

**MIDDLE MUSQUODOBOIT WATERSHED  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Notes

March 8, 2017 – 7:00 pm

Nova Scotia Natural Resource Education Centre, Middle Musquodoboit

**Attendance:**

Andrew Faulkner (AF), Development Officer.....Halifax Regional Municipality  
Barry Geddes (BG), Watershed Manager.....Halifax Water  
Dawn MacNeill (DM), Watershed Planner.....Nova Scotia Environment  
Anna McCarron (AM), Source Water Planner.....Halifax Water  
Matthew McFetridge (MM), Forest Technician.....NS Dept. Natural Resources  
Hugh Parker (HP), Representative.....Musquodoboit River Watershed Society

**Regrets:**

John Dillman (JD), Representative.....Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture  
Valerie Farnell (VF), Representative.....Community Customer

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**1. *Attendance / Introductions:***

AM/BG distributed the following materials:

- Meeting Agenda;
- November 9, 2016 Meeting Notes;
- Terms of Reference – Approved Version;
- Environmental Regulations Handbook for NS Agriculture: Cover, Table of Contents, and pp. 11-12
- Graphs: a) *E. Coli* and b) Nitrate; and
- Source Water Protection Annual Report.

BG called meeting to order:

- Regrets noted as above; and
- No quorum noted (insufficient community representation).

	<u>Action</u>
<p>2. <i>Old Business:</i></p> <p>a. <u>Review of November 9, 2016 Notes and Deferred Action Items:</u></p> <p>i. Emergency Preparedness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Annual Firefighters Meeting</b> (MM/DM/BG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MM to confirm time and location;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Confirm time and location of firefighter meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation to firefighters is to identify source water protection areas; and</li> <li>▪ DM recommended ensuring that each agency's priority is taken into consideration; i.e., how and why water quality protection is important for Halifax Water; and extinguishing the fire as quickly and efficiently as possible is the firefighter's priority.</li> </ul> <p>○ <b>Emergency Contact Numbers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A shapefile has been created whereby important Halifax Water, NSE and DNR data is embedded into GIS data files including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ all provincial and water utility emergency contact numbers provided by NSE and DNR;</li> <li>➢ data relevant to DNR's fire suppression policy; and</li> <li>➢ locations of NS water supplies and corresponding emergency contacts for each area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Action Item: BG to send new Customer Care Call Centre number to DM for insertion into GIS data file.</b></p>	<p>MM</p> <p>BG</p>
<p>b. <u>Education and Awareness:</u></p> <p>i. Signage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ not installed;</li> <li>○ new design attempt abandoned due to lack of design student intern availability; and</li> <li>○ signs in stock will be installed in due course.</li> </ul> <p>ii. Brochure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HP distributed the SWP Brochure to various places in the community; e.g., Reid's restaurant.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: AM to ask Councillor Steve Streach whether he has a Newsletter that contact information may be put into.</b></p>	<p>AM</p>
<p>c. <u>Blackie Lake:</u></p> <p>i. Information gathering update:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AM and BG visited the Blackie Lake site to investigate watershed boundaries.</li> <li>○ Initially it was believed Blackie Lake fell inside the Middle Musquodoboit River watershed based on contour elevation and wet areas mapping.</li> <li>○ The site visit determined that the Blackie Lake surface water flows towards the Stewiacke River watershed instead of toward the Middle Musquodoboit watershed.</li> <li>○ Therefore, information requested regarding the concern over Blackie Lake fish populations is under Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and provincial regulators' jurisdictions; and the Committee's Action items associated with Blackie Lake (including acquiring data from Northern Pulp) are not applicable and will be removed from the agenda.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p>
<p><b>Action: Remove this item from agenda.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Watershed Boundary Changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The original Middle Musquodoboit watershed area boundary delineated by Halifax Water changed as a result of the ground-truthing investigation around Blackie Lake and to coincide with the new watershed area boundaries established by Nova Scotia Environment (NSE).</li> <li>○ The new watershed area boundary coincides with NSE's 2016 tertiary watershed boundaries except for two (2) tertiary areas located on the east side of the watershed boundary around the intake area, which remains as previously determined by Halifax Water with respect to the intake to the water supply plant (WSP). The Map attached to the Terms of Reference illustrates these changes and the new watershed area boundary.</li> <li>○ DM requested that the shapefile for the new boundary area be sent to NSE for their records.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>BG/AM</b></p>
<p><b>Action: Send shapefile of the new Middle Musquodoboit watershed area boundary to DM for their records.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. <u>Terms of Reference (ToR):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Approved copy circulated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The ToR were circulated and approved via email using the "vote" tool on the email.</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. Forestry/Woodlot Owner and Other Membership Recruitment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is still a lack of membership per the ToR due to the resignation of two Committee members: Valerie Farnell, representing a community drinking water customer; and John Dillman, representing the farm community.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>BG/AM</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A large private landowner from the farming community was recommended by a Committee member to sit on the Committee.</li> <li>▪ A forest representative from the community of Brookfield, who conducts most of his work in the Middle Musquodoboit area was recommended by a Committee member</li> </ul> <p>iii. Community (Customer) representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Despite efforts to recruit a Customer Community representative, no one has come forward. The Committee recommended contacting a Halifax Water staff member who lives within the watershed boundary, as well as Councillor Steve Streach to solicit recommendations for filling the vacant position.</li> <li>○ If no one comes forward through the efforts and outreach described above, then the ToR will need to change regarding the number of community members required on the committee.</li> <li>○ The number of technical representatives is adequate.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p>
<p><b>Action: Contact the recommended people as described above for the vacant Watershed Advisory Board positions</b></p>	<p><b>BG/AM</b></p>
<p>e. <u>Logo Design Contest</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Postponed due to lack of success in acquiring an intern.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Action: Create a contest in local school(s) to design a logo for the Committee which will help to raise awareness in the community at the same time.</b></p>	<p><b>KT/AM</b></p>
<p>f. <u>Livestock Access to Watercourses – Water Quality</u></p> <p><b>Q:</b> <i>How can cattle be kept out of the brook? Are there regulations to prevent cattle from accessing watercourses?</i></p> <p><b>A:</b> BG brought the Committee’s attention to pages (11-12) from the handout “<i>Environmental Regulations Handbook for NS Agriculture</i>” by Lorne Crozier (2004).</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Page 11 “While there is no law that specifically says “<i>you shall not allow your cattle to enter a natural waterway body</i>”, there are several laws effectively say this in other ways. The key ones among these are: ... the <i>Fisheries Act</i>, the <i>Environment Act</i>”.</li> <li>○ Page 12 “<i>Recommended Agricultural Practices within Municipal Drinking Water Supply Areas in Nova Scotia</i>”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DM added that the recommended agricultural practices are poised to be updated in the near future.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Current Best Management Practices (BMPs) with regard to cattle in the proximity of watercourses have already helped to influence water quality source water protection programs.</li> </ul>	



<p>from the source water, or preventing it from entering the source water supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parameters such as turbidity, nitrates, <i>E. coli</i> and phosphate levels often spike during rain events.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Identify water quality collection sample sites by location as well as by abbreviation name on map/ spreadsheet for easier identification for Committee members.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Invite members to tour the Water Supply Plant to gain a better understanding of how the treatment system works.</b></p> <p><b><u>November 9, 2016 Notes not approved due to lack of quorum.</u></b></p> <p>3. <b><i>New Business:</i></b></p> <p>a. <b><u>Source Water Protection Report:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The SWPR is a snapshot of the annual activity conducted by a utility for each of its water supplies.</li> <li>○ The SWPR is due April 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year.</li> <li>○ The last two pages of the report circulated at this meeting are specific to the Middle Musquodoboit Watershed area.</li> <li>○ BG asked the Committee members to review the report and get back to him with comments by mid March.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Provide any comments on SWPR to BG by mid-March</b></p> <p><b>Action: In SWPR, identify the Guideline units.</b></p> <p><b><i>Q: Who does the third party water quality sampling for Halifax Water?</i></b></p> <p><b>A: Maxxam</b></p> <p>4. <b><i>Landowner Questions:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p>5. <b><i>Municipal Updates:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No development updates.</li> <li>• AF is being seconded. Another HRM rep may attend the next meeting.</li> </ul> <p>6. <b><i>Next Meeting:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 8, 2017</li> </ul> <p>7. <b><i>Adjournment:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:10 p.m.</li> </ul> <p><i>Chaired by: Barry Geddes / Notes by: Anna McCarron</i></p>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p> <p><b>BG</b></p> <p><b>BG/AM</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>BG</b></p>
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