

**BENNERY LAKE WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

October 18, 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)
Jan Jachimowicz (JJ).....Landowner Representative
Dawn MacNeill (DM), Watershed PlannerNova Scotia Environment (NSE)
Anna McCarron (AM) (*Secretary*), Source Water PlannerHalifax Water
Heather O’Keefe (HO), Protected Areas Coordinator.....Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)
Garry Oxner (GO), Superintendent of Supply PlantsHalifax Water
Paul Parusel (PP), Brookhill Estates.....Community Representative

Regrets:

Reid Campbell (RC), Director of Water ServicesHalifax Water
Barry Geddes (BG) (*Chair*), Watershed Manager.....Halifax Water
Bernie Matlock (BM), P. Eng.Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)

Absent:

1. Attendance / Introductions:

- AM distributed:
 - i. Meeting Agenda;
 - ii. Draft April 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes; and

Meeting Called to Order by Acting Chair (TC).

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

2. Old Business:

a. April 12, 2018 meeting Minutes:

- i. Review of Action Items (underlined) correspond with Agenda Items.
- ii. Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes (JJ); seconded by HO. All in favour.



<p>b. Private land logging in PWA update (BG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on the August 25, 2017 logging operations, conducted in violation of the <i>Bennery Lake Watershed Protected Water Area (PWA) Regulations</i>.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ six charges were laid under the <i>PWA Regulations</i>;○ a court date of June 6, 2018 was set; and○ the landowner who directed the illegal logging and his lawyer met with the Crown lawyer and Halifax Water to discuss possible solutions that would best benefit Halifax Water customers. <p><i>Q: What court did they go to? (JJ)</i> A: Provincial Court. (AM)</p> <p><i>Q: If the landowner had followed protocol, could they have been able to do what they wanted to do? (JJ)</i> A: Probably; however, it’s best for BG to answer any questions at the next meeting. (AM)</p> <p><i>Q: Whose land were they cutting on? (GO)</i> A: Their own land. (AM)</p> <p>Action: BG to update the Committee on this topic at the next meeting.</p> <p>c. Signage:</p> <p><u>BG to inform AM about where new signs should be located in the watershed area.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AM explained where the locations of the three (3) new 4ft by 4ft regulatory signs (displayed in the meeting room) will be installed.• AM informed the Committee about the new Customer Call Centre number (902-420-9287) displayed on the sign. <p><i>Q: Is “no hunting” expressed on the signs? (GO)</i> A: No. Hunting is permitted within the <i>PWA</i> as long as provincial hunting regulations are adhered to, except in the <i>Bennery Lake Nature Reserve</i> where hunting is not permitted. (AM/JJ/DM/HO/PP)</p> <p><i>Q: What happens to the old signage with the old contact number and when someone contacts the old number? (DM)</i> A: Halifax Water covers over the old number with stickers that have the new contact number. If the old number is called, they will be automatically connected to the new number. The grace period for the old number is approximately 2 years. (AM)</p> <p><i>Q: When will the signs be installed?</i> A: Signs are ready, it’s a matter of when the installation contractor can install them.</p> <p>3. New Business</p> <p>a. Presentation on Protected Areas - HO:</p> <p><i>HO distributed a handout of the PowerPoint presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nova Scotia Environment Protected Areas and Ecosystems Branch:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ leads the planning and management of Wilderness Areas and Nature Reserves;	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Action</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">BG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Complete</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ manages over 500,000 ha of land designated as Wilderness Areas or Nature Reserves as well as Canadian Heritage Rivers, which include Shelburne River, and the Margaree and Lake Ainslie River systems;○ provides technical expertise on the Wetland Conservation Policy – Jeremy Higgins manages this for the province;○ has thirteen (13) full-time staff;○ HO covers the Central, Sally Steele covers the Western and Dave McKinnon covers the Eastern regions; there are also ecology, GIS and forestry experts;○ International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defines the key principles to define an area as a Protected Area (PA); i.e.,:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ primarily to conserve biodiversity;▪ a well-defined space – has to have a boundary;▪ space has to be legally binding to be considered a protected area;▪ IUCN has different categories such as a Nature Reserve, those below that are wilderness areas, national parks and lands protected by land trusts;▪ PAs branch looks after wilderness areas and nature reserves;○ 12.63% of the province is legally protected under the different categories.	<p><u>Action</u></p>
<p>Q: What do game sanctuaries fall under? (TC) A: Not sure whether game sanctuary titles still exist? (HO).</p>	
<p>Action: HO to investigate significance of game sanctuary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Why are Protected Areas important?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ supports biodiversity;○ delivers important ecosystem services such as clean air, soil and water;○ act as benchmarks for science and research;○ support healthy recreation;○ contribute to local economies; and○ protect wild areas for future generations to experience.● Two types of Protected Areas:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Nature Reserves (NR):<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ are typically smaller areas;▪ are used to protect areas of significance and/or rare or endangered species;▪ number approximately 80 in NS;▪ are protected under the Special Places and Protection Act;▪ do not allow hunting, motorized vehicles, camping or trail development activities – must be very low impact;○ Wilderness Areas (WA):<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ are typically larger areas;▪ number approximately 70 in NS;	<p>HO</p>

- allow recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping, and in some cases OHV trails through associations; and
- trails, including some OHV trails may be developed through provincial guidance by established organizations.

Q: Are people allowed in a NR? (JJ)

A: Yes, but no disturbance is permitted in the area. (HO)

- The first PAs were designated in the 1990s. The biggest additions have been in the past few years;
- PAs are designated in consideration of representation of the six (6) R’s:
 - Representative
 - Rich
 - Rare
 - Restoration
 - Regeneration (long-term focus)
 - Reconnection (contains regional connectivity, e.g., NB and NS for moose);
- work in partnership with Lands and Forestry who provide field services, e.g., trail inspection and camp site lease administration;
- work closely with local volunteer community groups, the backbone of PAs, who can get things done and manage things that government would not otherwise be able to manage or in a longer time;
- Challenges:
 - increased anthropogenic use that impacts environment in PAs, particularly by those who may not be prepared for wilderness conditions;
 - insufficient infrastructure to support parking, etc.;
 - social media promotion, causing problems especially in PAs that are close to the city; and
 - geocaching – a concern for both Halifax Water and NSE due to trail construction and increased activity.

Q: What was the ecological significant of the Bennery Lake Nature Reserve? (DM)

A: Not quite sure. (HO)

Action: HO to determine ecological significance of the Bennery Lake Nature Reserve and why it was chosen as a Nature Reserve.

HO

b. Access Road Update:

- Request for proposals went out for the Access Road Improvement Design Study; CBCL was awarded the contract, to design and evaluate different access routes to the Bennery Lake water supply plant;
- new, safe access is needed from Highway 102 to the Bennery Lake Water Treatment Plant to address and rectify “near miss” past occurrences; and
- the design study is scheduled to be completed by February 2019 and may be ready for review in time for the March 2019 meeting.

4. Municipal Planning Update

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oakfield Estates Subdivision Case 21707 – northwestern end of Bennery Lake – have some properties in the watershed area; • comments from the BLWMC have been received, thank you; • application is still under review with HRM Planning and Development; • the developer is not in a hurry to develop; • road access will be off the Old Truro Road (Old K (unmaintained) Road), off Hwy 2, west of Bennery Lake; • only a portion of the proposed application falls within the Bennery Lake PWA; and no new road construction is proposed within the PWA. 	<u>Action</u>
<p>5. Landowner Q&A</p>	
<p>a. Brochure Distribution</p>	
<p><u>PP will distribute Source Water Protection brochures to new residents in the watershed area.</u></p>	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PP has extras on hand for new homeowners as they move into the area; 	
<p>Action: Check whether the brochures have the old customer service number.</p>	AM
<p>b. SWEPS Trails trail location</p>	
<p><u>AM to determine what SWEPS Trails has planned around Bennery Lake after receiving the map from PP.</u></p>	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail not in watershed. No concern at this time. 	
<p>c. Ratepayer’s Association Contact</p>	
<p><u>PP will determine ratepayer’s association contact and send to AM.</u></p>	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PP has the contact of the association and will forward to AM 	
<p>d. Community Clean-up</p>	
<p><i>Q: Was there a community clean up? (AM)</i></p>	
<p><i>A: There was but not sure who did it. (PP)</i></p>	
<p><u>Find out when community clean-up is and request BBQ through Halifax Water if desired.</u></p>	Complete
<p>6. Education and Awareness - AM</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report other than signage, already discussed; 	
<p>Action: AM will contact PP about opportunities to raise watershed protection awareness in Brookhill Estates;</p>	AM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a lot of ATV traffic – very quiet summer. 	
<p>7. Next Meeting Date:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 28, 2019 at 2:00 pm. 	
<p>8. Adjournment:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 pm 	
<p><i>Respectfully submitted – AM</i></p>	