

DRAFT Meeting Minutes



Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee

Date: Wednesday March 1, 2023

Location: Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre and Cultural Centre, Middle Musquodoboit and Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Time:
6:53 pm

Adjourned:
8:25 pm

Member name and position		Agency/Representation
Attendees	Mike Allen (MA), Watershed Planner, (Virtual)	NS Environment and Climate Change (NSECC)
	Andrew Faulkner (AF), Principal Planner/Development Officer, (Virtual)	Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)
	Barry Geddes (BG), Watershed Manager (Vice Chair)	Halifax Water
	Anna McCarron (AM), Source Water Planner (Secretary)	Halifax Water
	Matthew McFetridge (MM), District Forest Technician, (Virtual)	NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNRR)
	Hugh Parker (HP), Community Group Representative	Musquodoboit River Watershed Society (MRWS)
	Mark Sutherland (MS)	Agriculture Sector Representative
	Kerry-Anne Taylor (KT), (Chair)	Customer Representative
Guests	Cathy Deagle Gammon (CDG), Councillor, District 1	Halifax Regional Municipality
	Charlie Parent (CP), Dalhousie University Intern Student	Halifax Water
	Alan Streach (AS), Presenter	Musquodoboit Valley Quality Sod

1. Attendance / Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair, KT.

Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum noted, see above for attendance. • Minutes recorded electronically via Teams. • BG invited AS to attend the meeting as a guest
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2. Review and Approval

a. March 1st, 2023, Meeting Agenda

Discussion | Approved as presented.

b. November 9th, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Discussion	Approved as presented.	
3. Old Business		
a. Education and Awareness/Community Outreach Strategies:		
i. Signage update (Sign 8)		
Discussion	AM working on sign 8 installation near Dean off Highway 336.	
Decision	Sign installation priority for this spring (2023).	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Install large sign near Upper Musquodoboit/Dean Settlement in the watershed area		AM
		Deadline
		Spring 2023
ii. Presentation to Federation of Agriculture membership		
Discussion	The Committee discussed presenting at the next Federation of Agriculture AGM to promote educational awareness about Halifax Water's Source Water Protection program and watershed protection in the Middle Musquodoboit.	
Decision	Halifax Water to contact the Federation of Agriculture. MS to forward Federation of Agriculture contacts to Halifax Water.	
Action Item		Person Responsible
Contact Federation of Agriculture about presenting at the next AGM.		BG
		Deadline
		Next meeting
iii. Sod farming industry presentation and BMP discussion		
Discussion	The Committee is invited to contact AS if they have further questions: astreach@granview.ca .	
Decision	Removed from agenda.	
Action Item		Person Responsible
<i>Remove from agenda</i>		
		Deadline
		Completed
iv. Newsletter/Outreach		
Discussion	Water quality suggested as next topic for newsletter.	
Decision	Newsletter is on hold.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Newsletter is on hold.		Halifax Water
		Deadline
		Pending
v. Where does HRM's authority to adopt bylaws for protecting municipal drinking water supply watercourses lie?		
Discussion	MA determined that HRMs authority to protect municipal drinking water supply watercourses would be by referencing the Statement of Provincial Interest (regarding agriculture, flooding, and drinking water) under the Municipal Government Act where	

	bylaws can be introduced/adopted in HRM through the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter if they are applied directly to protecting a drinking water supply.	
Decision	Action item is completed.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
<i>Remove from agenda</i>		Completed
b. Musquodoboit River Watershed Society (MRWS) future projects		
Discussion	<p>HP confirmed that the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works (formerly Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal) is working with NSSA Adopt-a-Stream to complete instream work this year (2023) from the list that MRWS provided BG in 2021. BG reconfirmed that he received the MRWS project package. The most notable MRWS project planned for 2023 taking place above the intake includes installing deflector logs and digger logs, using hand tools, along a portion of Benvie Brook from Hwy 224 to the Musquodoboit River.</p> <p>HP confirmed that MRWS is going to revisit the list with his group to prioritize what they want done next.</p> <p>ST/BG to confirm whether Halifax Water has any funding left this year to use for any MRWS projects upstream of the intake.</p> <p>BG compared this work to other watershed improvement projects where the province relies on small community-based groups to identify potential projects. Recently, through a DPW wetland compensation project (Aerotech Connector) the province approved a wetland study (Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society (SWEPS) Wetland Vulnerability Study) to identify and prioritize potential watershed improvement compensation projects.</p> <p>BG suggested discussing with Halifax Water whether there is an opportunity to ask the province to conduct a similar study for the Middle Musquodoboit public water supply area using compensation funding from other projects (Pockwock/Lake Major).</p>	
Decision	<p>Determine whether compensation funding is still available from other Halifax Water wetland compensation projects.</p> <p>BG to discuss opportunities with Halifax Water executive for future watershed studies to identify wetland compensation projects.</p> <p>MRWS to prioritize projects and develop associated costs.</p>	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Identify and prioritize which projects need to be done next and develop associated costs for funding purposes.		HP/MRWS
Determine whether wetland compensation funds are still available for MRWS to use in any of their proposed projects.		ST/BG
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
		November 1, 2023, meeting

c. Tour of Middle Musquodoboit Water Supply Plant and MS' Farm		
Discussion	A farm tour and Water Supply Plant (WSP) tour was completed November 16 th , 2022.	
Decision	Action item is completed.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
<i>Remove item from agenda</i>		Completed
d. NSECC to provide PWA map data to DoA as awareness tool for farm community (MA)		
Discussion	MA needs authority from HW to release municipal watersheds and PWA files to Federation of Agriculture for GIS mapping data.	
Decision	BG will contact Halifax Water staff to discuss process to authorize release mapping information to the Federation of Agriculture. Once authority is approved, an updated version of the files will be passed along to MA.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Contact Halifax Water staff responsible for shared information agreement in order to provide information to MA pass along HW files to Federation of Agriculture.		MA/BG
		ASAP/Next meeting
e. Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Program to protect riparian areas		
Discussion	MA made contact with 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 the agenda for a while, and they are not sure if these programs are still funded under the new government.	
Decision	MA will reach out to the contact again and determine if EHJV program is still active.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Follow up with the EHJV contact again to determine if the EHJV program is still active.		MA
		Next meeting
f. Potential pond pollution		
Discussion	A discussion with Dr. Rob Jamieson from Dalhousie University determined that the vegetative cover on the pond is likely duckweed and that any concerns of cyanobacteria are low due to the shade duckweed provides. To alleviate any concerns, samples will be collected this summer (2023).	
Decision	Collect water samples this summer (2023) when duckweed is present.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Collect water samples this next summer (2023) when duckweed is present.		BG
		Summer 2023
g. Terms of Reference (ToR)		
i. Forestry and large landowner sector membership		
Discussion	No updates.	

Decision	BG will continue to seek forestry and large landowner member(s). Committee will advertise the positions via Facebook groups, newsletter, and community sites. KT will reach out to a contact that may be interested. AS will stay on as an invited guest and will be considered for the position through the selection process.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Seek forestry and large landowner for committee.		BG/AM
Deadline		Next meeting
<i>ii. Membership Selection Process update</i>		
Discussion	The Committee discussed redefining the membership selection process in the ToR to improve selection process.	
Decision	Draft changes to ToR to improve selection process and send to Committee for review.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Circulate the ToR with suggested changes to the selection process for the Committee's review.		BG
Deadline		ASAP
<i>iii. Code of Conduct and ToR update</i>		
Discussion	Consider reviewing ToR while changes in them are being considered. See section 3.g.i above for further details.	
Decision	Draft Code of Conduct during ToR review process. See section 3.g.i above.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Circulate the Code of Conduct with suggested changes for the Committee's review.		BG
Deadline		ASAP/Next meeting
<i>h. Source Water Protection Plan update</i>		
Discussion	Ongoing.	
Decision	Continue to work on SWPP.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Continue to work on SWPP		BG/AM
Deadline		Ongoing

4. New Business

a. Charlie Parent – White Paper

Discussion	BG introduced Charlie Parent, a student of Dalhousie and NSERCC, who is drafting the White Paper for Halifax Water about nitrate levels and farming practices near the Middle Musquodoboit water supply intake. Once the White Paper is reviewed and approved for circulation, the intent is to post the Paper on the Halifax Water website as a tool to support source water protection efforts within a watershed with agriculture activities.	
Decision	The Committee will have a chance to review the draft version prior to approval.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Deadline		

Circulate draft version of White Paper to the Committee for review		BG	ASAP
b. Annual Source Water Protection Report			
Discussion	The committee discussed the main points of the Middle Musquodoboit SWP excerpt. The report will be filed at the end of March with NSECC as part of the annual report. The Committee is to provide comments to BG by Mid-March.		
Decision	The Committee is to provide comments to Halifax Water by March 15.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Committee to provide comments to Halifax Water by March 15.		All	March 15, 2023

5. Landowner Questions

Discussion | Nothing to report.

6. Municipal Updates

Discussion | Nothing to report

7. Election of Officers – Next election Fall of 2024

Motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 1st, 2023, at 6:30 at **Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre and Cultural Centre and virtually via Microsoft Teams.**

9. Adjournment of meeting at 9:00 pm.

Minutes Recorded and respectfully submitted by:

Barry Geddes, Watershed Manager, Halifax Water and Vice Chair of the Committee.