

**BENNERY LAKE WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

April 12, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.
2 Park Ave., Lower Sackville Halifax Water Office Boardroom

Attendance:

Trevor Creasor (TC) (*Vice-Chair*), Subdivision Approvals Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)
Barry Geddes (BG) (*Chair*), Watershed Manager Halifax Water
Anna McCarron (AM) (*Secretary*), Source Water Planner Halifax Water
Heather Olivella (HO), Protected Areas Coordinator Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)
Paul Parusel (PP), Brookhill Estates Community Representative

Regrets:

Reid Campbell (RC), Director of Water Services Halifax Water
Jan Jachimowicz (JJ) Landowner Representative
Dawn MacNeill (DM), Watershed Planner Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)
Garry Oxner (GO), Superintendent of Supply Plants Halifax Water

Absent:

Bernie Matlock (BM), P. Eng Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)

Attendance / Introductions:

- AM distributed:
 - i.* Meeting Agenda;
 - ii.* Draft October 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes; and
 - iii.* Annual 2017 Source Water Protection Report (Bennery excerpt);

Meeting called to Order by Chair (BG) who left meeting for 10 minutes – TC Acting Chair.

- Regrets expressed (listed above);
- Quorum noted.



**STRAIGHT from
the SOURCE**

	<u>Action</u>
<p>1. Old Business:</p> <p>a. October 19, 2017 meeting Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Review of Action Items (<u>underlined</u>) correspond with Agenda Items. ii. Approval of Minutes 	
<p><u>TC Moved to Approve Minutes; HO seconded. All in favour.</u></p>	
<p>b. NSE Representation on the Committee;</p> <p><u>BG to contact BM to determine his role as an NSE representative on the Committee.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG sent an email to BM asking about maintaining his role on the Committee, with no response; • However, two NSE members (DM and HO) fulfill the ToR requirement that there be two NSE representatives on the Committee. 	Complete
<p>c. Appointment of Special Constable Status (SCS):</p>	
<p><u>BG to follow up with NSE regarding status of the MOU.</u></p>	Complete
<p>d. Private land logging in PWA update (BG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of the logging activity in the watershed area, conducted in violation of the <i>Bennery Lake Watershed Protected Water Area (PWA) Regulations</i> was indicated on the projected map; • BG and legal counsels (for Halifax Water and HRM) determined that six counts of provincial regulations had been violated by the landowner and two contractors; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BG and legal counsels are meeting again with perpetrators and their counsel in May; • Court case date is set for June 6; • Charges have yet to be determined; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BG made recommendations for charges; ○ Land use activity process is the issue; ○ Using the long-form process; recommended charges are based on Summary Offense Ticket (SOTs). • Maximum fines under the <i>Bennery Lake Watershed Protected Water Area Act</i> is \$500,000; and under the <i>Halifax Water Commission Act</i> is \$25,000; • This case is setting a precedence for land use activity on private land in the PWA; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to send the message that land use regulation/by-law processes inside the PWA must be followed. 	
<p>2. New Business</p>	
<p>a. Source Water Protection Annual Report</p>	

<p><i>BG reviewed the highlights of the SWPR:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halifax Water landownership went from 10% to 47%; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crown land ownership went from 44% to 70%. • New regulatory signs need to be erected. <p>Action: BG to inform AM about where new signs should be located in the watershed area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake recovery – changing for the better; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ pH is increasing along with carbon loading, which is causing problems with water treatment plants; ○ investigating solutions to the change in water quality with respect to treatment plant operations. <p>3. Municipal Planning Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TC consulted with HRM staff and determined there was nothing to report. • There are land development plans in Oakfield Estates which is on the periphery, but no development is planned inside the <i>PWA</i>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A landowner interested in doing a land swap contacted BG. <p>4. Landowner Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is more off-highway vehicle (OHV) traffic inside the <i>PWA</i> this winter compared with other years; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The traffic seems to be coming from Enfield and travelling along old logging roads on the western side of the lake; ○ During PP’s hikes, he sees OHV tracks about 50 ft. beside the water’s edge, along western side of watershed area and can hear them at night. ○ Since a gate was erected, there has been less traffic along the power line. <p><i>Q: Is there any signage along the trail? (HO)</i> A: Don’t notice any signs anymore, people are taking them down. (PP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HO projected the <i>Protected Area (PA)</i> on the projector and PP explained that the OHV activity is outside the PA but inside the <i>PWA</i> along the western side of the lake. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are new landowners on Cindy Drive. <p>Action: PP will distribute Source Water Protection brochures to new residents inside the watershed area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the earliest that the ice has broken up on Sullivan’s Lake in about 12 years – March 3rd – a month earlier than usual. • SWEPS (Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society) Trails is proposing a trail in the vicinity of the Bennery Lake Watershed <i>PWA</i>, according to a map PP recently received. 	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p>BG/AM</p> <p>PP</p>
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Action: AM to find out what SWEPS Trails is planning around Bennery Lake after receiving the map from PP.

**Action
PP/AM**

5. Education and Awareness

- Follow-up on PP’s progress educating neighbours;
 - When PP moved there, had sense people didn’t understand the implications of living in a PWA;

Q: Are there education opportunities to inform people who may have questions or don’t know about the PWA boundary and associated regulations that Halifax Water could present to e.g. a ratepayers association? (AM)

A: Yes there is a ratepayer’s association. (PP)

Action: PP will determine ratepayer’s association contact and send to AM.

PP/AM

- There is signage in the PWA, and it is indicated in the deed and in landowner’s covenant. (BG)
 - Also, Halifax Water can provide a BBQ during a roadside cleanup event, for example. (BG)
- There is a community clean-up planned for May. (PP)

Action: Find out when community clean-up is and request BBQ through Halifax Water if desired.

PP

6. Next Meeting Date: October 18, 2018 at 2:00 pm.

Q: Does the Committee wish to see any presentations? (BG)

A: Yes. HO would be happy to conduct a presentation on PAs for the Committee.

Action: HO to conduct a presentation on PAs.

HO

7. Adjournment: 3:30pm

*Barry Geddes: Chair
Trevor Creaser: Vice Chair
Anna McCarron: Secretary*