

# Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes



### Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee

November 9, 2022 Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre and Cultural Centre, Middle Musquodoboit and Virtually via Microsoft Teams		Meeting Time: 6:30 pm	Adjourned: 8:30 pm
Member name and position		Agency/Representation	
Attendees:	Barry Geddes (BG), (Acting Chair)	Watershed Manager, Halifax Water	
	Kerry-Anne Taylor (KT)	Customer Representative	
	Andrew Faulkner (AF) (virtually)	Principal Planner/Development Officer, Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)	
	Anna McCarron (AM), (Secretary)	Source Water Planner, Halifax Water	
	Matthew McFetridge (MM)	District Forest Technician, NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables	
	Hugh Parker (HP)	Community Group Representative – Musquodoboit River Watershed Society (MRWS)	
	Mark Sutherland (MS)	Agriculture Sector Representative	
Guests:	Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon (CDG)	Councillor, District 1 Halifax Regional Municipality	
	Alan Streach (AS)	Presenter, Musquodoboit Valley Quality Sod	
Regrets:	Mike Allen (MA)	Watershed Planner, NS Environment and Climate Change (NSECC)	

### 1. Attendance / Introductions

*Meeting called to order by Acting Chair, BG.*

Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AF attended virtually. Everyone else attended in-person.</li> <li>MA expressed his regrets.</li> <li>Quorum noted (require 3 community and 2 technical representatives).</li> <li>Minutes recorded electronically via Teams.</li> <li>BG invited AS to attend for the duration of the meeting.</li> </ul>
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### 2. Review and Approval

#### a. November 9, 2022 Meeting Agenda

Discussion:	No items to add.
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Decision	KT moved to approve the Agenda as tabled; BG seconded. All in favour.
<b>b. November 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes</b>	
Discussion:	There were no changes to the Minutes as tabled.
Decision	BG moved to approve the Minutes as tabled, KT seconded. All in favour.

### 3. Old Business

#### a. Education and Awareness/Community Outreach Strategies:

##### i. Signage update (Sign 8).

Discussion:	<p>AM advised the Committee that there has been some movement on the signage front. AM approached the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables regarding the sign location in Dean on a cleared area off Highway 336, directly across from School House Road, which appears to be a turn-around area for large vehicles such as snow ploughs, or school buses, etc.</p> <p>AM received confirmation from the Department of Education school buses do not use that area.</p> <p>AM displayed on Google Earth where the proposed sign area is located as well as where the other signs are already placed. The approved sign area in Dean is in the highway right-of-way, managed by the NS Department of Public Works (PW).</p> <p>BG explained the rationale for all of the sign locations; i.e., that the eight signs are placed on main highway routes to capture the largest audience. Otherwise, there could potentially be 10s of signs, if one wanted to capture every hunting and fishing road in the watershed area.</p> <p>Last week, the Department of PW approved, with the assistance of Michael Balsom, Area Manager, Halifax East, Nova Scotia Public Works, our request to erect a sign at the desired location. AM was advised by PW that in the event the approved sign area is used for turnaround purposes, if the sign is not obstructing the area, then it is not an issue to erect the sign there.</p> <p>AM contacted the sign erection company who cannot not erect a sign this fall, so it will have to be the spring of 2023, once the ground thaws.</p>
Decision:	Continue to proceed with the sign-placing process.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Install a sign in the Upper Musquodoboit / Dean portion of the watershed area.	AM	Spring 2023 (delayed from spring 2022)

##### ii. Presentation at [DoA Minister's Conference](#)

Discussion:	Due to the topic of this year's Minister's Conference BG was advised not to speak this year. However, a booth was set up by Halifax Water (see next agenda item below).
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\*Section 235 (d) of the Halifax Charter also applies, again associated with development only.

	MS suggested that the Federation of Agriculture would be a better group to present to. They have a broad spectrum from the agriculture community. Attending their annual AGM could be an option. This year's <a href="#">Federation of Agriculture</a> Conference is in 2 days. Contact the president of the Fed. of Ag. if interested.	
Decision:	Discuss potential for education opportunities through the Federation of Agriculture.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Present at <a href="#">Agriculture Minister's Conference</a> .	BG/MS	Remove from Agenda
Discuss the potential for presenting to the Federation of Agriculture membership to educate a broader spectrum of the agricultural community.	BG/AM	At next meeting.
<i>iii. Booth Set-up and Attendance at Agriculture Minister's Conference</i>		
Discussion:	<p>AM advised the Committee on her attendance at the 2-day November 2022 Minister's Conference, including setting-up a booth display there.</p> <p>AM shared her observation that this year's Conference focus was mainly about the rules and regulations of water withdrawal, as well as Climate Change adaptation. She also learned how effective this Conference appears to be to spread the word about protecting the water supply, with respect to agricultural practices. The participants at this conference included the regulators of and sellers to the agricultural community; e.g., the NS Farm Board and Department of Agriculture both of whom were a large presence at the Conference. However, there were not so many farmers.</p> <p>On the first day of the Conference, there were mostly university/community college students who visited the Halifax Water Booth; the "Fish Tank" display was a big draw that inspired many questions about protecting the water supply. AM was filmed by the Faculty of Agriculture at Dalhousie University for teaching purposes. The second day there was not much interest in our booth. Instead, AM attended presentations on water withdrawal regulations by NSECC and Climate Change adaptation for agriculture.</p> <p>Considering the low farmer attendance at the Minister's Conference, we may want to determine where to capture a larger farmer audience, since that is really our target (see 3.ii above).</p>	
Decision:	Remove from Agenda	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Attend Conference in November 2022 to initiate engagement with agricultural community. Setting up a booth is pending available resources.	AM	Complete
Remove from Agenda	AM	Next meeting.
<i>iv. Sod Farming Industry Practices and BMPs Presentation – Alan Streach, President, Turf Masters</i>		

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Discussion:	<p>BG introduced Alan Streach (AS) of the sod farming industry, who was invited to present about the sod farm industry, what it means to the river and to people. AS is open to becoming the large landowner representative on this Committee as well.</p> <p>AS passed around a take-home pamphlet to review later.</p> <p>AS got involved in the farming industry initially with a multi-faceted farm. He soon realized the need to specialize, which led AS to go into the sod farming industry.</p> <p>AS learned that there is a market for the sod industry in NS. The Musquodoboit Valley is a great area to grow grass, because there is enough water and significant enough intervale land. Riverbed soil is the best type of land to grow sod on because the soil does not have much rock to contend with. It is the richest soil type in Nova Scotia to use for multiple crops, especially sod. When you harvest a portion of the sod, you need to create a surface that is as smooth so when you do the planting you can grow that crop and take as alittle of the soil away with the harvested sod.</p> <p>AS has found that sod farming is sometimes regarded as more of a mining operation than a farming industry. However, Canada Revenue Agency doesn't look at it that way. As the first page of the hand-out states, there has been much scientific work on that topic. In the 40 years AS has been in the sod farm industry, he can attest that the condition of the soil is in better shape now than it was 40 years ago. With including the right kind of soil, the right kind of levelling, and if the sod stays long enough so that there is enough root development, the soil can be preserved. Research shows that with these parameters, rooting sod that is thinly cut is better for the soil. Also, the market wants a thinly cut sod. You don't want to truck soil along with the sod.</p> <p>On page two is a table comparing the different soil treatments for various crops; e.g., for wheat there is 40 tonnnes of soil removed acre per year in wheat market, 25% of the rain will runoff a wheat field and it takes 150 years to remove 7 inches of sod. In contrast, 3547 years is how long it wold take to remove 7 inches of soil from a sod farm and 12% of the soil runs off from rainfall on a sod farm. According to this scientific data, sod farming is not as impactful as one is led to believe.</p> <p>AS explained that sod farming has a 3-year process before harvesting compared to other crops harvested annually. 80% of the land is used if you are lucky. The sod can get thin or be severed off. The value of the nursery sod industry is outlined on page 3.</p> <p>Regarding the environmental impacts, there is no product out there that has erosion control. On the plus side, 5000 sq ft. of grass will create enough fresh oxygen for 34 people. You have variations of quality. I have an obligation to support the industry's cosmetic use of pesticides. A well-manicured lawn is good for your health and pesticides and fertilizers If the lawn is not healthy, people replace it with other products. Fertlizer reduction is an important factor. AS uses NRich/NViro to produce a good crop. It is not used as a topping but buried in the soil. It changed the pH on my field overnight. The value saves you 9 times the the cost of conventional fertilizer.</p> <p>Anthropods, the microbial action that goes on in the soil is very beneficial to the environment. If the root system is kept in place after the harvest, soil loss is minimized.</p>
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Carbon capture is another beneficial factor. If Musquodoboit Sod were getting paid for carbon capture, AS figures they would probably earn \$10,000 a year, just for the value of sod farming we do. The variation of oxygen varies per area. There is also less tilling in a sod farm compared to other crop farming. They develop a lot of no-till seedlings.

These are the messages you can take to the regulators. There are potential things that can happen. Because you are beside a river, obviously people are concerned about runoff and pesticides/herbicides getting in the river. I have never used an insecticide or fungicide but I use herbicides all the time. When you take the right product at the right time the risk is lowered. I could not create nursery sod without fertilizer or herbicides.

Using round up is needed and is used all the time for all kinds of food crops. It is needed for feeding people so you can have a higher yield. MS said he uses it for alfalfa. Complacency is the issue when problems occur. Farmers have a responsibility for being a good stewards of the land.

BG expressed that that is what the concerns are and asked what BMPS AS uses.

AS replied that you don't plant sod next to a river. Our sods are on flat soil. Seeding is not done after September because there is no guarantee that your grass will remain due to the potential for frost killing the seedlings. Things like sprays, drift, and those concerns are dealt with by factoring in the wind; e.g., the spring spray is done early in the morning when the wind is usually very light. The spreader pesticide license dictates the distance you must be from the river.

Buffers are a challenge; an extra 10 metres is worth a lot of money. There has been talk about establishing fairly large buffers. A 30m buffer is a lot of money to lose. How that is measured, e.g., is it from the high water mark or some other gauge?

AS sprays all the time. You may spray twice or spot spray. You might have to spray an area maybe 3 times to deal with a weed outbreak. I can't send sod to a customer with a little bit of clover or chickweed because they don't have any way to get rid of it because of HRM's pesticide bylaw. So we have to be sure that what we are sending is very pure.

AM asked whether the sod industry has BMPs they adhere to like golf courses?

AS replied that fungicides are very specific to diseases. They are an issue with golf courses they have a little different personality than herbicides. Golf courses have to maintain at a very high level. Trying to maintain a ¾ inch height requires a super sensitive management plan which consumes about 60% of the energy to maintain. The sod industry does not have a similar BMP management plan. We react to an issue to ensure the sod is weed-free when you put it to bed for the year. The pest has their own mind. There is an endless supply of seed. Every time we plow we bring up new seeds that could be there for generations.

BG asked if over the 40 years whether the weeds have decreased over time? Weed grasses are some of the worst weeds that we have. 2-4-D is used in that herbicide mixture. That is what works to control thistle, plantain, clover, horsetail, etc. There are very few weeds that that doesn't kill. You choose the right time to spray.

HP asked what the buffer is to the riverbank. AS replied that there is a 3 metre buffer. There was a conversation about expanding that. However, there are always trees and

	<p>shrubs and high grass that is quite thick next to the river. It creates its own type of buffer. I am not a fan of increasing the buffers. I don't see any occasion where any of our products would leach through. We don't spray often enough and we don't spray in the wind. AS shared that he still drinks the river water (that he personally chlorinates).</p> <p>AS said that NSECC considered directing sod farmers to plough all of the sod land. AS felt that this made no sense, especially if you are concerned about erosion. Further, the sod harvest continues through December. There is also a tightly knit root system that is regrowing all the time. A cover crop is not going to have a root mass like a stable till soil. The root system is about 4 inches.</p> <p>BG asked where do you fit in in an agriculture conference. Is there a sodding conference? There is a benefit to sharing this information to others in the farm community expressing what BMPs are used and why you don't till etc.</p> <p>AS expressed that globally, billions of dollars is spent trying to have no carbon and creating mitigation.</p> <p>AS shared that he draws water from the river or groundwater. AM reminded AS that it is the quality of the water that we are more concerned more than the quantity.</p> <p>AS was thanked for his presentation and invited to stay, which he did.</p>	
Decision:	<p>The Committee is invited to contact AS if they have further question at his email: <a href="mailto:astreach@granview.ca">astreach@granview.ca</a></p>	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Circulate AS' email for the Committee members to respond AS directly.	BG	Pending
v. Newsletter/Outreach		
Discussion:	<p>The newsletter was distributed to Halifax Water customers through the bill inserts. Another distribution of the latest newsletter was circulated to about 1400 people who live inside the watershed area about 2 weeks ago. KT said she has received it.</p> <p>The last newsletter issue was about the Adopt-a Stream work conducted in 2020 and about the signs that were erected.</p> <p>One of the topics we have listed for another issue is "what is good for water". Not sure when that will be created and distributed.</p> <p>AM asked if there was anything the Committee wanted to see in a newsletter.</p> <p>AS suggested that it might be prudent to share Halifax Water's water quality sampling results with the general watershed area population considering many draw their water directly from the river if/when there is something people should be concerned about.</p> <p>BG replied that this is the responsibility of NSECC, who generally advise people that they strongly recommend not drinking water from surface or groundwater sources without treating it and testing it regularly. Downstream sampling is out of our control as well. BG added that Halifax Water does share information with the Committee and with NSECC when there are issues immediately.</p>	

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	<p>AM advised that when there are water quality outcomes of concern, such as those we have had with nitrogen, we could talk about those in a newsletter.</p> <p>BG added that certain subwatershed water quality data that show us changes in risk - based vs target based which we could report on under those circumstances.</p> <p>KT suggested a topic we could talk about is nutrient loading and what practices lead to that. This topic could also lead into climate change issues such as algae blooms.</p>	
Decision:	<p>Circulate the Newsletter to more people through Canada Post, CDG’s newsletter and Halifax Water’s online billing ap.</p> <p>Reformat/remove Agenda Items 3.a.iii.1. “Newsletter Topics” accordingly.</p>	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Circulate the Newsletter more widely through Canada Post, CDG’s newsletter and Halifax Water’s online billing ap.	AM/CDG	Complete
Reformat/remove Agenda Items 3.a.iii.1. “Newsletter Topics” accordingly – see items below.	AM	Complete
<p>vi. Where does HRM’s authority to adopt bylaws for protecting municipal drinking water supply watercourses lie.</p>		
Discussion:	<p>AF advised that with regard to HRM bylaws only, there is specific, limited language that comes from sections 190, 198 and 235 of the Halifax Charter about watercourse and wellhead protection for municipal purposes.</p> <p>AF explained that HRM has watercourse setbacks for development permits in their land use by-laws (LUBs) that are only tied to development. AF met with the Regional Plan review group in response to their ask about problems with the development side of watercourse buffering through the LUBs. One of the greatest problems is that once the occupancy permit is issued, the development is no longer tied to a development permit, enabling the landowner to go out and clear down to the water if they so desire. AF added that that means, if a landowner cuts down on the trees on their property down to the water’s edge, after they have received an occupancy permit, there is no recourse through the municipality; it then becomes an ECC issue. [But according to MA at a Collin’s Park WAC meeting, there are no regulations to protect watercourse buffers, except through PWAs and the Wetland Conservation Policy.]</p> <p>AM asked what enables landowners to clear to the water’s edge when it is no longer tied to a development permit.</p> <p>AF replied that this is due to Section 235 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, as follows:</p> <p>(5) <i>Where a municipal planning strategy so provides, a land-use by-law may...</i></p> <p>(o) <b>regulate or prohibit development</b> within a specified distance of a watercourse or a municipal water-supply wellhead;</p>	

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	<p><i>[*(d) in connection with a development, regulate, or require the planting or retention of, trees and vegetation for the purposes of landscaping, buffering, sedimentation or erosion control.]</i></p> <p>Further, such a bylaw[s] may only be tied to regulated development if it has been enabled through the municipal planning strategy, i.e., the Regional Plan, (which it has), and then implemented through the LUB (which it has, in every LUB through the watercourse setbacks and buffers by-laws). Even if there is Charter policy, if it is not regulated in the LUB then it has no teeth.</p> <p>Further, through section 190 of the Charter there is the ability through the tree cutting bylaw, as it is colloquially referred, which prohibits the removal of vegetation within a service (water, sewer and stormwater) boundary, which states;</p> <p><i>(2) Council may make by-laws, for municipal purposes, requiring that existing trees or vegetation be retained or only removed pursuant to a municipal permit in serviced areas;</i></p> <p>However, AF advised, we do not process permits for the removal of trees. This is not a by-law that HRM has adopted, but it could be. We could ask for a general bylaw for all community plan areas outside service areas, as it stands now, regarding vegetation and tree removal, through the Regional Plan review process that is ongoing now.</p> <p>Moreover, section 198 only applies to designated water supply areas and only if the municipality owns that land.</p> <p>AF added that the Charter has eeked out some specific areas for municipalities to apply by-laws to, but has left the brunt of the regulatory authority regarding watercourse protection to NSECC because that has been typically their jurisdiction.</p> <p>BG/AM added that Halifax Water staff is in discussions with the Regional Planning group regarding solutions for some of the concerns around watercourse setbacks and buffers, since most of our water supply areas are outside the service areas, where this by-law doesn't apply, and doesn't have any protection, unless they are in a designated PWA where provincial regulations take precedence.</p> <p>The Regional Plan is going into the 4<sup>th</sup> phase. It is good to get any requests for changes in early, before it goes to Council.</p> <p>AF felt it would take a lawyer to add more to this explanation. AF/AM added that the province has a <a href="#">Coastal Protection Act</a> that will increase coastal zone buffers, once the accompanying regulations have been ratified. This Act may only apply to inland rivers that are portions of tidal rivers significantly affected by tidal action; e.g., the Shubenacadie River from a defined distance from the Minas Basin.</p>	
Decision	Halifax Water staff to continue to provide input through the Regional Plan review.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Explore options about where HRM's authority lies in the LUB and in the Charter for adopting bylaws for protecting watercourses.	AF/MA	Complete

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Halifax Water staff to continue to provide input through the Regional Plan review.	BG/AM	Ongoing
<i>vii.</i> NSSA AaS Project Highlights		
Discussion:	AM advised the Committee that the AaS project was highlighted at the Minister’s Conference, using the data and pictures HP provided to AM through the AaS report. If we present to the farming community we could showcase this data to them, too.	
Decision:	Remove from Agenda.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Remove from agenda.	AM	Complete
<b>b.</b> Musquodoboit River Watershed Society (MRWS) future projects		
Discussion:	<p>At the previous meeting, HP mentioned that the MRWS has 15 Adopt-a-Stream project ideas that they have submitted for consideration in the vicinity of the watershed area. HP was advised then that only projects that fall inside the watershed area could be considered for support from Halifax Water.</p> <p>HP submitted an overview of those projects to the Committee for review at this meeting. HP was thanked for all the work done to pull this briefing together for review. Prior to the meeting, AM and BG highlighted which ones fell inside the watershed area and therefore could be considered for funding/in-kind support from Halifax Water. AM/BG advised the Committee that projects 7-12 fell within the watershed boundary. BG advised HP to choose which projects could tie in with farming and falls inside the watershed area, what your goal is, and what farmers would be interested in that Halifax Water could consider supporting.</p> <p>HP advised that there are 5 different niches: three government and two non-government who are all interested in restoration work on the Musquodoboit River. They have approached the MRW Society for input. There is plenty of money on the table to do this work. The NS Transport and Active Transit group want to offset fish habitat losses that transport has incurred over the years. Maccallum Ltd. are doing a preliminary study to prioritize the work.</p> <p>There may be more entities that will be doing this work as well, including Halifax Water, who would be interested in work inside the watershed area. BG would like to share the potential projects with Halifax Water’s Executive.</p> <p>HP would appreciate any comments to strengthen the projects that we want to do.</p> <p>BG said we could add a letter of support for projects 7-12 because they fall inside the watershed.</p> <p>AM asked HP which ones they want to apply to AaS for funding for. HP replied that they gave the document to Maccallum. They are considering McNutt’s Brook (outside the watershed area) and Benvie Brook (inside the watershed area).</p> <p>BG asked whether HP needed a letter of support. HP replied NS Transportation is providing funding for MacCallum to determine the project with the most need. His</p>	

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	<p>contact, Amber looked at 2 that she thought were worth pursuing. NSSA AaS came back with two spots, only one of the two, Benvie Brook falls inside the watershed area. She met two or three weeks later with Adopt a Stream.</p> <p>HP felt that we should wait until the report comes back before determining which project to support.</p> <p>BG advised that in the meantime, BG will discuss the project options with Halifax Water’s executive to determine which ones we might be interested in, besides what MacCallum identifies, which may be in concert with what MacCallum identifies.</p>	
Decision:	<p>We don’t need to provide a letter of support right now. We will wait.</p> <p>In the meantime, BG will discuss this with the executive about which ones we might be interested in, besides what MacCallum identifies, which HP will advise the Committee on.</p>	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Send Halifax Water the list of potential AaS projects to be reviewed for funding eligibility.	HP/BG	Complete
HP to provide updates to the Committee on the findings from MacCallum’s report. BG will use this information to help with Halifax Water’s assessment of which projects they may be interested in supporting.	HP/BG	ASAP
<b>c. Tour of Middle Musquodoboit Water Supply Plant and MS’ Farm</b>		
Discussion:	A farm tour and Water Suppt Plant (WSP) tour has been scheduled for November 16 at 11 am beginning at MS’ farm, where we will have a tour followed by a lunch, provided by Halifax Water, and then proceed to the WSP for a tour led by Sanjeev Tagra at 2 pm.	
Decision:	Determine head count.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Conduct tour of MS’ farm and WSP	AM/BG/MS/ST	November 16
<b>d. NSECC to provide PWA map data to DoA as awareness tool for farm community (MA)</b>		
Discussion:	Deferred to next meeting due to MA’s absence.	
Decision:	Defer to next meeting.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Keep on agenda	MA	Deferred
<b>e. Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV)</b>		
Discussion:	Deferred to next meeting due to MA’s absence.	
Decision:	Defer to next meeting.	

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Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Continue to investigate whether the EHJV program is still active and provides program support to restore / conserve riparian areas.		MA	Deferred to next meeting.
<b>f. Potential pollution in local pond</b>			
Discussion:	BG advised the Committee that he spoke to Dr. Rob Jamieson from Dalhousie University who does a lot of research work with Halifax Water. Dr. Jamieson advised BG that if the pond weed is duck weed, then there would be minimal cyanobacteria because the duck weed creates a barrier to light getting through; however, if the issue is nutrient runoff which promotes algae growth, determining that will have to wait until next summer when the work can be conducted.		
Decision:	Leave until next summer 2023 when Dr. Rob Jamieson can examine the water quality of the pond.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Determine if the pond presents a risk to the river through research work conducted by Dr. Rob Jamieson.		BG	Summer 2023
<b>g. Terms of Reference (ToR)</b>			
Discussion:	There are three items under this topic that need to be addressed: <i>i.</i> Forestry and large landowner sector memberships; <i>ii.</i> membership selection process update; and <i>iii.</i> code of conduct and ToR update, which are discussed under the following headings.		
<b><i>i.</i> Forestry and large landowner sector membership</b>			
Discussion:	<p><u>Regarding Forestry sector membership:</u> BG reached out to Conform twice but has not heard back. BG will reach out again. If we still don't hear back, we will reach out to someone else.</p> <p><u>Regarding Large Landowner Sector membership:</u> BG reached out to AS from the sod farming industry, who has joined us this evening. Depending on how things go, we will see where that lands, according to AS.</p>		
Decision:	<p>BG will reach out to Conform (forest industry) once more, inviting them to represent these sectors on the Committee. If they do not respond then BG will reach out to someone else.</p> <p>AS has been invited to sit on this Committee and has attended this meeting. AS will advise us of his interest in time.</p>		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Approach Conform manager and sod farmer about volunteering on the Committee.		BG	Complete and pending

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AS will advise us of his decision to represent the large landowner member on this Committee in time.	AS	Pending
<i>ii. Membership Selection Process and ToR Updates</i>		
Discussion:	<p><u>Membership Selection Process:</u></p> <p>The question is how to recruit and subsequently determine new members. BG explained that AS was approached because he is a large landowner as well as a member of a unique (sod) industry. BG read Section 14 of the ToR.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Upon expiration of terms, for representatives of a sector or agency, that member will be asked by the Committee to have their sector or agency nominate a representative for the subsequent term. Where that is not possible, Halifax Water will contact the sector or agency to request a representative appointment. For members not representing a sector or agency, Halifax Water will write to all landowners in the Middle Musquodoboit watershed area, in search of an individual volunteer for the Committee. If more than one volunteer per sector comes forward, the Committee will decide upon that membership through a balloting process. A members would be asked for thei sector. There really is no sector or agency as a sod former but there is for a large landowner.</i></p> <p>BG advised that the sod farming industry sector is not an issue in this case because of its unique status in the watershed area. Rather the challenge is regarding the large landowner sector. According to the current ToR, all large landowners need to be written to, inviting them to consider the position, which would amount to an unreasonable number of landowners. To alleviate this challenge, BG is suggesting changing the wording in the ToR from “writing to” to “advertising to” the targeted sector within the Musquodoboit watershed area, in the ToR.</p> <p>So advertising the position(s) should be pusued.</p> <p>AS asked how long a membership term is. BG replied 2 years</p> <p><u>Chair, Vice and/or Co-chair Positions:</u></p> <p>BG suggested adding wording in section 15 of the ToR (iterated in italics below) ...</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee shall be appointed every two years by the membership at the meeting closest to April 1st. The Chair of the Committee should be a voting Community representative of the Committee while the Vice-Chair should be a voting Halifax Water representative of the Committee...</i></p> <p>to accommodate situations where a Chair cannot be found, by adding something like the following...</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>if no committee member agrees to be Chair, then a member of Halifax Water will act as Chair until a member is found.</i></p>	

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	AM suggested that we create a draft ToR to circulate ahead of the next meeting for discussion at our next meeting.	
Decision:	Circulate a draft ToR ahead of the next meeting for discussion at our next meeting.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Redefine the membership selection process in the ToR.		All
Circulate a draft ToR ahead of the next meeting for discussion at our next meeting.		All
Advertise for large landowner (and forestry?) sector positions.		BG
Deadline		
		In progress.
		Next meeting
		ASAP
<i>iii. Code of Conduct</i>		
Discussion:	<p>BG advised the Committee that the BG was able to get a Code of Conduct from the Halifax Water Board to illustrate what is permitted to be shared outside of the Committee meetings.</p> <p>BG proposes to call it the Code of Conduct for Halifax Water Watershed Advisory Groups.</p> <p>It essentially states that a Group is arms-length of Halifax Water and that shared information should not be available to others outside the Group.</p> <p>AM suggested doing the same with the Code of Conduct that we are doing with the ToR (i.e., circulate to members for their review prior to the next meeting) and if there are no issues that need discussion at the next meeting, determine the wording via email.</p>	
Decision:	A Code of Conduct will be drafted with wording that protects the integrity of everyone's position on the Committee and circulated for input.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Circulate the Code of Conduct with suggested changes for the Committee's review.		BG/AM/All
		Deadline
		Prior to next meeting.
<i>h. White paper – (formerly – What is good for water presentation targeting agriculture industry)</i>		
Discussion:	<p>BG investigated the concept of creating a White Paper highlighting sustainable farming practices, including the positive relationships between Halifax Water and a local farmer. Dr. Rob Jamieson is very receptive to this project.</p> <p>BG advised MS that a student has been tasked to conduct the work and will be starting very soon, and will need to consult with him.</p> <p>BG reminded the Committee about where the topic of the White Paper came from; i.e., the business model partnership between the farmer and Halifax Water was struck to reduce high levels of nitrates (albeit within allowable levels for a drinking water supply) showing up in the raw water supply.</p>	

\*Section 235 (d) of the Halifax Charter also applies, again associated with development only.

	<p>A White Paper would help support a model creating a healthy water supply to others. This could also be a tool to circulate in the Newsletter and other resources such as a presentation to the farming community.</p> <p>Funding to support this project will be through Dalhousie’s Natural Science and Environmental Research Council of Canada (NSERCC) program.</p>	
Decision:	<p>Dr. Rob Jamieson, a water quality researcher based at Dalhousie University who has led a number of research projects for Halifax Water, has assigned a student to take on the project of creating a white paper on this topic and will be contacting MS.</p>	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Information Item from here on.		Deadline
BG/CP		Next meeting
a. Source Water Protection Plan Update		
Discussion:	<p>AM advised the Committee the work on the Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) is ongoing. It is anticipated to be ready for review in a couple of months.</p>	
Decision:	<p>Continue to work on SWPP</p>	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Continue to work on SWPP.		Deadline
AM		Ongoing

**4. New Business**

Decision:	No new business.
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**5. Landowner Questions**

Discussion:	Nothing to report
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**6. Municipal Updates**

Discussion:	<p>AF advised that development applications are consistently being forwarded to Halifax Water through BG for review. HRM have also added all the watersheds to the permit review form. So every time a development review form is filled out there is a specific ask about whether the development is in a watershed.</p> <p>Mapping of all the watersheds has been incorporated in the POSSE systems. Peter Nightingale has been instrumental in getting that into POSSE.</p> <p>BG advised that when applications have the potential to impact the watershed area, BG will circulate those applications to the Committee for their review and comment.</p> <p>HRM tries not to triage on their end because they are not sure what Halifax Water might be looking for, therefore, Halifax Water receives all development applications that fall inside the watershed area, whether they have an obvious impact or not.</p>
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	BG has a spreadsheet of the applications Halifax Water received and their status/outcome. AM thanked AF for being an advocate for the watershed awareness needs.	
Decision:	Continue to share development applications with the Committee on an as-needed basis.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Circulate the development application to the Committee.		BG
		Deadline
		ASAP

7. Election of Officers		
Discussion:	AM called for nominations for the Chair position three times as is required. Kerry-Anne Taylor put her name forward for at least a 2-year term.	
Decision:	Kerry-Anne Taylor was accepted as the Chair of the Committee.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
KT will continue as the Chair for at least a 2-year term.		KT
		Deadline
		Fall 2024

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 6:30 at Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre and Cultural Centre and virtually via Microsoft Teams.	
Discussion:	Wednesday March 8, 2023 [meeting moved to March 1 due to a conflict with the venue.]

9. Adjournment of meeting at 9:00 pm.	
Motion to adjourn at 9:15 pm.	BG

Minutes Recorded and respectfully submitted by:

Anna McCarron, Secretary of Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee

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