



Meeting Minutes

Pockwock Watershed Management Committee			
Date: March 9 th , 2023		Meeting Time: 10:03 am	Adjourned Time: 12:10 pm
Location: 2 Park Ave & virtually via Microsoft Teams			
Member name and position:		Agency/Representation:	
Attendees	Jillanna Brown (Jill), P. Eng., Reg. Engineer	Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC)	
	Barry Geddes (BG), (<i>Secretary</i>) Watershed Manager	Halifax Water	
	Anna McCarron (AM), (<i>Vice Chair</i>) Source Water Planner	Halifax Water	
	Tim O'Brien, Regional Forester	Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNRR)	
	Sanjeev Tagra (ST), Manager of Water Supply Plants	Halifax Water	
	Colin Waddell (Colin), Senior Manager, Water Services	Halifax Water	
	Michael Allen (MA), Watershed Planner	NNEC	
	Lee-Ann Martin (LM), Planner (Alternate for Rachel Gilbert)	Municipality of East Hants (MEH)	
	Charlie Parent (CP), Student	Halifax Water	
Regrets	Jeff Brown (Jeff), Forestry Technician	DNRR	
	Michael Perry (MP), (<i>Chair</i>) Community Representative	Mount Uniacke	
	Rachel Gilbert (RG), Manager of Planning Services	Municipality of East Hants (MEH)	
	Neil Morehouse (NM), (for Dawn MacNeill) Manager Protected Areas & Ecosystems	Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC)	
	Sally Steele (SS), Protected Areas Coordinator, Western Region	Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC)	
Guests	Tricia Isnor (TI), Environmental Engineers, Regulatory Services	Halifax Water	
	Curtis Wiley (Curtis)	Upper Hammonds Plains Community Advocate	
	Gina Jones Wilson (Gina)	Upper Hammonds Plains Community Development Association and Melvin Tract Lands Society	



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1. Attendance / Introductions

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair, AM.

Discussion	Attendance recorded: five (5) attended virtually (Jill, MA, ST, Curtis, and Gina) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtis joined one hour into the meeting. • Regrets conveyed (see above) • Quorum noted Minutes recorded electronically, via Teams. TO last meeting as chair. TO retiring and new replacement will be assigned for next meeting.		
Decision	DNRR to assign new Committee member.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
DNRR to assign new Committee member.		DNRR	Next meeting

2. Review and Approval

March 9, 2023, Meeting Agenda

Discussion	Approved as presented.		
Decision	Approved as presented.		
Motion to approve March 9, 2023, Meeting Agenda		Moved by Jill, seconded by TO. All in favour	

October 6, 2022 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Discussion	Approved as presented.		
Decision	Approved as presented.		
Motion to approve October 6, 2022, Meeting Minutes		Moved by TO, seconded by Jill. All in favour	

3. Old Business

a. Pockwock Water Storage and Withdrawal Permit Application – Update

Discussion	TI reports that Halifax Water received water withdrawal approval from NSECC for same average daily withdrawal rate as previous approval (110 million litres per day (MLD)). Not a standard 10-year approval - expires November 1 st , 2027. Further discussions are required for downstream ecological maintenance flow and dam requirements with NSECC and DFO.		
Decision	Ongoing - Continue to provide updates.		

b. Mount Uniacke Signage

i. Bell Park Interpretive Signage



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Discussion	This is an ongoing agenda item. Halifax Water reached out to the Bell Park Association a number of times with no action. BG suggested removing this item from the agenda - if the Bell Park Association would like to revisit, they can contact Halifax Water. Committee agreed to the motion to remove from agenda.		
Decision	Remove from agenda.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
	Remove from agenda.		
c. Resource Management Updates			
i. Forestry			
Discussion	Committee discussed Pockwock bridge replacement program. All bridges on the main Pockwock Road have been replaced in the last 5 years. All bridges meet current provincial requirements – NSECC approval obtained, closed top, designed to 100-year flood.		
Decision	Standing agenda item.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
	Update as necessary.	BG/ DNRR	Ongoing
ii. Water Quality			
1) Geosmin update:			
Discussion	Geosmin has been non-detect (<3ng/L) since April 19, 2022 – data found on Halifax Water website My Water Has a Taste & Odour Halifax Water .		
Decision	Standing agenda item.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
	Update as necessary.	BG/Colin	Ongoing
2) Lake Recovery Research:			
Discussion	Research is ongoing. BG shared that algae meters have been installed at the intakes and data is currently being compiled. Colin provides background to the research as it relates to the future redesign of the Pockwock Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Climate change is a contributing factor in recent water quality changes (pH, total organic carbon...) and the research is helping to better understand the changes in raw water quality.		
Decision	Standing agenda item.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
	Update as necessary.	BG/Colin	Ongoing



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d. <i>forWater</i> Research Network			
Discussion	BG reports that the five-year research project was completed at the end of 2022. Currently waiting for the final results however early findings suggest that controlled forestry is beneficial to managing water quality for drinking water purposes. The final results will help guide forestry management on all watershed lands managed by Halifax Water (wholly/partially). ForWater research is looking to extend the program.		
Decision	Standing agenda item.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Update as necessary.		BG	Ongoing
e. Tours of the Watershed Area			
i. Helicopter			
Discussion	Helicopter tour was completed		
Decision	Standing agenda item as reminder for future tours.		
ii. Educational Ground Tour of Harvest Areas - VIPs			
Discussion	Planned for summer 2023. Part of an ongoing larger Halifax Water outreach initiative to increase knowledge of source water protection amongst community leaders, first responders, politicians, etc...		
Decision	Standing agenda item until complete		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Plan a tour for the watershed area targeted at a small group consisting of councilors, community leaders, first responders, East Hants Directors and PWM Committee members.		BG/MP/RG/AM	Summer 2023
f. Lake Trout Study			
Discussion	<p>Initiated by Acadia University in 2022 to see if Lake Trout exist in Pockwock Lake. None were caught in 2022. The study is ongoing with planned trips for 2023.</p> <p>No invasive species were caught, it is believed that Pockwock is the only watershed free of invasive fish species in the local vicinity. Jill inquires why there are no invasive species. BG suggests introduction is limited by a number of factors; the Pockwock dam acts as a physical barrier for entry points below the dam; and no fishing is allowed in the Pockwock PWA. The only concern is the area north of Hwy 101 where fishing is allowed (BG shares map of watershed to illustrate access points).</p>		
Decision	Standing agenda item.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline



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Update as necessary.		BG	Ongoing
f. Post-tropical storm Fiona Update			
Discussion	TO and BG jointly flew the Pockwock watershed in October of 2022 to assess post-tropical storm Fiona damage. Most of the damage was confined to the commercial thinning area where operations have been ongoing since 2020. Approximately 30% of the commercial thinned area was damaged. BG shared pics of the blowdown. BG shares a map of the impacted area in the watershed. Discussions with Westfor are ongoing to clean-up the blow down while their operations are still in the area finishing up the block. TO shares that Provincial processes will need be followed and approved before any clean up can happen.		
Decision	Action item is complete. Report under forest operations for fall meeting.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Report under forest operations for fall 2023 meeting		All	Completed

4. New Business

a. Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) Annual Report			
Discussion	The Committee discusses the SWP Pockwock excerpt – available by email for review prior to the meeting. The Committee was given an action item to provide comments to BG by March 15, 2023 in time for final submission to NSECC for year-end reporting (end of March).		
Decision:	Committee to provide comments by March 15, 2023		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Provide comments on Pockwock excerpt by March 15, 2023.		All	March 15, 2023

5. Landowner Q & A

a. Crown			
Discussion	Nothing to report beyond what was already reported in the above minutes.		
Decision	Standing agenda item.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
b. Pockwock Wilderness Area			
Discussion	NM/SS not present. Halifax Water License to Operate for the newly approved Sackville River Wilderness Area on hold.		
Decision	Defer to next meeting		



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Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Provide update on License to Operate	BG/NM/SS	Pending
c. Mount Uniacke Community		
i. Uniacke Trails Association (Trail development) and PWMC Letter of Support		
Discussion	<p>BG shares that a new road and bridge were constructed across the Uniacke River north of the watershed providing ATV traffic new access to the Western Crown lands (BG shares a map of the location). As a result, ATV traffic has significantly dropped. BG suggests removing this action item since the original intent is being met – to divert ATV traffic away from the Pockwock PWA.</p> <p>The Committee suggests waiting for MP to report on his discussion with the Uniacke Trails Association before making a decision to remove it from the agenda.</p>	
Decision	Wait for MP to report back to the Committee.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Contact MP about trail development and letter of support	BG/MP	Pending
d. Municipality of East Hants		
i. Planning and Development within Pockwock’s natural watershed boundary: Sulphide Bearing Materials Regulations and salt impacts in Watershed		
Discussion	<p>LM reported that they did not receive any new development applications for properties within the watershed area since the last meeting (Oct.6/22). The Uniacke Business Park in MEH is entering early stages of phase three.</p> <p>BG reports that a developer contacted Halifax Water who intends to develop a subdivision within the Pockwock Watershed north of West Lake. Road right of way clearing has begun. Concerns were raised by the Committee about the potential impact to the wetlands within the watershed area as well as private sewage systems. No more info was available.</p> <p>BG confirms that three new roads were completed within the portion of the newly expanded Uniacke Business Park that falls within the Pockwock watershed. The Committee raises concerns that additional winter maintenance activities could further negatively impact Pockwock water quality. BG suggests contacting NSPW who conducts winter maintenance operations for MEH to discuss alternatives to salting. MA suggests asking NSPW to meet to discuss winter maintenance practices and the “science” behind it.</p> <p>Further concerns were raised about private business’ within the Uniacke Business Park who use salt for winter maintenance purposes. LM to discuss with RG if there is an opportunity to reduce the use of salt by private business’ through MEH permit application process.</p> <p>Note: A concern was raised that the province may require different water quality parameters than what was being reported in the Pockwock SWP excerpt, sodium vs chlorides. MA and BG clarified that the information being provided in the excerpt is a result</p>	



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	of source water monitoring for reporting purposes only and not for compliance purposes. It is up to the utility to decide which parameters are best suited for monitoring purposes.		
Decision	BG and LM to follow up with winter maintenance concerns as they relate to the topic.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
	MEH to discuss winter maintenance on private lands within the Uniacke Business Park of the Pockwock watershed.	LM/RG	Next Meeting
	Contact the Department of Public Works to meet and discuss alternatives to salt for winter maintenance within the Pockwock watershed for the Uniacke Business Park.	BG	Next meeting
6. Melvin Tract Lands			
Discussion	<p>A tour of the watershed and Melvin Tract lands for Upper Hammonds Plains Community members is planned for this summer (2023).</p> <p>Gina inquires what is Halifax Water’s emergency protocol in the event of a chemical spill or similar event for the Pockwock WTP. The community has concerns with the recent increase in development and that there is only one way in and out of the community. How would the community be notified? Colin committed to meeting with the Upper Hammonds Plains Community separately to address their concerns.</p> <p>Jill requests Halifax Water to report any changes to the facilities contingency plan in the annual report to NSECC. Colin committed that any changes related to the facilities contingency plan would be made by Halifax Water Regulatory Services by the required date.</p>		
Decision	Meet with Upper Hammonds Plains Community separately to address their concerns with emergency protocol and tour of watershed/Tract lands.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
	Tour of watershed/Melvin Tract Lands.	BG/Colin	Pending
	Meet with the Upper Hammonds Plain Community to discuss Halifax Water emergency protocol for Pockwock WTP.	Colin	Next meeting
7. Halifax Water			
Discussion	<p>BG shares that Halifax Water is planning to clean up trees blown down by post-tropical storm Fiona around the water treatment plant this year (2023). The clean-up is necessary for the safe operation of the Pockwock WTP and to reduce fire hazard risk near the water treatment plant (BG shares the planned clean up areas on a map). The planned clean-up falls on lands owned by Halifax Water outside of the Pockwock PWA boundary. Proper processes will be followed.</p> <p>Colin provides an update of the Water Supply Enhancement Program (WSEP) – a capital upgrade project to all water supply plants to adapt to climate change, tighter regulatory</p>		



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	requirements, and customer expectations. It is in the design phase, nothing to update at this time.		
Decision	Provide update as necessary.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Update when necessary			Ongoing

8. Education / Awareness Update

a. Newsletter and PSA

Discussion	No updates.		
Decision	Defer to next meeting.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
AM will contact MP about newsletter and PSA		AM/MP	ASAP

9. Election of Officers – Fall 2024

10. Next Meeting – Thursday, October 12th, 2023 @ 10am, Virtually via Microsoft Teams and in-person at 2 Park Avenue

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Barry Geddes