

# Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee

## DRAFT Meeting Minutes



### Middle Musquodoboit Watershed Advisory Committee

Date: Thursday, November 7, 2024

Location: Virtually via Microsoft Teams and In-person at Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre

Meeting Time:  
6:30 pm

Adjourned:  
7:25 pm

Kerry-Anne Taylor, Chair

Member name and position		Agency/Representation
Attendees	Lindsay Anderson (LA), Water Quality Manager (virtually)	Halifax Water
	Andrew Faulkner (AF), Principal Planner/Development Officer (virtually)	Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Representative
	Barry Geddes (BG), Watershed Manager ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )	NS Environment and Climate Change (NSECC)
	Jerrold Graham (JG), Northern Pulp Forest Operations Supervisor	Forest Sector Representative
	Anna McCarron (AM), Source Water Planner ( <i>Secretary</i> )	Halifax Water
	Matthew McFetridge (MM), District Forest Technician	NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNRR)
	Hugh Parker (HP), Community Group Representative	Musquodoboit River Watershed Society (MRWS)
	Kerry-Anne Taylor (KT) ( <i>Chair</i> )	Customer Representative
Regrets	Greg Cummings (GC), Watershed Planner	NSECC
	Jarvis Singer, Senior Manager, Water and Wastewater Facilities	Halifax Water
	Alan Streach (AS), Musquodoboit Valley Quality Sod	Middle Musquodoboit Private Landowner Representative
	Mark Sutherland (MS), Dairy Farmer	Agriculture Sector Representative
Guest	Derrick Sample (DS), Watershed Resource Technician	Halifax Water

1. Attendance / Introductions			
Meeting called to order by Chair, KT.			
Notes	Attendance/Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See attendance above.</li><li>• Welcomed Lindsay Anderson, Water Quality Manager for Halifax Water. Alana Murray moved to a different position within Halifax Water.</li><li>• Quorum noted.</li><li>• The Committee was reminded that the meeting is recorded for note-taking purposes. Once Minutes/Notes are approved, recordings are destroyed.</li></ul>		
2. Review and Approval			
a. November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024, Meeting Agenda			
Discussion	Motion to approve as tabled by MM; seconded by JG.		
Approved as tabled.			
b. March 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2024, Meeting Minutes			
Discussion	Motion to approve as tabled by AF; seconded by JG.		
Approved as tabled.			
3. Old Business			
a. Education and Awareness/Community Outreach Strategies			
i. Signage update – Elmsvale Bridge			
Discussion	AM indicated that she visited all of the roadside watershed signs to check on their condition and to GPS them. All are in great shape except for the one at Elmsvale Bridge on Mooseland/Moose River Road, which is scheduled to be replaced. BG advised that the sign is ordered and will be installed as soon as it is available.  The phone number on the MMWSP sign needs to be updated.		
Decision	Install replacement Elmsvale Bridge sign and update MMWSP phone number.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Replace Sign at Elmsvale Bridge		BG	ASAP
2. Update phone number on MMWSP sign.		BG	ASAP
ii. <a href="#">Federation of Agriculture</a>			
Discussion	BG reported that the next Federation of Agriculture (FA) AGM is November 26 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> . Presenting at the AGM is an opportunity to highlight our partnership opportunities (e.g., White Paper topic). However, presenting at the 2024 AGM is a missed opportunity. Perhaps in 2025.  BG indicated that he spoke with MS prior to the meeting; MS still supports an opportunity to present at the next AGM. BG indicated that he would reach out again to determine whether there are opportunities for water resource education and awareness.		
Decision:	Ongoing		

Action Item		Person Responsible	Deadline
Contact the Federation of Agriculture to discuss water resource education and awareness opportunities.		BG	Next Meeting
<i>iii. Newsletter/Outreach:</i>			
Discussion	<p><i>1. Newsletter:</i></p> <p>BG provided an update on the new Source Water Protection newsletter. Halifax Water is replacing the specific watershed newsletters i.e., Lake Major's and Middle Musquodoboit's with an all-encompassing Source Water Protection newsletter. The newsletter will be distributed through Halifax Water's social media platform and in hardcopy format at select community focal points – TBD. Given the diverse water supply areas, Halifax Water felt this was the most effective way to increase knowledge and share information about Halifax Water's source water protection program.</p>		
Decision	<p>The newsletter is scheduled to be published this winter (2024-2025). Keep as an agenda item</p>		
Discussion	<p><i>2. Source Water Protection Week</i></p> <p>AM updated the Committee on SWP Week activities: Mayor Mike Savage kicked off the week with a proclamation. Other events included the following: a booth at the Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society public open house; 6 presentations between 3 schools; a research symposium, highlighting Halifax Water's research partnerships; internal lunch and learns for Halifax Water staff; and sponsoring and hosting a booth at the <a href="#">Nova Scotia Lumberjack Championships</a> held at the Middle Musquodoboit Exhibition Grounds. Source Water Protection week was considered a success. Halifax Water is planning on taking part in the campaign in 2025.</p>		
Decision	<p>Information only. Remove from agenda.</p>		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
1. BG to follow up with Atlantic Canada Lumberjack Association regarding Halifax Water's participation in their competition event in Middle Musquodoboit during Source Water Protection Week. BG awaiting approval from Corporate Communications (CC) before proceeding.		BG	Complete
2. BG to follow-up with corporate communications regarding the Newsletter which is currently on hold.		BG	Next meeting (complete as per section 1 above)
<b>b. Source Water Protection Plan</b>			
Discussion	<p>AM advised that the Source Water Protection Plan risk chapter is being worked on. The Committee discussed Halifax Water's strategy for mapping and prioritizing the risk areas. Typically, Halifax Water bases source water protection risk on the National Security principle; i.e., Halifax Water's water supply plant must be prepared for a 72-hour disruption. However, water flow monitoring within the Middle Musquodoboit watershed suggests that it takes less than 72 hours for water from the top of the watershed to reach</p>		

	<p>the intake. Basing our risk levels on this security principle would mean that the whole watershed is at high risk of being impacted and disguises where Halifax Water really needs to concentrate its resources to mitigate potential risks to the water supply. Instead, risk levels should be based on land use activities for the most part. Halifax Water's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) team is aiding us in prioritizing and mapping the risks to the water supply.</p> <p>Preliminary work indicates that the Middle Musquodoboit watershed risk mapping should be based on the impact of high-risk activities (farming/forestry/development) within each subwatershed. This approach will prioritize which subwatersheds are at highest risk and guide where resources need to be applied.</p>		
Decision	Continue working on MM SWP plan		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Keep on agenda.		AM	Next meeting
c. White Paper (Nitrate)			
Discussion	The landowner is reviewing the Paper.		
Decision	Pending review.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Update as necessary		BG/MS	Next meeting

#### 4. New Business:

##### a. No new business

Discussion			
Decision	No new business		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Standing Item		AM	

#### 5. Member Q & A:

Discussion	KT inquired when the pavement from the water main break was going to be repaired. BG recommended contacting Halifax Water customer care to inquire (902) 420-9287.		
Decision	No action items.		
Discussion	HP raised a concern related to fish passage at Dedication Lake (located within the MM watershed). The dam is owned by the Department of Agriculture, HP recommended contacting the Department of Agriculture as they own the dam.		
Decision	BG to provide contact information for Inland Fisheries to HP.		
	BG indicated that no Halifax Water funds are available at this time for wetland or watercourse restoration work. BG to let the Committee know if any becomes available.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline

Provide contact to HP for Inland Fisheries regarding Dedication Lake Dam	BG	Next meeting
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## 6. Municipal Updates:

Discussion	AF advised that there were no municipal updates.	
Decision	Information only	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Standing Agenda Item	AM	Next meeting

## 7. Election of Officers –Fall 2024

Discussion	AM indicated that the election of officers was up in the spring of 2024. Need to keep it on the list. Those with 2 years plus service will need to be reappointed by their association. Those who do not represent an association or group, Halifax Water will need to send out communications seeking names for membership.	
Decision	Halifax Water to send out communications seeking membership to the MMWAC by next meeting.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Halifax Water to send out communications seeking membership for the next 2-year term of the MMWAC.	Halifax Water	Next meeting

## 8. Next Meeting: Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 6:30 at Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

## 9. Adjournment of meeting at 7:25 pm.

*Minutes Recorded and respectfully submitted by:*

*Barry Geddes, Watershed Manager, Halifax Water and Vice Chair of the MMWA Committee/Anna McCarron, Source Water Planner and Secretary of MMWAC.*