

BENNERY LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Meeting Minutes March 11, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendance:

Mike E. Allen, Watershed Planner.....Nova Scotia Environment & Climate Change (ECC)
Trevor Creaser (TC) (*Chair*), Planning & Development.....Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)
Barry Geddes (BG), (*Vice Chair*), Watershed Manager.....Halifax Water
Anna McCarron (AM), (*Secretary*), Source Water Planner.....Halifax Water
Neil Morehouse (NM) for DM, Manager Protected Areas & Ecosystems.....NS Env. & Climate Change (ECC)
Paul Parusel (PP), Brookhill Estates.....Community Representative

Regrets:

Reid Campbell (RC), Director of Water Services.....Halifax Water
Jan Jachimowicz (JJ).....Property Owners Representative
Dawn MacNeill (DM), Protected Areas Coordinator.....Nova Scotia Environment & Climate Change (NSE)
Garry Oxner (GO), Superintendent of Water Supply Plants and EMS Coordinator.....Halifax Water

Absent:

Bernie Matlock (BM), P. Eng, Environmental Engineer.Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (ECC)

1. Attendance / Introductions:

- AM circulated the following, via email, before the meeting:
 - i. Draft March 11, 2021 Meeting Agenda;
 - ii. Draft July 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes; and
 - iii. Draft October 28, 2020 Meeting Notes.

Meeting Called to Order by Chair (TC).

- regrets expressed (listed above); MA reported that he would be late to the meeting; and
- quorum noted

2. Review and Approval of:

a. March 11, 2021 Meeting Agenda:

- **Agenda approved by TC, PP seconded. All in favour.**

b. July 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

- July 15, 2020 Minutes: motion to approve by BG; seconded by PP. All in favour.

c. October 28, 2020 Meeting Notes:

- Changes to the following: correction of wording of bullet 2 under 3.b.; and removal of bullets 4 and 5 under 4.b.; and bullets 2, 3 and 4 under 5.c. due to redundancies.
- Changes to Notes were agreed upon by the members.

	<u>Action</u>
<p>3. Old Business:</p> <p>a. Private Land Logging Violation in Protected Water Area PWA (BG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG reported that this case is now closed; and • as per the verdict of this case, 10 acres of land has been deeded over to Halifax Water; • Remove from Agenda. 	
<p><u>Report to the Committee when all aspects of this case have been determined.</u></p>	<u>Complete</u>
<p>Action: Remove from Agenda</p>	AM
<p>b. Access Road Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG reported that the new access road is in use, the cameras are up, the gate has been installed and is fully operational; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ new ID cards have been issued, which are required to gain access through the gate; • there is some barrier work that needs to be completed along the road, which must wait until spring; • other than that, the road is complete; • BG advised PP that since the back road off Sky Blvd. is now the main access to the water supply plant and will have heavy truck traffic, the community should be aware the road is now gated and posted as a “no trespassing” area; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ there is an electric fence that has a camera on it that will reduce some of the pedestrian traffic on the road; ○ we want to avoid safety conflicts between pedestrian and heavy truck traffic; ○ we don’t mind people walking up the road to the gate; just keep off the access road to the water supply plant. 	
<p>Q: Will that new gate and camera infrastructure reduce the ATV traffic there? (AM)</p>	
<p>A: We won’t know until we finish all the work. We know that it’s an access point. The new infrastructure should help to deter ATV traffic, although people tend to cut new trails. (BG)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove from the Agenda 	
<p>Action: Remove from agenda.</p>	AM
<p>c. Aerial Tour of the Watershed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delayed until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. 	
<p>Action: Arrange a helicopter tour of the watershed area.</p>	DM
<p>d. Logo/Headers/Footers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We determined through communications that the logo can stay as is. • Remove from Agenda. 	Pending
<p>Action: Remove from agenda.</p>	
<p>e. Shubenacadie Lakes Floodplain Study Presentation (Discussion):</p>	AM

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Burgess of HRM indicated to TC that the Floodplain Study will not be prepared to go to Council until at least the summer of 2021, so the Committee will not be updated on it until after that happens; • AM reminded the Committee about the plan of action after the Study is released, such that if the BLWMC determines that the Study is relevant to the Bennery Lake watershed area, then BLWAC members would be invited to attend a joint presentation by HRM to the Shubenacadie Water Environmental Protection Society (SWEPS) and the Collin’s Park Watershed Advisory Committee. 	<u>Action</u>
<p>Action: Send Floodplain Study Report to members for consideration once available.</p>	
<p>Action: Review the Study Report to determine the need for a presentation.</p>	Pending (AM)
<p>f. Water Quality</p>	Pending (All)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GO had mentioned at our last meeting that there was going to be a project to examine the use of biological filter technology to see if it will remove manganese and to regularly measure manganese in the raw water and elsewhere in the plant; • the Committee would like to know the outcome of that project. 	
<p>Action: Ask GO to present to the Committee about the water quality studies that have to do with the turnover in the spring and fall and the issues.</p>	AM/BG
<p>g. Viewpoint Consultation (MA)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At our last discussion, we were waiting on the availability of the NSECC GIS person who was working outside NSECC at the time; • he is settling back into his post, after which he is going to package the data together for all the water utility watersheds; • there are some logistics to work through; e.g., some utilities may not want their natural watersheds listed, in addition to the PWA watershed areas; and • it is currently a work in progress. 	
<p>Action: Determine how PWA regulations pertain to for sale properties on Viewpoint.</p>	
<p>h. Covenants with Deeds</p>	MA (In progress)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG will task this year’s summer student to investigate which properties within the Bennery Lake Watershed <i>Protected Water Area</i> have been registered at the Property of Deeds as per the Environment Act requirements. 	
<p>Action: BG’s summer student will investigate which properties within the Bennery Lake Watershed <i>Protected Water Area</i> have been registered at the Property of Deeds as per the <i>Environment Act</i> requirements.</p>	BG
<p>i. Minor Tree Cutting in the Bennery Lake PWA</p>	
<p>Action: the landowner will prepare a plan and get back to Halifax Water and HRM with the intention of developing the lands. BG informed the landowner that the plan must be submitted first to HRM who will then forward it on to Halifax Water for further comment.</p>	BG/TC (Deferred)
<p>4. New Business:</p>	

Action: Consult with Kurt Pyle and his group at HRM with regard to GIS mapping of the water supply areas and discuss the options of triggering notification of developments in the Bennery Lake PWA (and Lake Major's and Pockwock's); i.e., to see if the watershed boundaries could be a custom position on the permit

Action

Ongoing

6. Landowner Q&A:

a. Community report (PP):

- PP was called by a couple of homeowners who were concerned about tree cutting around their properties;
 - PP visited the tree cutters and reminded the property owner that they were inside the watershed;
 - they assured PP that they were only removing trees that were endangering their house;
 - BG advised the Committee that homeowners may only clear up to 50% of their property;
 - also, a reminder that it is Halifax Water's responsibility to advise homeowners whose activities are being questioned, so no need for PP or other neighbours to take on that responsibility;
- Cindy Drive property is the only other property that was under construction (discussed at our last meeting);
 - BG visited that landowner who knew about the watershed regulations;
 - there were no concerns there;
- less ATV activity lately;
- more rabbit activity has led to more coyote activity and more hunting activity;
 - a hunter had a blind set up right across from the treatment plant and well within the 400 m window for hunting distance for rifles but outside that for shotguns;
 - BG will repost those areas with signs and will alert the treatment plant;
- lots of hunting blinds are going up in preparation for deer hunting season;
- there are more walkers and hunters because of the Covid restrictions.

Action: PP will send BG the GPS coordinates of the blinds

b. Large Landowner (JJ)

- No report

c. Crown (Nature Reserve)

- No report

7. Education and Awareness:

a. Template of education and awareness information originally designed for the Collin's Park Watershed Area provided to the Committee:

Action: Create a Q and A one-pager for the area that is seasonally appropriate. PP to work with BG and AM regarding the information by sending a list when prompted.

8. Election of Officers:

PP

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 2021 <p>9. Next Meeting Date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• October 14, 2021 at 10 a.m. <p>10. Adjournment:</p> <p>Motion to adjourn the meeting: 11:15 am (TC)</p> <p><i>Respectfully submitted – AM</i></p>	<p>In progress AM/PP</p>
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