

Collin's Park Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



Collin's Park Watershed Advisory Committee

Date: October 22, 2024

Meeting Time:

Adjourned:

Location: Hybrid meeting – Gordon Snow Centre (In-person)/ Microsoft Teams (virtual).

6:30 pm

9:26 pm

Member name and position		Agency/Representation
Attendees	Lindsay Anderson (LA), Acting Water Quality Manager	Halifax Water
	Jillian Doyle (JD), Customer Representative	Collin's Park WSP Customer Representative
	Phil Francis (PF), Community Representative	Lake Fletcher
	Barry Geddes (BG), Watershed Manager (Virtual)	Halifax Water
	Michael Hart (MH), Development Officer	HRM
	Anna McCarron (AM), (<i>Vice Chair</i>), Source Water Planner	Halifax Water
	Colleen Menard (CM), Community Representative	Community member at large
	Tom Mills (TM), Representative	Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society (SWEPS)
	Dick Pickrill (DP), (<i>Chair</i>) Community Representative	Wellington
	René Savoie (RS), Community Representative	Fall River
	Jarvis Singer (JS), Acting Senior Manager Water and Wastewater Treatment	Halifax Water
	Wayne Stobo (WS), Community Representative	Waverley
Regrets	Mike Allen (MA), Watershed Planner (virtual)	NS Environment and Climate Change (ECC)
	Ken Burrows (KB), Representative	Development Sector
	Jean-Charles Finnigan (JC), Engineer	ECC
	Greg Cummings (GC), Watershed Planner (Virtual)	ECC
	Alana Murray (AIM), Former Water Quality Supervisor	Halifax Water

1. Attendance / Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair, Dick Pickrill

Notes	<p>Attendance/Introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See attendance above. Colleen Menard was introduced as a Community Representative – Member at large.
-------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum noted. • The Committee was reminded that the meeting was being recorded for minute-taking purposes. Recordings are destroyed once minutes have been approved.
--	---

2. Review and Approval:

a. October 22, 2024 Meeting Agenda

Discussion	Accepted as presented.
------------	------------------------

Decision	Accepted as presented.
----------	------------------------

b. March 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Discussion	Approved as presented.
------------	------------------------

Decision	Approved as presented
----------	-----------------------

Motion	TM moved to approve Minutes, seconded by WS.
--------	--

3. Education and Awareness:

a. Speaker Opportunities

Discussion	<p><i>i. <u>Erosion and Sedimentation Presentation</u></i> <i>(March 21, 2024)</i> Continuing search for a speaker. AM contacted Ashley Blissett from HRM to inquire about the status of the E&S presentation that HRM committed to provide – a primary concern for the Committee – especially considering recent events around development and the Aerotech Connector construction. AM was encouraged to follow up with HRM for updates on this matter. AM to provide GC and MA from ECC an HRM contact who is interested in having that discussion.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the feasibility of having presentations and opportunities for more meetings. The Committee decided to stay with 2 meetings per year to deal with watershed related business; and hold special meetings for presentations as they come up.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> AM to coordinate with HRM engineer Ashley Blissett and other speakers from HRM and ECC to present on erosion and sedimentation, as well as on phosphorus loading policy, in a separate meeting to be scheduled in November.</p> <p><i>ii. <u>HRM Phosphorus Loading:</u></i> <i>(March 21, 2024)</i> the Committee discussed the online presentation by HRM. The general consensus of the Committee was that the online presentation was more on HRM’s phosphorus loading policy rather than regulation, therefore the issue as it relates to phosphorus loading from on-site sewage disposal systems (OSSDS), including enhanced sewage treatment processes (STP), from a provincial regulation, is not being addressed. The Committee felt an in-person presentation would allow for person-to-person interaction and a better understanding of HRM’s policy/position. The Committee requests an in-person presentation by HRM with results-based information. Halifax Water to request an in-person presentation by HRM.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> AM to coordinate with HRM engineer Ashley Blissett and other speakers from HRM to do a presentation on phosphorus loading policy.</p> <p><i>iii. <u>Cyanobacteria:</u></i></p>
------------	--

(March 21, 2024) The committee discussed cyanobacteria monitoring efforts that included:

- The partnership between SWEPS and NSCC and the use of their labs for water testing and analysis.
- Research and Prediction: Drones could not be used due to restrictions from Nav Canada and the proximity to the airport. However, there was an effort to modify equipment used in drones for agricultural purposes to identify blue-green algae from above. Additionally, satellite imaging was being explored for its potential to reach areas above the plane's flight paths, offering a broader perspective for monitoring.
- Impact on Water Treatment: Mentioned the efficiency of membrane plants in treating water affected by cyanobacteria but noted the additional operational costs and challenges. AIM highlighted Halifax Water's efforts to improve in-house lab capabilities for better monitoring of cyanobacteria.
- Environmental Concerns: Discussed the potential for cyanobacteria to overwinter and be rehydrated, indicating its robust nature and the challenges in managing its presence in water bodies.

(October 22, 2024).

Halifax Water goes above and beyond the regulatory requirements for cyanobacteria monitoring. While only one sample per year is required, they conduct weekly grab samples for total microcystin from May to the end of October. The monitoring program includes visual inspections, fluorescence monitoring, and depth profiles for fluorescence and phycocyanin.

The total microcystin detections in August and September were well below the Health Canada maximum acceptable concentration (MAC). Halifax Water has a layered approach to monitoring, including advanced tools like DNA and qPCR. The source water quality specialist, who started in May, is working on understanding the trends between nutrients, algae, and cyanobacteria proliferation.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Draft and send a letter to ECC inquiring whether ECC is considering setting limits for phosphorus loading during the next OSDSS regulations review period.	All	ASAP
2. Draft and send a letter to HRM inquiring whether HRM is considering setting phosphorus limits in its new Regional Planning Strategy.	All	ASAP
3. HRM to present on how E&S is factored into the permit application process.	PN/AM	Pending
4. Send Doodle Poll to determine time, date and location of HRM E&S presentation to Committee	AM/PN/DP	Pending
5. Follow up with Halifax Water's Water Quality Manager to verify cyanobacteria program with respect to Collin's Park.	BG	Next meeting

6. Contact HRM to provide an in-person presentation to better understand HRM’s policy/ position on phosphorus loading.	AM	Next Meeting
7. Send a letter to ECC inquiring whether ECC is considering setting limits for phosphorus loading during the next OSDSS regulations review period.	CPWAC (AM/DP)	Next meeting
8. Send a letter to HRM inquiring whether HRM is considering setting phosphorus limits in its new Regional Planning Strategy.	CPWAC (AM/DP)	Next Meeting
9. Remove request for a copy of the ECC Enhanced STP Presentation (Oct. 10, 2023) from agenda.	AM/BG	Next Meeting
10. AM to coordinate presentation with HRM and ECC	AM	Next meeting
a. Education Strategy and Draft Materials:		
Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> The education strategy is currently on hold, except for efforts to recognize Source Water Protection Week in September. The Source Water Group is working on developing a proposal to present to the Communications team in June to prepare for this event.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> The educational strategy has evolved to include broader outreach through a Halifax Water Watershed newsletter, which will be a larger publication highlighting efforts across all watersheds. Recent educational efforts included presentations at local schools and community events, such as the source water protection week activities and the research symposium. The strategy also involves ongoing school outreach and community engagement to raise awareness about watershed protection.</p>	
Decision	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> Source Water Protection group to work with communications to implement a plan for Source Water Protection Week.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> AM to continue school outreach and community engagement efforts, including presentations and distribution of educational materials.</p>	
Action Items:		
	Person responsible	Deadline
1. Discuss education and awareness strategy.	DP/AM	Pending CC
2. Work with Halifax Water Communications Team to develop/implement a plan of events for Source Water Protection Week (September)	AM/BG	ASAP
3. AM to continue soliciting schools for presentations and ensure the integration of educational content into the Halifax Water newsletter.	AM	Next meeting
b. Newsletter re stormwater management (e.g., Sobey’s):		
Discussion	<p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> AM and BG discussed the transition to be a broader Halifax Water Watershed newsletter and recent educational outreach efforts, including presentations at local schools and community events.</p>	

Decision	<i>(October 22, 2024)</i> Ongoing priority for 2024 and 2025		
Action Items:	Person responsible	Deadline	
1. Halifax Water’s Watershed Team is to meet with the Corporate Communication (CC) Team to develop an education and awareness strategy as part of broader communications strategy led by Halifax Water CC.	BG/AM	Pending	
2. Future newsletter item – Fall River carwash. Hold for future article.	BG/AM	ASAP (pending CC Strategy)	
3. Newsletter Strategy – AM to develop and distribute the inaugural Halifax Water newsletter, targeting a release in the fall.	AM	Next meeting	
c. Signage:			
Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> Using Google Earth, AM identified where the 4-foot by 8-foot signs are proposed to be located. The Committee agreed to a 2-phase signage installation plan to increase awareness about water supply areas: <i>Phase 1</i> targets public and/or government grounds to ease the process for getting permission to install the signs. These areas include public beaches (Shubie Park) and boat launches (Waverly Natural Resources). <i>Phase 2</i> will focus on main access points along highways and other public routes once Phase 1 is complete.</p> <p>The Committee suggested including the wording “Shubenacadie” in the watershed signage to include the broader watershed area for clarity. Not many people know what or where the Collin’s Park water supply system is but are aware of the Shubenacadie River system. BG to discuss the wording with Communications.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i></p> <p>Approval and Installation: HRM has approved the installation of signs on HRM land from Waverly to Wellington. The first phase will target high-use recreational areas such as the Village Green and the Shubenacadie Canal kayak launch site.</p> <p>Budget Considerations: The initial quotes for signage exceeded the budget, so alternative options and competitive pricing are being explored.</p> <p>Future Expansion: Depending on the budget and initial success, the signage program may expand to additional locations.</p>		
Decision	<i>(October 22, 2024)</i> AM to oversee the installation of approved signs.		
Action Items:	Person responsible	Deadline	
1. Anna to oversee the installation of approved signs in strategic parks, targeting high-use recreational areas.	AM	Ongoing	

4. Old Business:

a. Aerotech Park Connector to Hwy 2:

i. Wetland compensation next steps:

Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> A merger between McCallum Environmental and Strum Engineering occurred since the last meeting. Strum is now the lead on the wetland vulnerability study related to the Aerotech Park Connector project. The study was expected to be completed by the end of January (2024), but as of the last update, it was still pending due to challenges with GIS work and obtaining accurate results. Strum's geomatics team is involved in addressing these challenges.</p> <p>Given the ongoing sedimentation events related to the Aerotech Connector Project, the Committee recommended directing a letter to the Minister of ECC to address concerns regarding wetland compensation and sedimentation measures. The Committee will request the following in a letter to the Minister:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconsider the allocation of wetland compensation funds toward restoring impacted wetlands in the catchment area. • Complete review of all construction activities and sedimentation measures in place to assess compliance with the minister's approval conditions. <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> TM and BG discussed the ongoing wetland study related to the Aerotech connector project, highlighting the importance of compensatory restoration within the affected catchments. TM mentioned that the compensation for disturbed wetlands was initially considered for salt marsh restoration in the Bay of Fundy. However, the committee advocated for compensation within the affected catchment area due to the significant loss of small wetlands.</p>						
Decision	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> Send letter to the Minister of ECC to address concerns regarding wetland compensation and sedimentation measures with regard to the construction of the Aerotech Connector – essentially the talking points presented at the CLC meeting, attended by WS on behalf of the CPWAC (see ii below).</p> <p>Continue to provide updates on the wetland compensation study.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> The response from the Minister indicated that further wetland studies are being conducted by Strum Environmental to assess the impact and potential compensation measures.</p>						
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="142 1274 938 1318">Action Items</th> <th data-bbox="945 1274 1227 1318">Person Responsible</th> <th data-bbox="1234 1274 1485 1318">Deadline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="142 1327 938 1371"><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> Remove from agenda</td> <td data-bbox="945 1327 1227 1371">BG</td> <td data-bbox="1234 1327 1485 1371">Next meeting</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	<i>(October 22, 2024)</i> Remove from agenda	BG	Next meeting
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline					
<i>(October 22, 2024)</i> Remove from agenda	BG	Next meeting					
<p style="text-align: center;">ii. Community Liaison Committee (CLC)</p>							
Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> BG reported that the February 13, 2024, CLC meeting was focused on the need for improved communication and coordination between the CLC, the Department of Public Works (PW), and the contractor responsible for the Aerotech Connector project. The CLC felt improved E&S measures were also needed to protect water quality. As a result, a preconstruction meeting is scheduled before the construction season begins, to address and mitigate potential E&S issues. The date for the meeting is TBD.</p> <p>Using the CPWAC's talking points for the meeting, the CPWAC CLC representative, WS, emphasized the CPWAC's frustration from the lack of satisfactory responses and action on identified risks and their impacts on the watershed area. The CPWAC supported a preconstruction meeting between the CLC, NSPW and the contractor to review sedimentation control measures and to ensure that environmental concerns are addressed.</p>						

	<p>The CLC committee is to schedule a general Committee meeting before the construction season intensifies, to review sedimentation control measures and to ensure that environmental concerns are addressed.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was discussed in relation to the Aerotech connector project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CLC met on July 17th, where they addressed concerns raised at the February meeting. • Dexter hired Strum to enhance mitigation measures on-site, which were implemented successfully. • The next CLC meeting is scheduled for mid-November. • The committee noted improvements in communication and mitigation efforts, with no significant issues reported since the measures were put in place. <p>Overall, the CLC appears to be functioning more effectively, with regular updates and actions being taken to address community concerns.</p>	
Decision	<p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> BG will attend CLC meetings as the Halifax Water representative. DP (or alternate, as WS did at the last CLC meeting) will attend the CLC meetings on behalf of the CPWAC.</p>	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Continue to attend CLC meetings on behalf of the CPWAC (DP) and Halifax Water (BG) and provide updates to the CPWAC.	BG/DP	Ongoing
iii. Sedimentation release events in late January (2023):		
Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> AIM updated the Committee on the water supply plants at Halifax Water, highlighting the challenges and operational adjustments made due to sedimentation issues linked back to the Aerotech Connector Project. AIM discussed the Water Supply Plant (WSP) membrane's efficiency in dealing with sedimentation, but the increased sedimentation has necessitated more frequent backwashing and other operational adjustments. This has led to increased operational costs and is expected to reduce the lifespan of the membranes, indicating a financial and operational impact on the WSP. Despite the plant's efficiency in treating the water, the sedimentation has posed challenges to maintaining water quality standards.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> Sedimentation release was discussed in the context of the Aerotech connector project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were significant spikes in sediment loading at monitoring locations and the plant intake, particularly in January, with turbidity levels reaching over 70 NTU, which is unusually high. • Mitigation measures were put in place, and subsequent monitoring showed that turbidity levels have returned to normal. • The committee discussed the importance of monitoring the impact on wetlands and ensuring that any sedimentation events are properly addressed. <p>Overall, the sedimentation issues have been managed with improved mitigation measures and ongoing monitoring.</p>	

Decision	<i>(October 22, 2024)</i> Barry to ensure ongoing monitoring and reporting of sedimentation levels and mitigation measures effectiveness.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
1. Barry to ensure ongoing monitoring and reporting of sedimentation levels and mitigation measures effectiveness.		BG
Deadline		
Ongoing		
b. Scotian Materials Goff's Quarry Community Liaison Committee (CLC):		
Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> The Scotian Materials Quarry Community Liaison Committee (SMCLC) annual Environmental Monitoring Report (Goffs Quarry 2023 Comprehensive Report (scotianmaterials.info)) was presented to the SMCLC by the quarry's consultant. AM, who sits on the SMCLC on behalf of SWEPS, reported that the Quarry Report showed an increase in nitrate levels observed in one of the monitoring wells north of the quarry, which exceeded the CCME guidelines for drinking water quality. This raised concerns among some of the other SMCLC members about the potential impact of quarry activities about whether the nearby highway construction was having an impact on groundwater quality in the area. The quarry and its consultant are investigating the cause of the elevated nitrate levels but have not yet determined the source.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> The Scotian Materials Goff's Quarry CLC has decided to meet once a year when the report is released. The last meeting was on March 20th, and the next one is scheduled for March 19th. The CLC has a website where all the minutes and details are available. Regular updates on blasting activities are provided, with recent reports on April 2nd, April 16th, June 27th, September 17th, and October 17th.</p> <p>The CLC is committed to transparency and regular communication with the community regarding the quarry's activities.</p>	
Decision	Information Item. Report as information is available. Barry to provide site for members to review site.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Report as information is available. Barry will provide link to website that members can check for updates.		BG
Deadline		
Next meeting		
c. HRM Shubenacadie River Watershed Floodplain Mapping Study		
Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> The study has yet to be released to the members. HRM Indicated that the study will be released shortly to the public. Continue to contact HRM for latest update. Sackville Rivers floodplain (Sackville Floodplains Halifax).</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> There continue to be delays in assigning staff to review the report. By mid-September HRM reported to BG that no staff member had read the report, and that they were aiming to present it in October.</p> <p>The study is intended to be integrated into GIS for better land use planning, like the Sackville River study.</p>	
Decision	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> Still waiting to be released publicly.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> follow up with HRM to obtain the latest information on the study's progress to ensure that it is reviewed in a timely manner.</p>	

Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Send FOIPOP request to HRM for Floodplain Study.		DP/AM	April 2023 (On hold)
2. Send link to CPWAC once HRM posts to website.		BG	Pending release
3. Follow up with HRM to get an update on the assignment of staff and the scheduling of the information session.		TM?	Next meeting
d. Build Nova Scotia (formerly NS Lands) Montague Mines Reclamation Project:			
Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> The Committee noted that it is a parking lot project pending further information from the province.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> is currently in a holding pattern, awaiting further information from the province.</p>		
Decision	<i>(October 22, 2024)</i> BG to provide an update when it's available.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Move to parking lot, keep on agenda		BG	Pending
e. Water Quality – SWEPS Report (cyanobacteria)			
Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> TM provided an update on SWEPS Cyanobacteria project earlier in the meeting. See section 3 a. iv.</p> <p>TM mentioned an article on the increasing arsenic and sediment in Lake Charles. A discussion ensued. TM to share the article for information purposes.</p> <p>Move to parking lot and update as necessary.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i></p> <p>Monitoring Program: Halifax Water has comprehensive cyanobacteria monitoring program that goes beyond regulatory requirements. This includes weekly grab samples for total microcystin from May to October, and advanced monitoring tools like DNA and qPCR.</p> <p>Findings: The program detected total microcystin in August and September, but levels have been well below Health Canada's maximum acceptable concentration (MAC).</p> <p>Research Collaboration: Halifax Water collaborates with Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Community College to study cyanobacteria, including benthic cyanobacteria, which has been found in Collins Park.</p> <p>Future Plans: The source water quality specialist, who started in May, is analyzing trends between nutrients and algae to understand cyanobacteria proliferation better. More detailed findings are expected in future meetings.</p>		
Decision	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> Move to parking lot and update as necessary. TM to share the article with the Committee members. Some Nova Scotia lakes still dealing with contamination from old gold mines (cbc.ca)</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> Water quality monitoring and research efforts aim to ensure safe water quality and address potential risks from cyanobacteria in the watershed. Standing item.</p>		

Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
1.	Inform Committee when SWEPS' database prototype is ready to be presented to those interested.	TM	Pending (Moved to parking lot)
2.	Share CBC article with Committee members	TM/AM	Immediately
f. Membership			
i. HRM Vacancy			
Discussion	HRM Vacancy has been filled by Michael Hart		
Decision	The HRM representative seat has been filled. Remove from agenda.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Remove from agenda		BG	Next meeting
ii. Customer Vacancy			
Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> Since the last meeting, the Committee's customer representative resigned their position. The Committee thanked Bev Lawson for serving on the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee was advised that despite the efforts, there had been no response to the call to fill the vacancy through Halifax Water's social media channels. The plan now is to ask for potential candidates via customer bill inserts to attempt to fill the position before the next meeting.</p> <p>Adding two new Member at Large positions was also discussed. This addition would allow for a broader membership that is not confined to specific communities or sectors and would open the process for accepting more members to the Committee. The Committee agreed and asked that the ToR be amended to include two (2) Members at Large, to be circulated and approved via email, and to solicit for these new members by the next meeting.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> Customer vacancy has been filled by Jillian Doyle. Remove from Agenda.</p>		
Decision	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i></p> <p>Solicit for a customer representative through Halifax Water Bill Inserts.</p> <p>Consider adding 2 "Member at large" positions to the ToR to include individuals from areas within the watershed but not from specific communities or sectors. Solicit for these positions to fill these positions by the next meeting.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> These vacancies have been filled. Remove from agenda</p>		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
1.	Call for potential Committee customer representatives through Halifax Water bill inserts.	BG/AM	Next Meeting
2.	Amend the ToR to allow for two new Members at Large. Fulfilled. Remove from Agenda.	BG/AM	
3.	Solicit two new Members at Large before the next meeting. Fulfilled. Remove from Agenda.	BG/AM	

4. Customer vacancy has been filled. Remove from agenda	BG	Next meeting
iii. Members at Large		
Discussion	<p>Members at large positions (2) have been filled by the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Colleen Menard 2. Angus Creech (expected to join the next meeting) 	
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Remove from agenda	BG	Next meeting
g. Broadening scope of CPWAC:		
i. East Hants Representative on CPWAC		
Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> The Committee discussed opportunities to include the Municipality of East Hants (EH) in future meetings/presentations. BG reported that East Hants is interested in attending future presentations where like-minded topics would be discussed.</p> <p>BG reported that East Hants would require a formal MOU with the Committee in order to attend CPWAC meetings and share information. The Committee indicated that it is interested in signing an MOU with East Hants. BG to ask East Hants to prepare an MOU for the Committee to review and sign.</p> <p>The Committee moved a second action item in regard to the East Hants MOU. If the Committee has not heard back from East Hants by the next meeting, the Committee will move forward and continue to invite East Hants to participate on topics/presentations of common interest.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> The board discussed broadening the scope of the Collins Park Watershed Advisory Committee (CPWAC) to include more members and perspectives.</p> <p>This includes inviting representatives from East Hants to share information and collaborate on watershed issues.</p> <p>An MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with East Hants is being considered to formalize this collaboration, although a response from East Hants is still pending.</p> <p>The board will continue to invite East Hants representatives to relevant meetings and events to foster collaboration.</p>	
Decision	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> Prepare an MOU for the Committee to review and sign with East Hants. If the Committee has not heard back from East Hants by the next meeting, the Committee will move forward and continue to invite East Hants to participate on topics/presentations of common interest.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> The board will continue to invite East Hants representatives to relevant meetings and events to foster collaboration.</p>	
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Contact (email) East Hants to draft an MOU – cc AM and DP. If the Committee does not hear back by the next meeting (October 2024), the Committee will move forward and continue to	BG	Next Meeting

invite East Hants to meetings or presentations of common interest.		
2. Barry to follow up with East Hants regarding the MOU and continue inviting their representatives to relevant meetings and events.	BG	Next Meeting

h. Phosphorus Loading Baseline:

Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> The Committee further discussed the setting of phosphorus loading limits as it relates to OSSDS regulations. Discussions indicated that ECC may be considering setting limits for phosphorus loading in the OSSDS regulations during the next review period, 2025-2026. MA indicated that he is not aware of this. MA indicated that ECC is working on a water quality objectives project that could be tied into phosphorus loading, but that is nowhere near completion.</p> <p>The Committee moved a motion to send two letters as they relate to phosphorus loading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft and send a letter to ECC inquiring whether ECC is considering setting limits for phosphorus loading during the next OSDSS regulations review period. 2. Draft and send a letter to HRM inquiring whether HRM is considering setting phosphorus limits in its new Regional Planning Strategy. <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i></p> <p>Effectiveness of Advanced Treatment Units (ATUs): There was a discussion about the effectiveness of ATUs, such as those made by Waterloo, in removing 99% of phosphorus from water after it goes through a septic tank. The need for annual inspections of these systems was also highlighted.</p> <p>Provincial Guidelines: Clarification was sought on the provincial guidelines for phosphorus loading and how they impact the municipal planning strategy. The need to understand the specific requirements and enforcement mechanisms was emphasized.</p> <p>Phosphorus Levels in Water: Questions were raised about the current phosphorus levels in the tributaries and lakes, which were reported to be relatively low (10 to 20 micrograms per liter). The implications of these levels for water treatment and public health were discussed.</p> <p>Phosphorus Loading Policy: The meeting discussed the municipal planning strategy's phosphorus loading policy, which requires developers to ensure that the net phosphorus loading from new developments does not increase. The need for a detailed explanation of this policy and its enforcement was highlighted.</p> <p>Impact of Development: Concerns were raised about the impact of new developments on phosphorus loading, particularly in areas outside the current service boundary. The need for monitoring and mitigation measures to manage phosphorus levels was discussed. These questions and concerns are expected to be addressed in the upcoming presentation by Thea Langille from HRM and Krysta Montreuil from ECC.</p>
Decision	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> The Committee moved a motion to send two letters as they relate to phosphorus loading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft and send a letter to ECC inquiring whether ECC is considering setting limits for phosphorus loading during the next OSDSS regulations review period. 2. Draft and send a letter to HRM inquiring whether HRM is considering setting phosphorus limits in its new Regional Planning Strategy.

	<i>(October 22, 2024)</i> Letter writing deferred / not discussed at last meeting.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
1. TM will advise the Committee on the letter's progress and any responses from the Minister.	TM	Ongoing
2. Members to review the presentation discussed by PN and report on whether it answers the members' questions/concerns about phosphorus loading with respect to HRM.	All	Next meeting
3. Draft and send a letter to ECC inquiring whether ECC is considering setting limits for phosphorus loading during the next OSDSS regulations review period.	All	ASAP
4. Draft and send a letter to HRM inquiring whether HRM is considering setting phosphorus limits in its new Regional Planning Strategy.	All	ASAP
5. Awaiting upcoming presentations from HRM and ECC	All members	Next meeting
i. Letter from Halman/Fuller		
Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> The discussion about the letter from Halman/Fuller was revisited during the meeting, with the committee expressing dissatisfaction with the response they received. They considered drafting another letter to address their concerns more forcefully, particularly regarding the wetland compensation and the need for more effective measures to mitigate the impact of development projects on local water bodies. This indicates ongoing efforts to engage with Halman/Fuller for better environmental protection measures.</p> <p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i></p> <p>Response to Concerns: The letter addressed the committee's concerns about the environmental impact and mitigation measures related to the Aerotech connector project. However, the committee felt that the response was not adequate and did not fully address all the itemized concerns.</p>	
Decision	The committee discussed the possibility of sending a follow-up letter to the minister to seek further clarification and a more comprehensive response to their concerns.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
CPWAC to write a letter to the Bedford ECC office requesting an inventory of the classified wastewater systems within the Collins Park Water supply area.	DP/AM/BG	Next Meeting
See previous section.	All	Next meeting
Remove from Agenda	BG	Next meeting
j. Meeting frequency		
Discussion	The meeting frequency was discussed, and it was decided to maintain the current schedule of two regular meetings per year, with additional special meetings as needed for specific presentations or urgent matters.	

Decision	Maintain the current schedule of two regular meetings per year		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Remove from agenda		BG	Next Meeting
5. New Business			
a. Minutes Formatting			
Discussion	<p>AI Assistance: The use of AI to help format the meeting minutes was highlighted. The committee should clearly state any action items or decisions to help streamline the process.</p> <p>Action Items and Summaries: It was suggested that summarizing discussions and clearly identifying action items at the end of each agenda item would improve the clarity and efficiency of the minutes.</p> <p>Consistency in Minutes: There was a discussion about whether to include previous meeting minutes in the current minutes for continuity. It was decided that keeping previous minutes included would be helpful for context and continuity.</p>		
Decision	All members agreed to the formatting of minutes		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Remove from agenda		BG	Next meeting
b. Overflow incidents at Lockview wastewater plant			
Discussion	<p>Jarvis provided an update on the overflow incidents at the wastewater treatment facility:</p> <p>Bypasses in 2023: There were four reported bypasses in 2023. These bypasses involved deviations around the sand filter and UV disinfection, treating the excess flow with chlorine and dechlorinating it before discharge.</p> <p>July 2023 Incident: During a significant rain event in July 2023, the facility experienced difficulties managing the flow, resulting in 15 cubic meters of partially treated but non-disinfected effluent being released.</p> <p>Facility Capacity: The facility treats an average daily flow of 1,500 cubic meters, with a peak flow capacity of 2,050 cubic meters per day.</p> <p>These updates highlight the facility's efforts to manage overflow events and ensure compliance with environmental regulations.</p>		
Decision:	The discussion focused on reporting the incidents and the measures taken to manage them.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Remove from agenda		BG	Next meeting
6. HRM Planning and Development Update			
a. HRM Regional Plan Review – Phases 4&5			
Discussion	<p><i>(March 21, 2024)</i> HRM representative not available.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the Regional Plan review, which is considering new development areas within the Collins Park watershed. Specifically, areas within the high-</p>		

risk intake protection zone. This development initiative is part of HRM's efforts to fill in development "donuts". The meeting also mentioned the potential impact of these developments on water quality and the importance of having emergency exits during events such as in forest fires, reflecting on the forest fire experienced last spring in the Hammonds Plains area.

(October 22, 2024)

Phase Four Regional Plan Review:

The review is currently in phases four and five, with feedback being collected until the end of the month. The process has been delayed due to new provincial regulations announced in August 2024, which require HRM to incorporate these changes into their plan by December 31, 2024.

Significant Development Requests:

Canal Keys: There is a request to amend the plan to allow development in this area, which is within the intake protection zone for Collins Park.

Lands at Highway 102 and Aerotech Connector: Clayton Developments and Marchand are involved in significant development plans in this area, which could impact the Collins Park watershed.

Lock 3 Replacement:

The lock is being replaced to the same specifications as the original, ensuring no change in water levels. The project is progressing well.

Overflow Incidents:

Four bypass incidents were reported in 2023, with measures taken to manage the overflow and ensure continued disinfection.

Floodplain Mapping Study:

HRM is expected to provide updates in due course. The study is crucial for understanding the impact of potential flooding on infrastructure, including the wastewater treatment plant.

Development Applications:

Over 90 applications have been processed this year for the Collins Park and Middle Musquodoboit watersheds. No major new developments have been reported recently.

Current Development Requests:

Two significant development requests were discussed: Canal Keys and lands at Highway 102 and the Aerotech connector. These areas are within the intake protection zone and could impact the watershed.

The Canal Keys area is particularly concerning due to its proximity to the intake protection zone.

Provincial Regulations Impact:

New provincial regulations announced in August 2024 have delayed the phase four regional plan review. These regulations require HRM to incorporate new guidelines by December 31, 2024, and January 31, 2025, for the secondary municipal planning strategy.

The regulations emphasize permitting residential uses in all zones except those intended to protect the environment, water supply, floodplains, or similar interests. The exact definition of "water supply" in this context needs clarification.

Decision	BG to provide a link to all members and MH to determine the best way for the Committee to provide feedback on the Regional Plan Review.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
BG to provide the link to the Phase 4 report for review by the Committee members. This report includes important information about the current situation of development and the impact of new provincial regulations.		BG	Next meeting
Clarify the definition of "water supply" in the new provincial regulations to understand its implications for the watershed and development requests.		MH	Next meeting
b. HRM Planning Applications in CP Risk Areas			
Discussion	<p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i> There have been over 90 planning applications for the watershed this year, double the number from last year. These include both Collin's Park and Middle Musquodoboit areas.</p> <p>No major new developments have been reported recently, with most applications being routine.</p>		
Decision	MH to provide updates on planning applications		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
MH to provide updates on the status and details of planning applications, particularly those affecting the Collin's Park watershed area.		MH	Next meeting
7. Parking Lot			
a. Water Quality – SWEP Report (cyanobacteria)			
Discussion	<p><i>(October 22, 2024)</i></p> <p>Cyanobacteria Update from TM:</p> <p>Monitoring Period: Most cyanobacteria incidents occur between early May and the second week of July. After mid-July, there are fewer new occurrences, with existing ones persisting.</p> <p>Equipment Calibration: New testing equipment from the UK is being used, but there have been challenges with calibration.</p>		
Decision	Update as necessary		
Action items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Standing item		TM	Next meeting
8. Election of Officers – Spring 2026			
Discussion	WS moved that all positions of the executive remain as is.		
Decision	All in favor.		
9. Community/Customer/ Tech Updates			

No comments.

10. Next Meeting: March 25, 2025 at 6:30-8:30pm – Gordon Snow Centre (hybrid format)

Adjourned at 9:13pm.

10. Adjourned at 9:13pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Ashley Ward, Administrative Assistant, Halifax Water, Environment, Health and Safety, Barry Geddes, Secretary, Anna McCarron, Vice Chair Collin's Park Watershed Advisory Committee.