



Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board Meeting Notes

October 5, 2017 – 2:00 p.m.
Lake Major Water Treatment Plant

ATTENDEES:

Julie Ernst (JE), Lake Major.....Community Representative
 Andrew Faulkner (AF), Development Officer.....Halifax Regional Municipality
 Barry Geddes (BG), Watershed Manager (*Vice Chair*).....Halifax Water
 Anna McCarron (AM), Source Water Planner (*Secretary*).....Halifax Water
 Matt Nelson (MN), Forest TechnicianNova Scotia Natural Resources

REGRETS:

Reid Campbell (RC), Director of Water Services.....Halifax Water
 Dawn MacNeill (DM), Watershed Planner.....Nova Scotia Environment
 Bernie Matlock (BM), P. Eng.....Nova Scotia Environment
 Heather Olivella (HO), Protected Areas Coordinator.....Nova Scotia Environment
 Derrick Stoddard, Area Manager Halifax West.....Nova Scotia Natural Resources
 Colin Waddell (CW), Lake Major Treatment Plant Supervisor.....Halifax Water

ABSENT:

Pearl Cain (PC), North Preston Residents Association.....Community Representative
 Spencer Colley (SC), East Preston Ratepayers Association.....Community Representative
 Brenton Sparks (BS), Lake Loon/Cherry Brook Development Assoc. (*Chair*).....Community Representative

1. Attendance and Introductions

- AM distributed copies of:
 - Meeting Agenda
 - DRAFT March 23, 2017 Meeting Notes
- Meeting called to order by BG (acting Chair in BS' absence).
- Regrets/Absentees listed above.
- No quorum.

2. Lake Major Dam Replacement Project Update

- Halifax Water awarded the contract to Lindsay Construction to construct the dam.
- NSE requires Halifax Water to do additional work to assess the shoreline impact to private land along Lake Major, upstream of the dam. (BG)
- Tentative start-up construction date May 2018.

Action: Jonathan MacDonald of Halifax Water to circulate tender-approved maps to Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board members.

Action

JM

Action: BG to follow up with JM

BG

Action

3. Action: Review of Action Items and Approval of Minutes/Notes

a. Review of Action Items:

Action: Request to Allow Swimming in Long Lake (see Agenda item 4.c.iii below)

Action: 76 Johnson Road (see Agenda Item 4.b. below)

Action: Source Water Protection Report – Member Review

b. Approval of October 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes & March 23, 2017, Meeting Notes:

- No quorum, therefore, approval of Minutes and Notes deferred to next meeting.

4. Old Business:

a. Protected Areas Update:

- Ongoing.

b. 76 Johnson Road Update (BG):

- HRM and Halifax Water follow-up site visits:
 - Halifax Water completed a site visit in January 2017. Clean-up by owner is slowly progressing. The HRM clean-up order remains in effect until the site meets compliance; and
- The owner requested an extension due to an accident he recently suffered.

c. Lake Major Regulation changes/considerations:

i. **Dam Upgrade (BG)**

- Halifax Water applied to and received approval from the province to amend the *Lake Major Watershed (LMW) Protected Water Area (PWA) Regulations* to allow for an outboard motor larger than 9.9 horse power (hp) for water utility-related business;
 - This regulation change does not affect the public, who are permitted to use up to a 9.9 hp motor within *LMW PWA*.

ii. **On-site septic systems (BG)**

- Halifax Water is responsible for monitoring and enforcing activities with respect to the *PWA* regulations inside the *LMW PWA*. The most efficient way to enact its responsibilities is for Halifax Water to be aware when risky activities take place, which is common practice. However, exceptions occur, particularly when private on-site septic systems are installed within the *PWA*. Halifax Water is seeking improvement in NSE's notification practices, considering it is the responsible agency with respect to approving on-site septic system installations.
- Halifax Water received a response letter from NSE (to Halifax Water's letter dated: February 27, 2017, circulated at the March 23, 2017 LMWAB meeting) indicating that the Municipality (in this case Halifax Water) is responsible for enforcing respective *PWA* regulations, to which Halifax Water acknowledges.
- However, the *LMW PWA Regulations* fail to identify NSE as the agency responsible for issuing approvals for on-site sewage disposal system (OSSDS) installations within the *PWA*, which creates a communication gap for the responsible agency

Ongoing

Ongoing

Complete

Action

during the approval process.

- Halifax Water is preparing a response letter to NSE, including a request to meet with the Wastewater District Manager to discuss improvements in the approval/notification processes with respect to OSSDS applications within PWAs.

Action: Provide response letter to Board members at next LMWAB meeting.

BG

iii. Swimming in Long Lake

- At the September 30, 2015 meeting, PC, on behalf of the North Preston Ratepayers Association (NPRO) made a request to Halifax Water to begin talks about allowing swimming in Long Lake.
- Halifax Water sent a letter to the NPRO asking to meet, at the Association's convenience, to discuss the options available to further consider their request.
 - Awaiting response to the letter.

d. Source Water Protection Plan Update:

- To expedite the review process, the DRAFT Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) was submitted to NSE in April 2017;
 - To review the SWP Plan, LMWAB members may access it [online](https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/home-property/water/LakeMajor-SWP-Plan.pdf) at <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/home-property/water/LakeMajor-SWP-Plan.pdf> or by request to Halifax Water.
- BG explained that the SWPP defines the history, geology and land use of watershed area; identifies the risks to the watershed area; explains what Halifax Water monitors for and how it manages the risks; and provides an implementation plan timeline.

5. *New Business*

a. North Preston Recreational Field (BG):

- HRM submitted plans to Halifax Water to develop and build a Recreational Field on land owned by Halifax Water in the community of North Preston.
 - Halifax Water forwarded the plans to the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board for review in June 2017. The following comments were received and forwarded to HRM;
 - To comply with Section 15(4) of the *LMW PWA* Regulations, an erosion and sedimentation control plan must be developed and approved in writing by NSE, following consultation with the Board; and
 - Section 16(1) restricts road construction to between June 1st and September 30th, inclusive, in any year. However, the construction project involves more than just road construction. HRM indicated that the construction activities will likely fall outside of the June 1st-Sept. 30th timeframe due to federal funding restrictions which require all federal spending to be completed by March 31, 2018. Halifax Water advised HRM to contact NSE for clarification regarding whether section 16 applies to the construction activities planned.

Action

- The project has not started.
- NSE has not indicated whether construction activities will be permitted outside of the restricted timeframe.

Action: Halifax Water to contact NSE to determine whether HRM has been approved to work outside of the road construction timeline window as per Section 16(1) of the LMW PWA Regulations.

BG

6. Landowner Questions:

- No landowner questions.

7. Education Update

a. Arnold D. Johnson Sr. Water Resources Award Update:

- No applications were submitted this year.

b. Lake Major Newsletter:

- Confirmed the 2017 Newsletter was published and distributed (AM)
- Next newsletter to list the community reps – names and contacts.
- Next newsletter due in 2018.

8. Municipal Development Update:

- HRM Planning has nothing to report at this time.

9. Election of Officers – September 2018:

- The Board notes that there has been a lack of quorum at the last few meetings; subsequently, the Board has been unable to adequately fulfill its mandate; i.e., to fulfill NSE's requirement that the LMWAB provide advice regarding PWA-related business.
- Halifax Water will contact Board members to stress the importance of attending LMWAB meetings to ensure information is shared between stakeholders in a timely manner.

Action Item: Halifax Water to contact the members to remind them of the upcoming LMWAB meeting and the importance of having representation at this and future LMWAB meetings, to ensure PWA-related business is not delayed.

BG

10. Next Meeting Date:

- March 22, 2018.

11. Meeting adjourned:

- 2:52 p.m.

Brenton Sparks – Chair (Absent)

Barry Geddes – Vice Chair (Acting Chair)

Anna McCarron – Secretary