



**BENNERLY LAKE WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2014 – 1:30 p.m.  
2 Park Ave., Lower Sackville Halifax Water Office Boardroom

**Attendance:**

Barry Geddes, Watershed Manager (Vice-Chair)..... Halifax Water  
 Jan Jachimowicz .....Landowner Representative  
 Dawn MacNeill, Watershed Planner..... Nova Scotia Environment  
 Anna McCarron, Source Water Planner (Secretary)..... Halifax Water  
 Garry Oxner, Superintendent of Supply Plants..... Halifax Water  
 Paul Parusel, Brookhill Estates ..... Community Representative  
 Kevin Warner, Development Officer (Chair) ..... Halifax Regional Municipality

**Guests:**

Peter Bush, Protected Areas Coordinator - Central Region..... Nova Scotia Environment

**Regrets:**

Reid Campbell, Director of Water Services ..... Halifax Water  
 Tim O’Brien, Crown Land Forester..... Department of Natural Resources

**Absent:**

Bernie Matlock, P. Eng..... Nova Scotia Environment

**Action**

**1. Attendance / Introductions:**

Meeting called to order by Kevin Warner, Chair.

- Regrets were expressed (listed above).
- Quorum noted.
- Anna distributed copies of:
  - a. Meeting Agenda; and
  - b. DRAFT March 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- No changes or additions were requested to the Agenda.

**2. Old Business:**

Review March 6, 2014 Minutes

- Minutes approved with corrections to Paul’s status, date of previous Minutes, and numbering of Items in Action Item Table.

**Action: Post approved March 6, 2014 Minutes on website.**

**Anna**

<b>Table 1: Action Items and Status</b>				
<i>(Completed Action Items to be Deleted from Next Set of Minutes)</i>				
<b>Item #</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Arrange tour date for membership to visit Bennery Lake Water Supply Plant	March 6, 2014	Garry/ Anna	Complete
2	Special Constable Status and Training for Halifax Water staff with respect to the Environment Act SOT changes.	March 6, 2014	Barry/ Reid	<b>Pending official appointment</b>
3	Vacant HWAB/RWAB position; see Action Item #12 below.	March 6, 2014	All	<b>Pending outcome of March 2015 discussion –</b>
4	Send link for Bennery Lake Watershed PWA Regulations to Committee.	March 6, 2014	Barry	<b>Action Required</b>
5	Ask local DNR biologist to investigate the concern by the community that there is a lack of wildlife activity; i.e., fish, bats and birds seem to be absent this year compared to previous years.	March 6, 2014	Barry / Tim	<b>Action required</b>
6	Create a brochure to be ready this fall.	March 6, 2014	Barry / Anna	<b>In progress</b>
7	Distribute brochure to community	March 6, 2014	Paul	Pending progress of brochure
8	Update Committee on HRM Community Development Department activities at next meeting	March 6, 2014	Kevin	<b>Action required at each meeting</b>
9	Request DNR to notify Halifax Water of any watercourse alterations on Crown Lands inside the Bennery Lake watershed.	March 6, 2014	Bernie	<b>Action Required</b>
10	Follow up with NSE to seek efficiencies to improve watershed protection as it relates to the approval process (Watercourse Alteration and On-site Septic systems).	March 6, 2014	Bernie	<b>Action Required</b>
11	Post approved March 6, 2014 Minutes on website	Sept. 18, 2014	Anna	Complete
12	Revisit membership on BLWMC and prepare draft proposal for March 2015 meeting.	Sept. 18, 2014	Barry	<b>Action Required</b>
13	Inform committee of the meeting date regarding the newly proposed connector route between Sunnylea Road and Aerotech Park	Sept. 18, 2014	Anna	Complete

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**Business Arising from the Minutes / Action Items**

**Action**

Water Supply Plant Tour Date:

- The last Doodle poll only elicited two people's interest.
- Reschedule tour; date to be determined.

**Action: Anna to conduct another Doodle poll to tour the Bennery Water Supply Plant (see Action Item #1 in Table above).**

**Anna**

**3. Other Business:**

Protected Areas Update – Peter Bush

**Background**

- Nature Reserve designation does not allow for a license to operate for any commercial or industrial use including Halifax Water.
- Consultation between NSE and Halifax Water are ongoing to determine the best solution to meet both party's objectives.
- Consultation must be completed by the end of 2014 and sites will be determined in 2015.
- See website for location of Bennery Lake proposed Nature Reserve; <http://novascotia.ca/parksandprotectedareas/plan/interactive-map/>

**Discussion**

- Existing Protected Water Area Regulations still apply to the Nature Reserve Area of the Bennery Lake watershed; therefore increased regulations due to dual designation (Protected Water Area and Nature Reserve Regulations).

**Q:** *The area is currently heavily hunted. How will this be policed?*

**A:** DNR is responsible for policing all hunting activities regardless of the designation.

Standard Operating Procedures

- Regarding watercourse alteration permits:
  - According to the Bennery Lake Regulations, anyone seeking to alter a watercourse within the Bennery Lake Watershed must obtain written permission from the Water Works Operator (Halifax Water) prior to obtaining approval from NSE. To the Committee's knowledge this has never happened.
- Similarly, regarding Septic Tank Approvals inside the watershed:
  - The Committee would like to see NSE provide notification.

**Action Item – Follow up with NSE to seek efficiencies to improve watershed protection as it relates to the approval process (see Action Item #10 in Table above).**

**Bernie**

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Bennery Lake Boat Launch - Barry Geddes

- Boat Launch construction complete.
- The company hired to build the boat launch was diligent about using silt fencing and installing and maintaining them properly. No issues to report.

Sullivan Lake Discussion – Paul Parusel

- Paul reported:
  - ATV use in his area of the watershed (Cindy Drive) has been quieter this year than in previous years.
  - Fewer fish have been seen jumping over the past few years.
  - No loons this year in Sullivan’s Lake.
- Barry reported that there were no obvious water quality issues this year compared to previous years.

**Action: Barry will talk to Tim about habitat issues in the area (*Action Item 5 in Table above*).**

**Action**

**Barry / Tim**

Communication Tools to Raise Community Watershed Awareness

- Paul Parusel’s offer stands to deliver watershed brochures to the local community.

**4. New Business:**

Mining Presentation

- The Committee is invited to attend the mining presentation to be held immediately following the Pockwock Watershed Management Committee Business Meeting on March 5, 2015.

Special Constable Status

**Background**

- SOTS (Summary Offense Tickets) are issued by those given Special Constable Status
- The ticket value is \$693.50 for each offense.

**Update**

- Halifax Water and NSE have exchanged MOU’s and are still consulting each other about final wording.

Terms of Reference

- Changes to the ToR are required to reflect:
  - status of HWAB

- landownership relevance to being on the committee
  - 10% ownership HW
  - 30% ownership DNR
  - 60% ownership private

**Action**

**Discussion**

- A large portion of DNR lands is being transferred to NSE for the purpose of the Nature Reserve; therefore, NSE will need to be included in the ToR.
- The Nature Reserve would reduce DNR ownership to 46 acres (<3%)

*Q: Is there a need for DNR to continue to be on the BLWMC?*

**Action: Revisit membership on BLWMC (Action Item #12 in Table above) and prepare draft proposal for March 2015 meeting.**

**Barry**

**5. Municipal Plan Update:**

- Brookhill Estates planning process is with Andrew Bone:
  - 19 lots are planned for the Given Drive Area;
    - 7 lots inside the watershed; which include 5 houses inside the Bennery Lake Protected watershed.
  - Development agreement has been registered.
  - Development has slowed down due to a number of factors.

**6. Landowner Q&A:**

**Comment:** Regarding signage at the new boat launch for OHVs (ATVs and snowmobiles): There is concern that it will be used more frequently by such users now that the boat launch is in place.

*Q: Is a connector road being proposed that will go through Bennery Lake watershed communities?*

**A:** A new connector is proposed to connect the Holland Road area to Hwy 102 at exit 5A. It is not planned to run through the watershed, so no immediate concerns. There is a public meeting scheduled, date unknown. Anna to look into date and send to Committee members.

**Action: Advise committee when the meeting is, which will provide details about the newly proposed connector route between Sunnylea Road and Aerotech Park (Action Item #14 in Table above).**

**Anna**

**7. Next Meeting Date**

March 5, 2015 1:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** 3:02 pm

*Kevin Warner: Chair*

*Barry Geddes: Vice Chair*

*Anna McCarron: Secretary*