

**MIDDLE MUSQUODOBOIT WATERSHED
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2018 – 6:30 pm

Nova Scotia Natural Resource Education Centre, Middle Musquodoboit

Attendance:

Dawn MacNeill (DM), Watershed Planner.....Nova Scotia Environment
 Anna McCarron (AM), Source Water Planner (*Secretary*).....Halifax Water
 Matthew McFetridge (MM), District Forest Technician.....NS Dept. Natural Resources
 Hugh Parker (HP), Representative.....Musquodoboit River Watershed Society (MMWS)
 Mark Sutherland (MS), Representative.....Agriculture Sector
 Dave Taylor (DT), Representative.....Forestry/Woodlot Owner
 Kerry-Anne Taylor (KT), Representative.....Community Landowner

Regrets:

Andrew Faulkner (AF), Principle Planner & Dev. Officer.....Halifax Regional Municipality
 Barry Geddes (BG), Watershed Manager (*Chair*).....Halifax Water

Vacant:

Vacant RepresentativeMiddle Musquodoboit Community/Customer

1. Attendance / Introductions:

- AM distributed:
 1. November 7, 2018 Meeting Agenda; and
 2. March 28, 2018 Meeting Notes.

Middle Musq. Watershed Advisory Committee meeting Called to Order by Acting Chair (AM)

- Introductions were made for the benefit of new members;
- Regrets conveyed (see above); and
- Quorum determined

2. March 28, 2018 Meeting Notes

a. Review of Meeting Notes (lack of quorum)

Action Item status updates are underlined; outstanding items incorporated into Agenda.

b. Approval of Notes:

- Approval not required since there was no quorum at that meeting; however,
 - no errors or omissions were observed.



	<u>Action</u>
<p>3. Old Business:</p> <p>a. Emergency Preparedness:</p> <p><i>i. Present to Annual Firefighters Meeting (MM/DM/BG)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firefighter meeting will <i>not</i> occur in 2018: • Purpose for desire to attend meeting is to connect with volunteer fire fighting services in the Middle Musquodoboit watershed area regarding water supply protection and to exchange contact info between DNR, HRM and Halifax Water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Still wish to present to HRM volunteer fire departments; <p><i>Q: Is there a way to contact Municipal Fire Services? (AM)</i></p> <p>A: Regional Chiefs oversee volunteers and are the best avenue for arranging a presentation at next Fire Fighters meeting. MM has contact source.</p> <p>Action: Arrange time for Halifax Water to present to HRM firefighters.</p> <p>Action Halifax Water to present to HRM Mid. Musq. Firefighters</p> <p><u>Confirm Halifax Water emergency number provided to NSE and DFL.</u></p>	<p>MM/ BG/AM <u>Complete</u></p>
<p>b. Education and Awareness:</p> <p><i>i. Signage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM described the locations (and size) of three signs installed in summer: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Musquodoboit Valley Provincial Park (4’x4’); 2. Pleasantville area (4’x8’); and 3. Middle Musquodoboit Education Centre (4’x8’). • Two (2) more 4’x8’ signs are to be installed; one in the Upper Musquodoboit (bottom of Stuart Hill) and another in Lindsay Lake. <p><u>MM will provide AM with sign development updates.</u></p>	<p><u>Complete</u></p>
<p><i>ii. Newsletter/Outreach Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halifax Water is considering how to get the word out to the community about the watershed area and Committee participation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to the loss of the local newsletter, avenues to get the word out are restricted; and ○ The Councillor does not have a newsletter to utilize; <p><i>Q: Who is the target audience?</i></p> <p>A: Discussion: How many people really know the Committee exists?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of outreach is twofold: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create awareness of the watershed; and 2. attract a customer member for the Committee • Could have had PR from the event with the school children at the Natural Resources Education Centre in the fall. Not clear then who put on event. 	

	<u>Action</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also need to consider how much we push the “Halifax” connection within the community. • All agree we need to increase the Committee’s profile and its role. • Discussion of other education possibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open house; ○ Billing mail out; and/or ○ Halifax Water newsletter. <p><i>iii. Logo Design Contest:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School event submissions were reviewed by the Committee. The Committee agreed the event improved watershed protection awareness, as evidenced by the submissions; however, none of the submissions achieved the goal of developing a Committee logo. • Therefore, the Committee decided to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Halifax Water create one similar to other Committee logo’s; and b. ask the community to weigh in on a design while educating the community about watershed protection through outreach. 	
<p><u>Meet to discuss education program for elementary schools. (Delivered in fall)</u></p>	Complete
<p><u>Talk to Halifax Water communications staff about putting out a call for customer membership through billing.</u></p>	Ongoing
<p>Action: Use contest entries at a future open house/community meeting to demonstrate to the public about the importance about watershed protection and community involvement.</p>	AM/BG
<p>c. Terms of Reference (ToR):</p> <p><i>i. Community (Customer)/Landowner representative:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make membership expectations clear – only 2 meetings/year. 	All
<p>Action: Members to continue asking around to help fill committee vacancy.</p>	
<p>Action: Mail out a newsletter to the community seeking recruitment for a community customer representative.</p>	AM
<p>d. Livestock Access to Watercourses Impact – Water Quality Baseline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originally Halifax Water agreed to establish a new sample point above the impacted area of Lindsay Brook where cattle are known to frequent; however, due to budget and human resource constraints it was cancelled. • There was a brief round table discussion on water quality impacts which included Lake Recovery, forestry operations, agriculture, and geosmin and how they have lead to increased overall Halifax Water sampling and relative costs to better understand them. • Halifax Water also feels that it already has excellent water quality data in minimally impacted areas of the watershed to use as control points. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee expressed its disappointment, but understands the reasoning. However should the baseline data situation change, a new sample station above the impacted area should be added. • To get a sense of the watershed area could we have a map produced and circulated for people to refer to? <p>Action: AM to provide to a map of the watershed area including sampling points and extent of distribution area, to the Committee.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p>AM</p>
<p><i>Q: Are the cattle still in Lindsay Brook at that location (referring to Lindsay Brook Bridge in Higginville)? (AM)</i></p> <p>A: I have not seen any this year. This is the first time since I have moved to the area that I have not seen the cattle in the brook for quite some time now. (HP)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS informed the committee that in May of 2018 he purchased the lands around the brook in which the cattle were seen. He does not plan to keep cattle there and plans to turn it back into pasture. • MS has concerns with further erosion of the unprotected watercourse banks and is planning to re-establish the banks to minimize future erosion. • MS may have access to funding through his Environmental Management Farm Plan (EFMP), where grants may be accessible but may need more assistance. • HP informed MS there may be something available through the Department of Fisheries as a result of water quality impacts. • AM mentioned that not-for-profit groups (which HP represents) may access Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA) NSLC Adopt-A-Stream (AaS) program funding to work on rehabilitating the watercourse banks. The AaS program also provides expertise to plan and conduct the work. • MS indicated the current state of Lindsay Brook negatively impacts the surrounding land. Bank erosion over the years has plugged Lindsay Brook to the point where every time it rains water backs up and floods the adjacent lands. This impacts his ability to farm the lands properly and leads to further erosion and sedimentation, which promotes soil loss that impacts the Middle Musquodoboit River and the source water supply. • AM informed HP that the NSSA is accepting applications for the AaS program until Jan. 15, 2019. 	
<p><i>Q: Is there anything NSE can do about the erosion problem? (AM)</i></p>	
<p>A: Adopt-A-Stream will do all the work for you if you use them. (HP)</p>	
<p><i>Q: Will HP and MS take on correcting the brook issues through avenues available to them or should the Committee and Halifax Water get involved? (KT)</i></p>	
<p>A: More investigation is required to determine what is available through AaS and EFMP.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probably good PR opportunity for the Committee and Halifax Water. • The Committee feels that it should be involved to some degree. 	

<p>Action: Provide an Adopt-A-Stream application example to HP to use as a guide in the application process.</p> <p>Action: Halifax Water to provide water quality information to HP to be used in the Adopt-A-Stream application if required.</p> <p><i>Q: Does this Committee concern itself with the entire watershed all the way from Upper Dean to the Musquodoboit Harbour? (DT)</i></p> <p>A: No just the area within the public drinking water supply area as mandated by NSE. (DM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, environment, manure storage or pesticide storage is what the Federation of Agriculture likes to fund. A brook restoration project would have a good chance of being funded under the Federation of Agriculture. <p>e. Tour of Water Supply Plant:</p> <p><u>Invite members to tour WSP to gain better understanding of how system works.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once Committee membership is established, arrange tour of MM WSP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wait for vacant Community member; • Four-five members are interested in a tour; • If the operator is interested in conducting the tour then it would be in the afternoon, if in the evening, KT may be able to conduct the tour. • Anytime is fine for members to do the tour. <p>Action: After search for new committee member has been successful/exhausted, decide on tour date.</p> <p>f. Community Outreach Strategies:</p> <p><i>i. Open House in Upper Musquodoboit;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM suggested the need to hold an open house meeting to boost watershed education within the watershed. • Two open house styles were discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ an informal drop-in open house with information available; or ○ a formal workshop open house where people come in to hear from speakers about watershed protection. • The best meeting location and venue was discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ more thought is needed to determine the purpose of an Open House; ○ Booth at the Musquodoboit Exhibition is a popular option with the Committee; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KT suggested Halifax Water could provide a water station. <p>Action: Discuss ideas at next meeting after giving more thought.</p> <p><i>ii. School Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducted in the fall; • Five (5) schools participated; 	<p><u>Action</u> AM BG/AM/ HP</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p> <p>All/AM</p> <p>All</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See more about the outcomes under Education and Awareness Heading. <p>g. Agriculture Regulations:</p> <p><i>i. Presentation by Agricultural Department</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request that the Agriculture Department present to the Committee to educate members about the regulations that govern agriculture practices. <p>Action: MS to contact the Agricultural Department to find out who would be the best person to deliver the presentation to the Committee.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p>MS</p>
<p>4. New Business:</p> <p>a. Label wellheads on the SWPR map.</p> <p><u>Label wellheads on the next (2018) Source Water Protection Report</u></p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>5. Landowner Questions:</p> <p>a. N’Viro® Product Information</p> <p><u>MS to send N’Viro® product information to BG. Need assurance the product won’t affect water quality.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good topic for discussion next meeting; • Also a good presentation topic for an open house. 	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Action: MS to contact N’Viro® consultant about a presentation to the Committee to better educate them on its use.</p>	<p>MS</p>
<p>6. Municipal Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report at this time. 	
<p>7. Next Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One meeting for last two Action items, separate from the regular meeting; • March 6, 2019 for regular meeting. 	
<p>8. Adjournment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:40 p.m. <p><i>Acting Chair and Secretary: Anna McCarron</i></p>	