

Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board**Meeting Minutes****September 30, 2015 – 2:00 p.m.****Lake Major Water Treatment Plant**ATTENDEES:

Pearl Cain, North Preston Residents Association.....Community Representative
 Reid Campbell, Director of Water Services.....Halifax Water
 Spencer Colley, East Preston Ratepayers Association.....Community Representative
 Julie Ernst, Lake Major.....Community Representative
 Andrew Faulkner, Development Officer.....Halifax Regional Municipality
 Barry Geddes, Watershed Manager.....Halifax Water
 Dawn MacNeill, Watershed Planner.....Nova Scotia Environment
 Anna McCarron, Source Water Planner.....Halifax Water
 Matt Nelson, Forest TechnicianNova Scotia Natural Resources
 Garry Oxner, Superintendent of Water Supply Plants.....Halifax Water
 Brenton Sparks, Lake Loon/Cherry Brook Development Association (Chair)Community Rep.
 Derrick Stoddard, Area Manager Halifax West.....Nova Scotia Natural Resources
 Colin Waddell, Lake Major Treatment Plant Manager.....Halifax Water

REGRETS:

Bernie Matlock, P. Eng.....Nova Scotia Environment
 Heather Olivella, Protected Areas Coordinator.....Nova Scotia Environment

GUESTS:

Jonathan MacDonald, Project EngineerHalifax Water
 Paul Morgan, Senior Planner.....Halifax Regional Municipality

Table 1: Previous Minutes Action Items and Status				
Item Page #	Action Items	Date	Lead	Status
Page 10	Barry Geddes to Contact John Brazner (now Krista Hilchey) for an update on wetlands in quarry.	October 3, 2013 Update: April 23, 2015	Barry	Action required Update: Deferred to September 30 2015
Page 10	Promote Arnold D. Johnson Award to community: Update: Leave on Agenda	October 2, 2014 Update Sept. 30 2015	All	Ongoing
Page 11	Halifax Water to provide NSCC link to Arnold D. Johnson Award Board members to distribute to local community members.	October 2, 2014	Anna/Barry	Ongoing
Page 11	Make corrections and post approved April 23, 2015 Minutes on website.	September 30, 2015	Anna	Complete
Page 11	Provide Hwy 107 extension info to Board Members to share with community as it becomes available to Halifax Water by NSTIR.	Oct. 2, 2014 Update: September 30, 2015	NSTIR/ Barry	Remove from Agenda until more information becomes available
Page 13	Barry to present water quality graphs to Board to show water quality trends and impacts.	April 23, 2015	Barry	Complete
Page 5	Circulate Jonathan MacDonald's presentation about the dam replacement to the members following the meeting.	Sept. 30, 2015	Anna	Complete
Page 8	Contact Cameron Deacoff about re-representing the Preston Area watershed study to the Board.	Sept. 30, 2015	Anna	Action required
Page 10	Arrange a meeting between Halifax Water and the North Preston Ratepayers Association to discuss options for swimming in the North Preston Community.	Sept. 30, 2015	Barry	Action required
Page 11	Contact the BEA to promote the Arnold D. Johnson Award.	Sept. 30, 2015	Spencer	Action required
Page 11	Create a poster of the Newsletter item promoting the Arnold D. Johnson Award and circulate it to the members to post in their communities, to the BCC, BEC, NPCC and to any other organizations that may help spread the word.	Sept. 30, 2015	Anna	Complete
Page 11	Julie Ernst requests the name of the contact of the highway 107 extension project	Sept. 30, 2015	Barry	Action required

Action**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY LMWAB CHAIR, BRENTON SPARKS:**

- Anna distributed copies of:
 - Agenda;
 - April, 23 2015 Minutes;
 - Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board Terms of Reference; and
 - Lake Major Newsletter
- Colin Waddell reviewed emergency procedures and facilities location.
- Regrets noted (listed above).
- Quorum noted.
- Agenda Item 5b): Swimming in Long Lake requested to be brought forward immediately following the presentations.

PRESENTATIONS:***1. Lake Major Dam Replacement – Jonathan MacDonald presenting on behalf of Halifax Water/MECO***

- Jonathan conducted a PowerPoint (PP) presentation regarding:
 - Proposed dam locations
 - Progress completed to date
 - Next steps
 - Dam options
 - Fish pump and siphon update
- Four (4) borehole sites were drilled at potential dam site locations as shown on map (page 3 of the PP presentation):
 - Preliminary geotechnical investigation, in search of bedrock to support the dam, was completed in March 2015 at sites A&F;
 - At Site A: two boreholes were drilled to 6.7m and 12.6m, no bedrock found at either location; and
 - At Site F: bedrock was found at two boreholes sites at 3.8m and 4.2m respectively;
 - In June 2015, supplementary geotechnical investigation resulted in:
 - six (6) boreholes drilled at sites B&C, located between sites A&F; and
 - Bedrock was found at each site.
- Further study involves a “Wetted Perimeter Study” conducted by EnviroSphere beginning August 13, 2015:
 - to show relationship between discharge and habitat;
 - whereby data collected will be used in maintenance flow discussions with the regulators, Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO);

Action

- Eleven (11) sites will be monitored, downstream of the dam to the point where the river enters the ocean during high, medium and low flow conditions, for:
 - distance downstream from dam;
 - stream width;
 - gradient;
 - average pool depth;
 - velocity; and
 - wetted perimeter;
- Wetted perimeter is the primary variable that will be used in the study analysis.
- Maintenance flow discussions (important for fish survival) conducted:
 - February 5, 2015 between Halifax Water/MECO and NSE/DFO:
 - DFO presented maintenance flow calculations;
 - MECO consultant determined that maintenance flow and withdrawal demand cannot meet numbers DFO presented;
 - July 29, 2015 meeting re: maintenance flow calculation methodology differences discussion between DFO and MECO:
 - DFO flow demands are too challenging to meet – flow conditions are higher now than in the past;
 - MECO currently working on modeling the requested maintenance flows based on two (2) scenarios: one by DFO and the other by Halifax Water in conjunction with the wetted perimeter study;
 - Goal to have actual flow data from Little Salmon River to use in discussions with DFO;
 - DFO is open to negotiate; and
 - next meeting with DFO scheduled for the near future.
- Two (2) Dam options:
 1. Build dam at location F, immediately upstream of Lake Major Dam location;
 2. Build a second dam structure at location B or C (located near “Narrows”) with capacity of raising water level 2-3 metres above current levels for 20 MGD (million gallons per day) capacity;
 - Raising water level 0.5m with operable dam to gain more storage;
 - Increased maintenance flows may dictate the need to raise water level more;
 - Future work – at least 10 years down the road – timing driven by demand in water system coinciding with relocation of the raw water pumping station and the building of a second dam.
 - Two-dam option greatly reduces public safety risk.
- Fish pump and siphon:

- fish pump installed and began operating late May 2015;
- moved ~40,000 fish (mostly Gaspereau, Mud Suckers and Sea Trout) over the dam structure;
- siphon installed April 2015:
 - only way to get water over the dam structure;
 - purpose is to maintain minimum flow in Little Salmon River when Lake Major Dam is not spilling water; and
- downstream fish passage monitoring observed a few gaspereau.

Action

Q: *Is there any information that could be circulated for members to contemplate themselves?*

A: The power point presentation can be circulated to the members.

Action: **Anna to distribute the Dam Replacement PowerPoint presentation to members.**

Anna

Q: *Will there be a fish ladder when the dam is completed?*

A: Yes. Currently we have temporary situation until the dam is complete.

Q: *When will final construction of the first dam be completed, how long will it take and where will it be located?*

A: Taking into consideration both options, there will be a dam built just upstream of the existing dam, scheduled to be completed by 2017. It should take 6-8 months to complete. If a second dam is built it will depend on demand.

Q: *Will the new dam raise the water level?*

A: The water level currently cannot be raised mainly because the pumping station is close to the existing water level. However, desktop calculations completed by DFO indicate that more water is required to pass through the new dam to improve base flow conditions for fish passage. Halifax Water's consultant, MECO, has been hired to investigate flow conditions and possible solutions to meet DFO requirements and Halifax Water's needs.

Q: *Has there been a change in the aquatic species?*

A: No one knew what species to expect. There was no baseline to compare with.

Q: *Is the structural integrity of the current dam going to hold until 2017 when the new dam is in place?*

A: No one can determine how long the current dam will hold although recent repairs were done in the last week. Halifax Water continues to monitor. The dam replacement project remains a high priority for Halifax Water.

Q: *Will construction disrupt traffic?*

A: No more than the road building traffic that existed this past summer.

- Next steps:
 - Update Bathymetric survey;

- Environmental Assessment (EA):
 - probably need an EA to raise water level to full plant capacity;
 - working with NSE to see whether an EA is required; and
- Public consultation should happen later this year since we are closer to determining where we can build a replacement dam.

Action

Q: Will there be an environmental impact study when the construction of the dam is conducted?

A: There probably will be since the permit is submitted to NSE. The study would be conducted over a few seasons. It is a bit of a process. For example: there was a two-season study for the wind turbine project to determine which species might be impacted as a result of the project. An *Approval to Operate* would be required.

2. Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (RMPS) and how it might impact the watershed area – presented by Paul Morgan: Halifax Planning Services

- The HRM Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (RMPS), first ratified in 2006, went through a “5-year” review process (RP+5) and was approved October 2014.
- Halifax Water and HRM entered into an agreement on August 1, 2007 where Halifax Water assumed responsibility of the wastewater and stormwater systems. An entire chapter of the 2014 RMPS was re-written to reflect those changes.
- Statements of Provincial Interest (SPIs) were instated into the 2014 RMPS, which influenced some amendments in the RMPS including:
 - Municipalities must identify water supply areas per the [Halifax Regional Municipality Charter](#). HRM was not previously aware of all the water supply areas nor wellhead protection areas;
 - HRM received a map from Halifax Water in 2013 indicating the locations of the water supply areas (currently Map 12 of the RMPS 2014) – a new and required addition to the RMPS.
 - Lake Major is identified on this map as well as the wellhead areas e.g., Silver Sands near Cow Bay and smaller water supplies; e.g., Middle Musquodoboit, and those along the Shubenacadie system; i.e., Collins Park and Bomont.
- Other additions/changes to the RMPS were with respect to section 2.3.1: Potable Water Supply of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change Chapter (2) of the RMPS, made through cooperation with Halifax Water:
 - Policy E-13:
 - “and wellhead protection areas” added to wording respecting water supply areas – previously absent;
 - The PWS Zone shall establish a minimum 30.5m riparian buffer around water supply areas – up from 20m; and

Action

- use of the word “*may*” was added with respect to applying the PWS Zone to *private* land, whereas the PWS Zone “*shall* be applied to all *publically* owned lands which serve as a water supply...”;
 - During Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Relations’ review of the RMPS, Paul was asked why wording “*may*” rather than “*shall*” was used with respect to private land. Paul responded that HRM would need to show why private lands in water supply areas should not be developed at all, to justify the use of the word “*shall*”;
 - We have a lot of privately-owned land in water supply areas. If necessary, amendments could be put together to protect the water supply areas; and
 - Council may consider a land use by-law necessary through policy E-14; i.e., necessary to: a) protect the water supply; b) ensure a consistent regulatory approach within each watershed; or c) conform with any SPI Regarding Drinking Water;
- by-laws typically restrict uses that would limit the number of lots; and reduce the density in the PWS Zone; and
- Halifax Water owns about 42% of the Lake Major watershed.
- Also, HRM has embarked on a Green Network Priorities Plan:
 - a system of open spaces (for more details visit: <http://www.halifax.ca/HalifaxGreenNetwork/Themes.php>);
 - which concludes what we should be protecting, for a number of reasons including water supply, animal migration, environmentally sensitive areas, working landscapes; e.g., timberland, agriculture, and lands needed for aggregate supply – the latter due to expense in finding aggregate without having/ensuring a local supply;
 - Board members are encouraged to attend the public meetings about the **Green Network Priorities Plan** where more information about the water supply area may be learned. The State of the Landscape Report will be presented to Council including various recommendations as to how we should protect our green spaces within our municipality using subdivision regulations, etc. There will be more background information. For more information visit: <http://www.halifax.ca/HalifaxGreenNetwork/EngagementEvents.php>;
 - The state of the landscape report drafted and presented in October (found at: <http://www.halifax.ca/HalifaxGreenNetwork/Themes.php>) will lead to a report about how to protect green spaces.

Q: *If that Plan results in something that would impact the Lake Major watershed will the Board be notified?*

A: It is not anticipated that anything proposed in this Plan would drastically impact this watershed. Rather, this Plan provides background information about how more might be done to protect the watershed.

- Watershed Studies, per the 2006 RMPS, provide other planning avenues to guide how land is managed and the activities that may be permitted:
 - watershed studies must be conducted to establish the water quality objectives to be considered in a community planning process;
 - the Preston Area Watershed Study (PAWS) was completed for the Preston Area watershed area and includes part of the Lake Major PWA;
 - the PAWS focuses on surface and ground water quality issues to provide the municipality and the related communities with current information that can be used for municipal and community planning. The report fulfills the requirements of a watershed study as defined in the Regional Plan (2006), Policy E-17; and
 - it is not known whether any of the recommendations have any bearing on the watershed areas.

Q: *Can someone come to the Board to present the Preston Area Watershed Study findings within the watershed area?*

A: Cameron Deacoff, Halifax RGM Environment and Energy Office presented the Draft Plan to this Board in September 2013, which provided an opportunity for input from this Board. Most of the current community (new) members were not at that meeting. Another meeting may be arranged.

Q: *Who provided input into the Study?*

A: Residents of the North Preston, East Preston, Lake Loon/Cherrybrook area were invited to the final public meeting about the PAWS on September 17, 2014. Residents had the opportunity to learn more about the study and ask questions about water protection measures for the area and next steps in the study. Comments on the draft final report were received until October 13, 2014.

Q: *Was there a final report where the communities were shown to have input?*

A: One of the recommendations was to acknowledge the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board and that it can provide recommendations to any planning exercise. Cameron could be invited back to present the Study's impacts the watershed and watersheds in general.

Action: Anna to contact Cameron Deacoff about presenting to the Board.

Anna

Q: *When permitted activities conducted in the watershed have a potential environmental impact, are such impacts considered before permits are issued?*

A: From Halifax Water's perspective, it depends on whether the activity is inside the Protected Watershed Area (PWA), which is regulated under provincial legislation, or whether it falls outside the PWA boundary. Halifax Water does not have jurisdiction over activities outside the regulated boundary area.

Q: *How can the Shubenacadie Canal be used for recreational purposes in a*

Action

drinking water supply watershed area? Why are those rules different from Lake Major's?

A: The Shubenacadie Canal system is not part of the Lake Major watershed. However, generally, water supply areas are managed according to scale of population use. Barry showed where the Lake Major watershed and the Shubenacadie watershed areas are: the Collin's Park water supply system, located on the Shubenacadie Canal has no provincial regulations associated with it, though there are some HRM policies and by-laws as described earlier. Also, the Collin's Park water supply source (Lake Fletcher) serves fewer than 100 people compared with the thousands who depend on the Lake Major water supply source. Collin's Park also has a more robust water treatment process so it can deal with the poorer water quality. If Lake Major were to have the same water quality problems as Lake Fletcher, then a water supply plant similar to Collin's Park would be required and would cost customers 10's of millions of dollars or more.

PRESENTATIONS CONCLUDED – BUSINESS MEETING:***1. Attendance and Introductions***

Introductions were conducted for newcomers' benefit.

5 (b) Swimming in Long Lake (moved up in agenda)**Background:**

The North Preston Ratepayers Association (NPRA) is interested in having a designated swimming area in Long Lake. The NPRA are under the impression that a study was done indicating it was alright to swim there now.

Request:

Could swimming be permitted in Long Lake by next summer?

Discussion:

Swimming inside the Lake Major watershed is restricted to within 800m of the Lake Major dam. Everywhere else in the PWA, including Long Lake, swimming is prohibited through provincial legislation. Halifax Water is unaware of any studies or changes to the regulations indicating it was OK to swim in Long Lake.

A number of years ago the community made a special request to Halifax Water, through a prior Board member, to allow a special Baptism to occur in Long Lake. Halifax granted the special request. The local detachment of the RCMP got involved for public safety and traffic control.

Long Lake runs into Lake Major. At one point, Long Lake was the potable water supply source for North Preston, which was why the regulations prohibited swimming there. When a new water line from the Lake Major system was extended into North Preston, the need to draw water from Long Lake was

eliminated. From past experiences in other watersheds, changes to regulations may take years and would need to go through a public consultation process. Other considerations include whether changes in legislation would include the whole watershed or only part of it.

The LMWAB agreed to start the process by arranging a meeting between the regulatory authorities and the NPRA regarding the NPRA's desire for a place for the community to swim during the warmer summer months.

Reid suggested that the NPRA consider the land around the North Preston reservoir, which is larger than Halifax Water needs. About a year and a half ago there was a community meeting, attended by Councillor David Hendsbee, HRM parkland staff, Halifax Water staff, Ron David (Lake Major North Preston Advisory Board representative at the time), and members of the NPRA to discuss options for community use of this land. If the NPRA and HRM staff were to come up with options and get back to Halifax Water, the offer still stands. Halifax Water is interested in resuming talks regarding a possible end use incorporating a community pool.

Action: Barry will arrange a meeting between Halifax Water and the NPRA to discuss options for swimming in the North Preston Community.

Action

Barry

2. Review of the Previous Minutes

Action Items were reviewed:

- **Invite HRM to present:** Paul Morgan presented –remove from list.
- **Barry to look into the wetlands coordinator:** will contact Krista Hilchey.
 - Background: This action item was generated from 2012 release of the Wetland Policy. Inside a PWA, a wetland has Special Status whereby no development is permitted. There is a wetland adjacent to the quarry located on the boundary of the PWA. The Board is looking for direction from NSE regarding whether anyone has considered the implications that a potential/possible expansion of the quarry may have to the adjacent wetland inside the PWA.
- **Arnold D. Johnson Award:**

Q: *Barry Geddes asked: Do any Board members have contacts within Nelson Whynder Elementary to drop off the information to help spread the word? The priority is for local African-Canadian communities. If no local candidates are identified, then other Nova Scotia African-Canadian communities are given the opportunity.*

A: The goal is to promote the bursary within the Nova Scotia African–Canadian communities to create work opportunities at home [Nova Scotia].

A suggestion was made to create a poster promoting the bursary and sending it to the Black Cultural Centre (BCC), the Black Education Association (BEA) and the

North Preston Community Centre (NPCC). Community Services is another avenue to spread the word.

Action: Spencer will get the word out to the BEA.

Action: Anna will create a poster of the of the Arnold D. Johnson Sr. Award piece promoted in the Lake Major Newsletter and circulate it to the members to post in their communities: the BCC, BEC, NPCC and to any other organizations that may help spread the word.

Action: Leave Arnold D. Johnson Sr. Award as an ongoing Agenda item.

- **Post Minutes on website:** Complete.
- **Proposed Highway Extension: Remove from Agenda until there is progress.**

Action: Julie Ernst requested the name of the contact for the Hwy 107 extension project.

- The project is sitting in the queue until the province gives the project the green light.
- Construction is estimated to take 24 months to complete.

Motion to approve the Minutes:

- April 23, 2015 Minutes approved with minor changes:
 - the Date in the Heading (change to April 23, 2015 not 2014)
 - Derrick Stoddard is a regret – did not attend the last meeting

Minutes were approved with changes:

- Spencer and Andrew seconded.
- Motion carried.

3. Business Arising From the Minutes

See Action Items reviewed in previous section of these Minutes.

4. Old Business:

a) Lake Major Newsletter:

- Suggestions for the next newsletter to be directed to Anna.
- Brenton Sparks to be the next member profile.
- February 2016 is the deadline for the next issue.
- Changes are required to the newsletter about to be circulated: the date for the community BBQ, the number who attended and a typo.

Action

Spencer

Anna

Anna/Barry

Barry

Action

Agenda items 4b) and c) were discussed previously in the Minutes (see review of Action Items beginning on page 10).

d) Protected Areas Update:

- Candidate Protected Areas (PA) within the watershed area have been identified.
- Barry showed candidate PAs on a map and parcels that Halifax Water and NSE PA agreed to swap. By swapping lands it will consolidate infant parcels (parcels that are part of a larger parcel) which otherwise would have left a checkerboard pattern and management issues for both parties.
- DNR and Halifax Water have agreed to the terms of sale through a verbal agreement though there are still negotiations to work through with solicitors, which will take some time. It has taken three years to get to this point. Once the land swaps are complete, DNR lands will be transferred to NSE's PA branch, which is responsible for managing PAs.
- The PA land package involves a three way land deal that falls under one agreement that includes Pockwock and Bennery Lakes as well as Lake Major. Pockwock's and Bennery's PA statuses will be established by the end of 2015, while Lake Major's will take place sometime in 2016.
- Change in land status means an extra layer of regulations over the existing watershed regulations.

Q: *Is hunting allowed in the watershed?*

A: Yes, although there are signs saying no hunting, they refer to areas where discharge of a firearm is prohibited due to proximity to the residential dwellings and/or water facilities. The [hunting and furharvesting regulations](#)¹ are such that:

“Under the Protection of Property Act, permission is required to hunt or trap on private land which is managed for agricultural crops, pasture, orchard, vineyard, commercial berry production, garden, Christmas tree production, tree plantation, lawn, or a golf course; or woodlands in the immediate area of an active forest products harvesting operation. On other private lands such as forests, brush or barren lands, marsh and bogs, permission is not required, provided that no hunting, trapping, or discharge of weapons may occur within the distances prohibited in regulations pursuant to the Wildlife Act from schools, dwellings or other features specified in regulations, except with the permission of the owner or occupier...”

...such that no person shall at any time:

- hunt, take or kill, or attempt to hunt, take or kill wildlife with a weapon or discharge a weapon **within 804 m of a school;**

¹ 2015 Nova Scotia Hunting and Furharvesting: Summary of Regulations. Website accessed October 20, 2015 at: http://novascotia.ca/natr/hunt/pdf/Hunting_Summary_2015.pdf

Action

- discharge a firearm loaded with a rifle cartridge, single ball, or slug **within 402 m** of a dwelling, playground, golf course, athletic field, woods operation, place of business, agricultural building, or public building other than a school;
- discharge a shotgun loaded with shot, a crossbow or a bow **within 182 m** of a dwelling, playground, golf course, athletic field, woods operation, place of business, agricultural building, or public building other than a school;
- hunt, take or kill, or attempt to hunt, take or kill wildlife that is **within 182 m** of a dwelling, playground, golf course, athletic field, woods operation, place of business, agricultural building, or public building other than a school.

5. New Business:

a) Water Quality Results Demonstration – Presented by Barry Geddes:

- In 2008-2009 to get the desired representation of water quality changes, water quality sampling frequency was increased from quarterly to monthly.
- Very recent observations show an interesting upward trend of pH levels (less acidic) in the water across North America.
- Further, this upward trend of pH levels in water corresponds to a decrease in sulphur (SO₂) emissions since 2003.
- Research is being conducted to test the theory that water treatment plants are not working as intended when they were first built, at a time when pH was trending downwards.
- Many water treatment plants were built during heavy industrialization (post WWII) when Sulphur (SO₂) emissions were high. In theory, water treatment processes were designed for a downward-trending type of raw water quality. With recent (last 10yrs) reductions in SO₂ emissions, water quality is trending upwards. It is believed that the recent upward shift in water quality and the more stringent regulations since treatment plants were first built are creating a negative impact on water treatment plant capabilities.

Q: *What are the implications to the plant?*

A: There is no risk to public health. Halifax Water only wants to improve plant efficiencies. Halifax Water has hired CBCL, industry leaders in assessing and evaluating the function of water treatment plants, to assess what can be done to help our plants make a better product more efficiently.

- Halifax Water's Source Water sampling program provides a baseline and a means of continuous monitoring to assess changes in water quality trends from persistent activities.

Action

- Conducting water sampling helps to identify and understand problems and how or whether they might be rectified. Before we sampled we did not know where contamination sources were coming from.
- For example Halifax Water was able to demonstrate to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) and HRM Transportation that chloride levels in the Chain Lakes watershed during winter road maintenance programs exceeded the CCME guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life. By meeting with NSTIR and HRM it was found that some of the routes within the watershed were being double-salted when salt trucks from both agencies crossed over the same area. The practice of doubling-up salt applications was subsequently curbed.

Q: *What are some of the other potential water contaminants e.g., arsenic and mercury?*

A: The Lake Major watershed is a sub-watershed of the Little Salmon River watershed. The Montague Gold Mines area, contained within the Lake Major watershed is a significant gold mining district so samples are collected at tributaries running through this area. Although the samples show higher levels of arsenic in that area than in other areas, the levels are greatly reduced – to a non-detectable limit – once the tributaries reach Lake Major and are diluted in the lake water. However, it is in Halifax Water's best interest to ensure minimal disturbance of the land in these areas to avoid stirring up the minerals that are currently lying dormant in the soil.

Q: *What is the impact on an area based on past historical and current land use activities; e.g., mining?*

A: If we disturb such areas it could disturb any settled contaminants. Therefore, recognizing impacts is paramount. Sampling helps to determine what those impacts might be and whether they are being disturbed. We also monitor areas where there is the potential for a spill and other known risks.

6. Landowner Questions:

Q: *Landowners are concerned about whether the lake level will rise when the Lake Major Dam is replaced.*

A: Once it is determined how high the water levels should be for the new dam, the consultation process will begin. Expect that the water level will rise to approximately 0.5m – which will probably be the highest water level.

Q: *Has there been any development in the watershed area in 2015?*

A: The only development inside the watershed area for 2015 was a communications tower which was erected at the water treatment plant and contained within the parking lot.

7. Municipal Development Update

Nothing to report

Action**8. Election of Officers – September 2016**

- This item is being left on the agenda to remind us when it is due for consideration.
- The Terms of Reference were provided to the Board to inform them of the working policies of the Board.

9. Next Meeting Date:

- March 10 (prior to March Break); March 24 proposed snow date.

10. Meeting adjourned:

4:30 p.m.

Brenton Sparks – Chair

Reid Campbell – Vice Chair

Barry Geddes – Secretary