax.ca are good resources for various HRM-related inquiries.</p> <p>311: Recommended for any HRM-related questions, as it directs inquiries to the appropriate department or person who can provide answers.</p> <p>halifax.ca: The official HRM website offering links to a wide range of services including regional planning amendments, garbage pickup schedules, and more. It's highlighted as a valuable resource for accessing information about HRM services and initiatives.</p>	
Decision	Submit any changes or comments to BG by March 22, 2024	
Action Items		
All to provide any changes/comments to BG	Person Responsible ALL	Deadline ASAP

5. Education Updates

a. Lake Major Newsletter Update

Discussion	<i>(March 6, 2024)</i> Anna reported that the next newsletter aims to clarify the changes to the <i>Regulations</i> and activities allowed within the watershed area. The members discussed the Arnold D. Johnson award, now promoted by Halifax Water Communications. Communications is responsible for all Halifax Water Communication
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	<p>programs including education and outreach. The communications department is developing a strategy for promoting these initiatives. The next newsletter is planned for the summer.</p>		
Decision	Next edition tentatively planned for Summer 2024.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
Provide a copy of the next Lake Major Newsletter (Summer 2024) to the board members	Anna	Next meeting	

6. Landowner Questions/Updates

a. Crown

i. Surveying around Lake Major Water Supply Plant (Action Item from October 21, 2021, Meeting Minutes)

Discussion	<p>(March 6, 2024) WD inquired whether DNRR could provide the distribution of landownership within the watershed among various stakeholders, including Crown (government), private owners, and Halifax Water. This information could be crucial in understanding the land title initiative and the implications for land use and development within the watershed area. WG committed to providing the numbers to WD.</p>		
Decision	WG to provide an update to WD		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
WG will provide information to WD via telephone	WG	Next meeting	

b. Wilderness Area

Discussion	<p>(October 4, 2023) HO confirmed that the additional Wilderness Area candidate parcels within the <i>Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area</i> are still pending. HO informed the Board that the Minister of Environment signed an agreement with Canoe-Kayak Nova Scotia (CKNS) to maintain water trails (canoe routes) in the Waverley – Salmon River Long Lake Wilderness Area. This would include anything related to the upkeep and maintenance of the existing trails, portages and back country cabins (formally warden cabins). CKNS is required to submit an annual maintenance and operational plan to NSECC Protected Areas Branch for review and approval prior to any work beginning. NSECC Protected Areas Branch has shared the Agreement with Halifax Water and are committed to providing advanced notice of any maintenance work within the <i>Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area</i>. BG inquired whether CKNS would be open to adding the <i>Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area</i> to its website and maps, and posting watershed signs along their water trails to provide contact info and improve awareness of the watershed area and the restrictions that apply to it.</p>		
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	<p>HO suggested that CKNS, NSECC Protected Area Branch staff and Halifax Water meet to discuss management synergies for the <i>Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area</i>. The Board agreed. HO to arrange a meeting.</p> <p>BG suggested that a map of the canoe route be provided at the next meeting for context purposes. HO agreed.</p> <p><i>(March 6, 2024)</i> Deferred to the next meeting pending Protected Area Branch staff's availability to provide an update.</p>	
Decision	<p>HO to arrange a meeting with CKNS, Halifax Water and NSECC Protected Areas Branch to discuss management synergies.</p> <p>HO to provide a map of the canoe route within the Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area at the next Board meeting.</p>	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Arrange a meeting with CKNS, Halifax Water and NSECC Protected Areas Branch to discuss CKNS/PWA/PA management synergies.	HO (NSECC Protected Areas Branch)	Meet by March 2024
Provide a map of the canoe routes within the <i>Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area</i> at next Board meeting.	HO (NSECC Protected Areas Branch)	March 2024

c. Private

Discussion	<p><i>(March 6, 2024)</i> SC advised that community representative members' appointments to the Board (2yr term as per the Terms of Reference) is approaching and that each member needs to advise their respective organizations to determine who will represent the member group on the Board in time for the next meeting. See section 8.</p>	
Decision	<p>Board members to determine who will represent their respective organizations on the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board by the next meeting.</p>	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Board members to determine who will represent their respective organizations on the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board by the next meeting.	ALL	Next meeting

7. Municipal Updates

a. Land Development at Ernie Lane

Discussion	<p>Unclear whether remedial work has been done in the 30 m buffer zone.</p> <p><i>(March 6, 2024)</i> AF advised that this is a compliance case, with ongoing reparation efforts expected to be completed soon. If the developer does not comply, further action will be taken to achieve the desired results.</p>	
Decision	<p>AF will look into it further.</p>	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Advise the Board of any updates to this development	AF	Next meeting
b. Preston Area Trail Association		
Discussion	BG reported that the next phase of the Preston Trail is still in the design phase according to HRM. Once the design plans are ready, HRM indicated they will review the plans with the Board for their comments. <i>(March 6, 2024)</i> Deferred to the next meeting. BG not available to provide an update.	
Decision	Provide updates as they come up	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Provide update as they come up	BG	Next meeting

8. Election of Officers		
Discussion	<i>(March 6, 2024)</i> The election of officers was discussed, with a decision to postpone it until the fall. All acknowledged the need for re-election or confirmation of positions every two years, but due to the lack of a quorum in the previous meeting, it was decided to delay the election process. The participants agreed to revisit the election of officers in their next meeting scheduled for October 10, 2024. See section 6 c.	
Decision	Halifax Water to send correspondence to the current sitting community representatives seeking written confirmation as to who their Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board Community Representative will be for the next 2-year term (2024-2026).	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Send correspondence to the current sitting community representatives seeking written confirmation as to who their Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board Community Representative will be for the next 2-year term (2024-2026).	Halifax Water	ASAP

9. Next Meeting: 2:00pm – 4:00pm October 10th, 2024

10. Adjournment 3:12pm

Respectfully submitted by: Ashley Ward and Barry Geddes