



Collin's Park Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2016

7:00 – 9:00

Gordon Snow Centre Boardroom, Fall River

Attendees:

Damon Conrad (DC).....Fall River Community
 Barry Geddes (BG), Watershed Manager.....Halifax Water
 Erin MacIntyre (EM), Planner.....Halifax Municipality Planning and Development
 Dawn MacNeill (DM), Watershed Planner.....Nova Scotia Environment
 Keith Manchester (KM).....Lake Fletcher Community
 Anna McCarron (AM), Source Water Planner.....Halifax Water
 Tom Mills (TM) (Chair)....Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society (SWEPS)
 Dick Pickrill (DP).....Wellington Community

Regrets:

Bev Lawson, Wellington.....Collin's Park WSP Customer

Absent:

Scott Smith.....Nova Scotia Home Builders Association

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Tom Mills, Collin's Park Watershed Advisory Committee (CPWAC) Chair called the meeting to order.
- Anna distributed copies of
 - Agenda;
 - DRAFT February 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes;
 - Collin's Park Watershed Advisory Committee (CPWAC) Reference Material Binder;
 - Source Water Protection Brochure;
 - Collin's Park Watershed Area Geology and Sample Points Map; and
 - Other Documents for Discussion/Reference Purposes:
 - *Safe Drinking Water for Public Water Systems: A Diligent Approach*; and
 - *Developing a Source Water Protection Plan*
- Round table introductions

Action

- Erin MacIntyre is the new representative for HRM Planning and Development in place of Andrew Bone who was the previous HRM representative.

2. Review and Approval of February 18, 2016 meeting Minutes

- February 18, 2016 Minutes – **Approved.**
 - Moved by KM, seconded by DP.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Terms of Reference (ToR):

- Nova Scotia Home Builders Association (NSHBA) membership;
 - NSHBA invited to sit on the Committee.
 - NSHBA accepted and assigned a member.
 - The selected NSHBA member has missed two (2) consecutive meetings.
 - The Committee would like another attempt made to secure a NSHBA member to sit on the Committee, considering the level of risk posed by residential development impacts on the water supply.

ACTION: SEND A LETTER TO THE NSHBA INFORMING THEM THAT THEIR SELECTED REPRESENTATIVE HAS NOT ATTENDED ANY MEETINGS AND ASK WHETHER THEY WISH TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMITTEE, CONSIDERING THE TOR (SEC. 20), WHICH STATES THAT “MEMBERS WHO MISS THREE CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS WILL FORFEIT THEIR POSITION TO WHICH THE [COMMITTEE] WILL SEEK REPLACEMENT...”.

BG/AM

4. Old Business

a. Resource Binder Content Review/Assessment

Q: How often are phosphorus samples collected? Is protocol being followed? (DP)

A: Tributary sampling, which includes phosphorus, is conducted monthly; deep lake sampling, which also includes phosphorus, is done seasonally, pending weather conditions; both are conducted according to protocol.

Q: What else is sampled? (TM)

A: Halifax Water data collected to date (BG).

- Concerns were expressed regarding content of the information binder and how it might be used to aid in the creation of the Collin’s Park Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP). Some Committee members felt that some information may be more useful than other information. For example, a

discussion regarding various types of phosphorus loading reports had differing recommendations.

Action

- DM outlined the steps that the Water Utility (Halifax Water) is required to follow in the development of a comprehensive SWPP which includes identifying potential contaminants and assessing risks to the watershed (Step 3 in “*Developing a Municipal Source Water Protection Plan*”). Once they are known, the next step is to identify the risk management options to manage or mitigate the identified risks.
- The information binder is an important tool to help develop the Collin’s Park SWPP. Not all of the information may be in the binder, but it is still considered a good source of information. The committee is encouraged to share any information with the Committee that may not be in the binder, to help further develop the SWPP.

Development of Source Water Protection Plan

- Dawn clarified the purposes of the SWPP documents a. and b. that were circulated as a resource for the purposes of this Agenda Item.
 - Document a. *Safe Drinking Water for Public Water Systems: A Diligent Approach* is a document designed more as a resource for the water utility; and
 - Document b. *Developing a Municipal Source Water Protection Plan* is designed more for the general public and to assist advisory committees in understanding the steps required in developing a SWPP.
- Review of NSE SWPP Development Process – a five (5) step process:
 1. Create a Watershed Advisory Committee – complete
 2. Delineate a watershed boundary – complete
 3. Identify potential contaminants and assess risks.
 - This process provides the CPW Advisory Committee with an understanding of the types of activities and associated contaminants that have the potential to impair water quality as well as providing an opportunity for the advisory committee to inform the regulator (NSE) and the utility (Halifax Water) of sources of contaminants they may not be aware of by reviewing and providing comments during the development of the SWPP.
 4. Develop a Management Plan
 5. Monitor and evaluate the Plan per Step 3.

Q: *What is the deadline to complete and submit the Collin’s Park SWPP to NSE? (TM)*

A: Originally, the deadline was deemed to be 5 years ago; however, the deadlines

are incorporated into the Approval to Operate. (DM)

Action

A: Steps have been taken towards completing the new SWPP:

- i.* This Advisory Committee has been created;
- ii.* The watershed area boundary has been identified;
- iii.* Information is being gathered. The BoMont SWPP is Halifax Water's priority at the moment; however, the Collin's Park watershed area is within BoMont's; therefore, the information gathered for the BoMont SWPP will provide the framework for the updated Collin's Park SWPP.
- iv.* The Committee would like to know what risks have been identified inside the Collin's Park watershed area, so far, in advance of the next meeting.

ACTION: HALIFAX WATER TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE KNOWN RISKS TO THE WATER SUPPLY AREA A MONTH IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

BG/AM

- Review of Collin's Park Watershed Area Geology and Sample Points Map
 - Dick requested expanding the sample site name initials.

ACTION: EXPAND ON SAMPLE SITE NAMES TO PROVIDE CLARITY.

BG/AM

Applicable Regulations

Q: How much of a role do Development Officers play in ensuring that reports like this are being applied? (AM)

A: The Development Officer will review the applications in accordance with the policies and the land-use bylaws. If the application does not meet the criteria for the land-use bylaws for that area the Development Officer makes recommendations to council which need to be met before issuing a permit. Once those recommendations are satisfied then the Development Officer will issue a permit. (EM)

- There are no watershed regulations specific to the Collin's Park watershed area that are comparable to Pockwock's, Bennery's, and Lake Major's (three of the provincially designated *Protected Water Area (PWA)* watersheds).
- There are other provincial regulations that are enforceable if known violations are occurring. For example, a failing septic field; however, someone has to notify NSE in order for them to investigate the report. In most instances the report is not made because of the great expense to the homeowner to fix the problem, which neighbours are reluctant to inflict on an offending neighbour. There are no provincial regulations requiring homeowners to pump a septic system.
- The province is exploring Best Management Practices (BMPs) for septic tank installations.
- Halifax Water will continue to work with other governing agencies that have regulatory authority over protection of the environment and water.

SWP activities and opportunities brainstorming list

- Collin’s Park Water Treatment Plant Tour suggested for Committee.

ACTION: ANNA TO ARRANGE A TOUR OF THE COLLIN’S PARK WATER TREATMENT PLANT FOR THE COMMITTEE AND ASK ABOUT POSSIBLY TOURING THE LAKE MAJOR PLANT, FOR COMPARISON, AS WELL.

- Concerns were raised about the extension of municipal water along Fall River Road. Municipal water is chlorinated, and will end up in private septic beds, potentially leading to the failure of these systems and further contamination of Lake Fletcher and the surrounding watershed. The Committee recommends that this risk be identified in the SWPP.
- Barry Geddes provided a digital view of the Collin’s Park Watershed Boundary.
- In addition to the boundary, sample point sites were displayed, followed by a discussion about why the site locations were chosen and what data parameters were collected at each site.

Logo

- Anna showcased the new logo as per the front page of the Minutes.
 - The Board approved the new logo.

5. *New Business*

a. Committee Development Tasks

- Role as Advisory Committee discussed earlier as community funnel and review agency for SWPP.

b. SWP Needs and Issues

- This will develop as time goes on.

c. Fall River Bridge Replacement – Barry Geddes

- Project took place over the 2016 summer months.
- It was a low water flow year, so there was great opportunity to replace the bridge with very little impact.
- The bridge project was situated at a Halifax Water regular sampling point site, which provided excellent baseline data information, which was shared with HRM. Halifax Water was able to continue its regular sampling program at the site throughout the project. No significant impact to water quality was found at the site and none downstream at other sample points. Baseline conditions returned shortly after the project was completed.
- A small release of sediment did occur during the project, after a heavy

Action

AM

Action

rainfall event caused project reclamation material that was piled too close to the project area to wash into the river. Halifax Water was contacted by HRM through HRM's emergency response plan for the project. Halifax Water was able to respond accordingly. Sampling frequency increased until baseline conditions returned to normal (<1 day after event). Samples collected showed no impact to the Collin's Park Water Treatment Plant.

- NSE instructed HRM to issue a Public Service Announcement (PSA) regarding the sediment release, for which HRM contacted Halifax Water for assistance.
- This event provided a good example of how effective HRM/Halifax Water's Source Water Protection Emergency Plan is, which incorporates a watershed monitoring program through samples collected and visual site visits; and emergency response and communication plans between the agencies.
- Though Committee members considered this project a success story, this is not the first instance where a source of contamination has entered the water supply – a concern for members; there are more people other than Halifax Water customers using the water supply as a source of potable water. Some Committee members propose a database whereby Halifax Water could maintain a contact list of all users for the purpose of informing all users during a contamination event.
 - As important as it is to inform other water users, it is NSE's responsibility. Halifax Water can improve awareness and emergency response by installing new watershed signage throughout the watershed, but it does not have the capacity to maintain a database which would inform non-customers.

6. Education and Awareness

- Anna distributed the Source Water Brochure created by Halifax Water. Anna invited the Committee members to take copies of the brochure to distribute to the public.
- Anna offered Halifax Water staff and equipment for future demonstrations and education opportunities within the community.
- **Next Meeting Date:** TBD
- **Meeting adjourned:** 8:45 p.m.

Tom Mills – Chair

Barry Geddes – Vice Chair

Anna McCarron – Recorder