

Collin's Park Watershed Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2020 – 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Skype for Business, Fall River



Attendees:

Ken Burrows (KB), Industry Sector Representative.....Development
Phil Francis (PF), Community Representative.....Fall River
Barry Geddes (BG), (*Vice Chair*) Watershed Manager.....Halifax Water
Bev Lawson (BL), Customer Representative.....Collin's Park WSP
Rosemary MacNeil (RM), Development Officer.....Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)
Dawn MacNeill (DM), Watershed Planner.....Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)
Keith Manchester (KM), Community Representative.....Lake Fletcher
Anna McCarron (AM), (*Secretary*) Source Water Planner.....Halifax Water
Tom Mills (TM), Representative.....Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society (SWEPS)
Dick Pickrill (DP), (*Chair*) Community Representative.....Wellington

Regrets:

Wayne Stobo (WS), Community Representative.....Waverley
Janice MacEwan (JM), Principal Planner/Development Officer.....Halifax Regional Municipality

1. Welcome and Introductions

- AM/BG distributed copies of:
 - i. June 25, 2020, Meeting Agenda;
 - ii. DRAFT September 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes;
 - iii. 2nd Letter to Minister re Scotian Quarry – Addendum Version
 - iv. Final SWPP Summary and Review of Recommendations
 - v. Source Water Protection Plan 2019 Annual Report – Collin's Park Excerpt
 - vi. Education Strategy Outline

Meeting called to order by CPWAC Chair (DP):

- Introductions;
- Regrets as listed above; and
 - RM sitting in for JM.

2. Review and Approval:

a. Agenda

- Agenda approved with no additions.

b. September 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes

- TM **Moved** to approve Minutes as circulated;
 - KM seconded;
 - all in favour.
-

3. Old Business

Action

a. Aerotech Park Connector to Hwy 2:

i. Environmental Assessment:

Draft a letter with comments provided by the Committee in this (September 25, 2019) meeting and any other comments following the meeting in time to circulate the letter for the Committee's review and submit to NSE by the stated deadline.

Complete

- a letter drafted to the Minister (displayed on screen) was circulated for review prior to its submission to NSE by the deadline (October 10, 2019);
- the [Minister's decision was released October 30, 2019](#) stating a decision could not be made due to insufficient information provided by the proponent and that more information was required on the following: alternative route options, surface water resource impacts from the proposed route, an acid rock drainage (ARD) management plan and a comprehensive plan to protect public and community private drinking water supplies including the Collin's Park drinking water supply watershed area and residential homeowners relying on groundwater wells; and that this information must be supplied by October 30 2020;
- Candice MacDonald of Wood., a contractor for the Aerotech connector project, contacted Halifax Water December 2019, requesting a digital copy of the Collin's Park Watershed/Intake Protection Zone to incorporate into the environmental assessment for water supply protection planning and analysis of alternative routes;
 - the information was provided by Halifax Water;
 - there has been no more communication since the information was shared;
- Disappointed that receipt of our letter was not directly acknowledged (DP);
- letters are included in the package that goes to the Minister for their review;
- the [Minister's decision and all comments](#) are subsequently provided to the public and to the proponent, which is available on NSE's website (link above);
- our letter's recommendations are included in the Minister's decision on the EA;
- any subsequent updates are also posted on the website;
- we would still like acknowledgement that our letter was received;

Action: Determine how EA letters and any other notifications are responded to; and send the Committee the link to all EA projects on the website.

MA

ii. Wetland restoration opportunities for SWEPS in watershed

- There are no strong advocates for wetland restoration areas from the CPWAC, but if some emerge, contact TM of SWEPS.

b. Scotian Materials (Goff's) Quarry Environmental Assessment (EA):

i. 2nd letter to Minister – requirement for an EA (displayed on the screen)

State our concern in letter regarding reclamation and suggest a standard for reclamation of an area, to avoid leaving the quarry in an un-reclaimed state indefinitely, avoiding stating specifics in terms of size or area.

Complete

Based on the expertise on the Committee, ensure you review the letter thoroughly to ensure the impact concerns are covered in the letter.

Complete

- the CPWA [Committee 2nd letter](#) (*Item 1.iii.*) regarding the Goffs Quarry EA stated amongst its concerns the need for a defined water quality monitoring plan and suggested a standard for reclamation of an area (avoiding stating size or area specifics) that avoids leaving the quarry in an un-reclaimed state indefinitely;
- the letter’s recommendations were reviewed and incorporated into the [terms and conditions](#) of the [Minister’s decision](#);
- monitor whether the quarry meets the new standards see Item 4.b., below).

Action

c. Fall River Committee member vacancy:

Approach the people suggested by KM, per the Terms of Reference.

Complete

- Phil Francis (PF) has graciously offered to represent Fall River on the Committee as recommended by KM;
- PF accepted the position and shared his background:
 - PF comes from a municipal government background working for HRM for over 30 years dealing with subdivisions, Halifax Water and environmental and political issues;
 - PF hopes to remain on the Committee and feels he should be able to help;
 - PF wants to hear about the issues and learn how to contribute over the next couple of meetings;
- The Committee expressed gratitude for PF offering to sit on the board. Welcome!

d. Riparian Buffer enforcement during the permitting process:

Discussion (KB was listening online but was unable to be heard or to comment):

- RM understood her supervisor, Erin MacIntyre, was to send a response to KB;
- RM also understood the following regarding buffer enforcement:
 - enforcing the buffer is managed through the permitting process and how the regulation is written; that is the means by which HRM enforces the buffer;
 - however, it appears this answer may not be satisfactory;
- DP expressed that this a fair summary and that we appear to be at an impasse;

KB provided an email following the meeting expressing the following:

- the Committee’s role is to try to protect the waterways;
- development is at the top of the list of potential disturbances of waterways;
- education is a primary tool in gaining cooperation in watershed protection;
- the best tool in our tool belt is the “buffer zone site assessment” if completed properly;
- a thorough and comprehensive site assessment, as originally applied, makes the client aware of their responsibility with regard to the shoreline;
- when the client hires a buffer zone-certified person to complete this additional document, it becomes real;
- the fee for this service is nominal, but once the client becomes aware that the 20 metre buffer zone is fully documented, then it becomes a safe zone;
- with a proper assessment, the client knows that HRM is aware of the vegetation and topographical features in the buffer area and the client sees both the visual and

narrative documentation of the assessment and provides an excellent educational tool;

- once the site assessment is properly completed and paid for by the client, there is much more respect for its purpose;
- it is disheartening to see how this important tool has been eroded by HRM development offices. It was followed properly, initially, but now it has been reduced to nothing more than a line on a plan, which means little or nothing to the client. The single most important educational tool we have is now less than useful;
- I (KB) don't agree that HRM staff are too busy to do this job, nor that the client will take responsibility for the buffer zone. In many cases they are not even aware of their responsibility of avoiding the buffer zone. Furthermore, those who are aware can ignore it because there is no consequence for their actions.
- instead of deleting the buffer zone from the agenda it should be at the top of it;
- this is an existing educational tool that can be very effective if HRM would simply require that their rule be followed properly;

KB also noted that he had not received any response to his letter from HRM.

Action: Defer this agenda item until a response to the letter is received.

- the Shubenacadie Lakes Floodplain mapping study, to address climate change and rising water levels, could be considered with regard to this issue, discussed further at Agenda item 4. **Error! Reference source not found..** below;
- the current regulations do not provide adequate protection for the buffer;
- the Committee's developing education program should include more education about the importance of riparian buffers to the general public/landowners.

Action: Include importance of riparian buffers in CPWA Committee's education program.

e. Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) Development Update:

- NSE requires each water utility to create a SWPP, which characterizes the watershed area's land, land use and ownership; and identifies the risks, how the risks are managed and how the utility monitors and reports on the watershed area;
- the Committee requested a final summary chapter in the DRAFT Collin's Park SWPP to round out the SWPP; this request was responded to with a summarization of the recommendations generated throughout the SWPP into a short chapter;
- the summarization was circulated to the Committee for comments. The subsequent comments were also considered and incorporated into the final chapter (6);
- an implementation strategy, which corresponds to the recommendations, was also formulated; and
- the SWPP and implementation strategy are ready to be sent to NSE.

f. Subdivision Application 22471 – Montague Mines:

Send letter out as presented once the letter has been formatted correctly with DP's signature.

4. New Business:

a. Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) Annual Report 2019

Action

DP/All

AM

Complete

The following are the highlights of the SWPP Annual Report (2019) – a general overview of what occurred over the past year with respect to source water protection, per the SWPP:

- 2019 SWPP Annual Report was submitted to NSE by March 30, 2020, as required;
- NSE now notifies Halifax Water of all HRM On-site sewage disposal system (OSSDS) applications submitted through the permitting process;
 - to date, no new OSSDS applications are of concern to Halifax Water’s watershed areas because they are far removed from the source water supplies;
- Water Quality:

Q: Will the Collin’s Park WSP water treatment process remove surface water algae toxins, considering reports of toxic poisonings from algae blooms in NS? (TM)

A: In 2012, when geosmin was first discovered in our water supplies, Halifax Water initiated its algae testing (specifically cyanobacteria) program and research.

Halifax Water has since developed a lake recovery program that involves research and studies on biomass in our water supplies, including Collin’s Park’s (Lake Fletcher). Halifax Water just completed a watershed study involving sediment core sampling to determine what compounds are found in the mud and compared those with the zooplankton found in the water supply. These were correlated through modelling exercises to predict what the impacts might be on water quality. (BG)

Q: Does Halifax Water actually test for toxins? (TM)

A: We will find out what we test for. (BG)

Action: Find out what cyanobacteria Halifax Water tests for in the Collin’s Park water supply.

BG

- SWEPS is concerned about toxins in drinking water due to the results of a house-to-house survey SWEPS conducted in 2012, with funding from Halifax Water, that showed ~30% of residents have private foot-valves in surface water supplies;

Q: Do the members have the study in their packages? (BG)

A: No. But it can be provided. (AM)

Q: What is Halifax Water doing to educate the public on what is in the water, e.g., campylobacter and listeria, which are prevalent in the water supply?(TM)

A: A study on microbacteria under the direction of Dr. Rob Jamieson, also with funding support from Halifax Water, was presented to NSE a few years ago, which highlighted the concern for public health. To our knowledge, there was no subsequent action taken by NSE regarding our concerns. [An NSE fact sheet created in 2011 regarding public use of surface water is available to inform the public]. Halifax Water is only responsible for informing its customers, not public users, about the quality of their water. (BG)

- Share the relevant studies with the Committee.

Action: Circulate the studies to the members.

AM

b. Logo/Branding

- Advisory/management committees/boards are stand-alone committees, therefore, Halifax Water logos/branding, etc., are not appropriate to use on advisory/management committee/board letterhead minutes, or agenda, etc. and have been removed from such documents.

c. Scotian Materials Community Liaison Committee (CLC) representation:

- See also Agenda Item 3.b. above;

- Scotian Materials is requesting the Committee’s representation on the CLC;
- AM is already on the CLC representing SWEPS;
- BG has offered to sit on the CLC on behalf of the Committee;
- The Committee agrees that BG represent it on the CLC;

Action

Action: Sit on the Goff’s Quarry Community Liaison Committee (CLC) on behalf of the CPWA Committee and report back.

BG

d. Shubenacadie Lakes Floodplain & Sackville Rivers Mitigation Studies

- RM was not part of this mapping exercise because it is not a land use or change exercise; it is probably being undertaken in the engineering department;
- this Study was conducted for both the Shubenacadie Lakes and Sackville Rivers;
- the Study has been completed but not presented to Council yet (TM);
- TM approached AM about asking HRM to jointly present the Study to SWEPS and this CPWA Committee;
- AM responded that it would be a decision of the Committee;
- TM approached HRM who indicated they would be happy to present the findings to both groups after it has been presented to Council, but not before;
- not sure if it has been presented to Council yet;
- SWEPS hopes it will show potential septic system problems vis-a-vis flooding;
- also a stormwater topic;
- need to determine who is the responsible HRM staff person for this study; and
- a letter needs to come from the Committee(s) requesting a presentation; (RM)

Action: Find out if this mapping study is a planning exercise.

RM

Action: Check on status of Floodplain Study and who the lead person working on this is.

AM

Action: Draft a letter requesting a joint presentation to both Committees (SWEPS and CPWAC) signed by TM and DP.

AM/TM/DP

5. *Education and Awareness:*

a. *Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan applications*

Add this item to Education Strategy.

Complete

b. *Strategy and draft materials:*

- Create education package with graphics to educate public about various topics related to water quality, including OSSDS and riparian buffers for the CPWAC’s review and discussion about a distribution strategy – preferably the whole watershed area, not just the IPZ.

Partially Complete

Send AM two topics paired with each topic’s tool and audience.

- there has been no progress on this topic with respect to Collin’s Park;
- we addressed the topic at the end of the last meeting and asked members to submit their top choices, but there were no responses;
- education is a significant means of addressing many watershed protection challenges, e.g. riparian buffer zones;

- try again as follows:
 - develop a strategy with priorities that considers the following: topic(s), tools to deliver/express the topic and the audience(s) to deliver the information to;
 - prioritize topics;
- road signage will happen regardless; other signage (e.g., interpretive) could be used as a tool;
- discuss the outcomes at our next meeting near the top of the agenda:
 - each member picks two things to emphasize on;
 - push this topic to the top of the next meeting agenda;
 - good timing (re: Covid-19) to educate while people are more at home;
 - reference page 2 of the SWPP summary chapter (6) for education topics; e.g., oil leaks, chemicals, etc.;

Action: Committee members to indicate their priorities.

Action: Bring education agenda item to the top.

Action: Prompt committee to prioritize education items.

**All/AM
AM
AM/All**

6. HRM Planning and Development Update:

a. HRM Planning Applications in CP Risk Areas

- Halifax Water’s watershed management team has been informed of many planning applications such as curb-stops, crosswalks, asphalt paving, but none that would be of concern to the water supply;
- RM reminded the planning group to send any applications inside the watershed and no one has passed along anything new;
- The old service station at 3170 Highway #2 in Fall River has been purchased by Sobey’s. There are three (3) as-of-right development applications that have just gone in for review to HRM – a gas bar, a car wash and an A&W restaurant.

Q: *Should we be concerned about the gas tanks that were at the old gas station site? (AM)*

A: Gas tanks were removed and the area filled in with crushed rock. Fill from the back of the property is being excavated to increase the footprint. In a heavy rain there is potential for a lot of sedimentation until it is covered. (TM)

A: Assumption is that rules around gas tank removal is the responsibility of NSE, to ensure the proper protocols are in place. (DP)

A: There are guidelines for tank removal. Whoever removed the tanks would have to provide a tank removal report. (MA)

- Need a really good septic system to handle a car wash and fast food.
- NSE will manage the site because it is on-site service.

Q: *Is there a stormwater infrastructure system? This has been a natural drainage area “forever” with the potential for more input into the lake. (KM)*

Action: Find out if there is concern about runoff into the storm drain.

AM/BG

b. Port Wallace Development (displayed on screen):

- the Port Wallace Public Information Committee met on [January 16, 2019](#);
 - people were concerned about the industrial activity from Conrad’s Quarry among other issues;

- the Montague Mines reclamation by the province may have some impact on this development.
- water quality (arsenic and mercury) is the concern from the stormwater side;
 - Halifax Water would be privy to information from that perspective;
 - testing on the area's fish shows no contamination and it's safe to consume.
- currently in a watch a wait mode.
- Andrew Bone (AB) is the planner on this case.

Action

Action: Ask Andrew Bone (AB), the planner on this case, for an update.

AM

i. Comments on second draft of policy

Get the highlights of AB's East Hants Source Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting presentation from AB or through BG's and TM's attendance and circulate to the Committee.

Complete

ii. Measure water volume

- stormwater volumes may not exceed the net volume that flows into Barry's Run to ensure the base sediment is not disrupted – water quantity equals water quality.

iii. [Barry's Run Environmental Site Assessment](#)

- No further updates to date.

c. Development on Carr Property in Fall River ([Case 20954](#)):

RM will follow up with the planner to find out why the Carr Property application was not sent to Halifax Water.

Complete

- Still waiting for an environmental approval on that application;
- Looks like a rezoning. Not showing up on the active planning applications for HRM. Pretty sure the application was completed;
- No permits in the system indicates they are working on environmental approvals;
- Keep our eyes on that application;
- Leave on the Agenda.

7. Election of Officers:

- Spring 2022 (Summer now due to Covid-19);
- A message was circulated inviting members to put their names forward for any positions;
- No objections to DP staying on as Chair;
- no other nominations:
 - DP remains Chair of the Committee, BG Vice Chair and AM Secretary.

8. Next meeting:

- Determine an October date for a Skype meeting through a Doodle poll.

Action: Poll members for next meeting date via Doodle.

AM

9. Motion to adjourn: by DP at ~3:15.

Respectfully Submitted: AM, Secretary