



## POCKWOCK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2015

10:00 am

2 Park Avenue, Lower Sackville  
Halifax Water Conference Room



### Attendance:

Barry Geddes, Watershed Manager ..... Halifax Water  
Rachel Gilbert, Manager of Planning Services ..... Municipality of East Hants  
Dawn MacNeill, Watershed Planner ..... Nova Scotia Environment  
Anna McCarron, Source Water Planner ..... Halifax Water  
Cyril McDonald, Community Resident ..... Mount Uniacke  
Tim O'Brien, Crown Forester ..... Department of Natural Resources

### Guests:

Jeff Knapp, Manager, Energy Efficiency ..... Halifax Water  
John MacNeil, Registrar, Geoscience and Mines Branch ..... Department of Natural Resources  
Heather Olivella, Protected Areas ..... Nova Scotia Environment  
Kevin Warner, Senior Planner ..... Halifax

### Regrets:

Jeff Brown, Forestry Technician ..... Department of Natural Resources  
Jillanna Brown, P. Eng. .... Nova Scotia Environment  
Reid Campbell, P. Eng., Director of Water Services ..... Halifax Water  
Peter Flinn, Supervisor, J.D. Kline WS Plant ..... Halifax Water  
John Woodford (Rachel Gilbert resumed position on Commit.) ..... Municipality of East Hants

### **1. Attendance / Introductions:**

#### Meeting called to order by Barry Geddes, Chair.

- Round table introductions were conducted to acquaint new members:
  - Heather Olivella replaced Peter Bush who moved to DNR.
- Regrets were expressed (listed above).
- Quorum noted.
- Anna and Barry distributed copies of:
  - a. Meeting Agenda
  - b. DRAFT September 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes
  - c. 2015 Pockwock Annual Source Water Protection Report.
  - d. Map of Pockwock Watershed
- The following Agenda additions were requested under New Business:
  - a. "K" Class Roads;
  - b. Terms of Reference Change Request; and
  - c. Education Update

### **2. Old Business:**

**Review of September 18, 2014 Minutes and Action Items (see table on next page):**

### **Action**

Item #	Action Items	Delegate	Date Issued	Current Status
1	Install watershed signs. Inform MEH when signs are about to be installed.	Barry	Sept. 20, 2012	Action required.
2	Bell Park Development Association to begin interpretive signage discussions. Cyril, Vice Chair of BP Committee will call a meeting to discuss. <b>Update: Meeting held, all were in favour to support this initiative.</b>	Cyril / Barry	March 7, 2013 <b>Update: March 5, 2015</b>	Action required
3	Ensure first responders (Mount Uniacke Volunteer Fire Department (MUVFD)) are aware of the watershed area and of policy. <b>Update: MUVFD has key to gates.</b>	Barry / Anna	March 7, 2013 <b>Update: March 5, 2015</b>	Complete
4	Confirm that copies of FFWP Policy are located at local fire departments. <b>Update: Barry confirmed with MUVFD that they were aware of the provincial FFWP.</b> Jeff to confirm whether policies were provided to DNR staff.	Jeff	March 7, 2013 <b>Update: March 5, 2015</b>	Action required
5	Provide opportunities for watershed awareness education activities.	All	March 7, 2013	Ongoing
6	<i>Mineral Resources Act</i> Presentation	Barry / John MacNeil	Oct. 8, 2013	Completed March 5, 2015
7	Tree planting event for Mount Uniacke Sea Cadets. DNR to provide trees and planting site. <b>Update: These tree planting activities are outside of the watershed area.</b>	DNR / Cyril	March 6, 2014 <b>Update: March 5, 2015</b>	Remove from agenda
8	Determine who is responsible for enforcement of regulations pertaining to each section of the watershed; e.g., protected water area versus non-protected water area. <b>Update: Depends on who is responsible for enforcing the regulations pertaining to each section of the watershed; e.g. PWA vs. non-PWA.</b> New enforcement officer pending.	Jeff / Cyril	March 6, 2014 <b>Update: March 2015</b>	Remove from action item
9	Halifax Water designating special constables to enforce PWA regulations. <b>Update: Halifax Water to attend special constable training date; tentatively November 2015.</b>	Barry/Reid	March 6, 2014 <b>Update: March 5, 2015</b>	Pending official appointment
10	Post approved September 18, 2014 Minutes on website.	Anna	March 5, 2015	Complete

11	Post on SWP website: accomplishment of Halifax Water obtaining environmental certification under the CSAZ804-08 Small Woodlot Management Program (WMP) in April 2012, making Halifax Water fully compliant and the first certified water utility in Atlantic Canada under the designation.	Anna / Barry	March 6, 2014	Complete
12	Hold Pockwock Protected Areas public meeting for Mount Uniacke Community.	Heather (previously Peter Bush)	March 6, 2014	<b>Action Required</b>
13	Provide information regarding Protected Areas sites and the impact to community in local newsletter.	Heather (Previously Peter Bush)/ Cyril	March 6, 2014	<b>Action Required</b>
14	Halifax Water to supply NSE (Jillanna Brown) with geosmin data to date.	Barry Geddes	March 6, 2014	Complete
15	Update map circulated at March 6, 2014 for future meetings to include landowners, watershed boundaries, sample points, geology, roads and tracks.	Anna	March 6, 2014	Complete
16	John Woodford to conduct an information meeting regarding the MEH Municipal Planning Strategy review process. <b>Update: See Item #6: Municipal Planning Update on page 5.</b>	John/Rachel	March 6, 2014 Update: March 5, 2015	Complete
17	Next MEH newsletter – November or December. Anna to contact John Woodford regarding submission content with respect to the laws describing what is allowed and/or not inside the PWA. <b>Update: Missed winter newsletter; prepare for fall 2015 Newsletter.</b>	Anna	Sept. 18, 2014 <b>Update: March 5, 2015</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
18	Peter (now Heather) will send links to Cyril regarding Protected Areas; trying to find amenable time to do this.	Heather Olivella (from Peter Bush)	Sept. 18, 2014	<b>Action Required</b>
19	Acquire report from Steve Doucette of NSE regarding SOTs for a suspected auto repair business on Hwy. #1, Mount Uniacke. <b>Update: NSE inspector visited site, small oil patch observed in driveway. No violations observed. Homeowner was provided with information regarding where to dispose of the contaminated oil in his driveway.</b>	Jillanna Brown	Sept. 18, 2015 <b>Update: March 5, 2015</b>	Complete
20	Anna and John to discuss educational opportunity using groundwater model.	Anna/John	Sept. 18, 2014	<b>Action required</b>
21	Make Motion to add to next Agenda: add Protected Areas landowner as Committee member.	Heather Olivella	Sept. 18, 2014	<b>Action Required</b>
22	Show a water quality trend line at next meeting	Anna	Sept. 18, 2014	Complete

<p><b>3. Business Arising from March 5, 2015 Minutes:</b></p> <p>See Action Item Updates in table above.</p> <p><b>Action: Post approved September 18, 2014 Minutes on website.</b></p> <p><b>4. Other Business:</b></p> <p><u>Wind Turbine Update –Jeff Knapp</u></p> <p><i>Jeff provided a PowerPoint presentation to the members which included:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Turbine Project started March 2013.</li> <li>• Project Commissioned November 2013 – 2 weeks behind schedule due to partial tower damage during delivery. Sent tower to Quebec to be fixed.</li> <li>• No blasting, all rock removal was completed using an excavator and mounted hydraulic hammer drill.</li> <li>• Environmental impact minimal (within acceptable limits as identified in the Environmental Assessment report). Kept to tower sites footprint.</li> <li>• Completed blade signing in fall of 2014 with local Pockwock community members attending.</li> <li>• Road was widened and improved; culverts were installed to improve drainage.</li> <li>• Overall, excellent project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community liaison committee was very supportive.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pockwock Wind Farm website <a href="http://www.pockwockwindfarm.ca/">www.pockwockwindfarm.ca/</a></li> </ul> <p><u>Proposed Protected Areas Update – Heather Olivella/Barry Geddes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement in principle reached between Halifax Water and NSE.</li> <li>• Legal paperwork to be completed over 2015.</li> <li>• Final approval target date set December 31, 2015.</li> </ul> <p><u>Forest Management Update – Barry Geddes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only activity to report for 2014 was a pre-commercial thinning operation on 46.6 ha.</li> <li>• Emergency road repairs completed due to culvert wash out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ new cross drain installed on west side access road;</li> <li>○ no water course impacted, and</li> <li>○ no threat to the water supply.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Geosmin Update – Barry Geddes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geosmin levels dropped below detection limit (&lt;3ug/L) in September 2014 and remain there to date.</li> </ul> <p><u>Hwy #1 auto repair compliant.</u> –Barry Geddes</p>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Action #19 above.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. New Business:</b></p> <p><u>Terms of Reference (ToR)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee agrees with recommendation by member that no changes be made to the ToR until Protected Areas are resolved.</li> </ul> <p><u>Mount Uniacke Aggregate Quarry Proposal – Barry Geddes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halifax Water was contacted by a Mount Uniacke resident concerned about an aggregate quarry proposed in the old Mount Uniacke Gold Mines area. The resident is concerned that quarry operations could re-expose old mine tailings and impact water quality.</li> <li>• The location is outside of the Pockwock watershed.</li> <li>• The Committee shared the resident’s concern, but as it is outside of the watershed area; it is more appropriate for NSE to investigate.</li> <li>• John MacNeil of MNR advised that the approval to operate falls under Nova Scotia Environment.</li> </ul> <p><u>Pockwock Annual Source Water Protection Report – Barry Geddes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual SWP plan reviewed.</li> <li>• Watershed signage in the Mount Uniacke area is a priority for 2015.</li> <li>• Water quality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trend lines of water quality for sample points discussed using computer based programs.</li> <li>○ Water samples from PG5 point continues to be poorest water quality due to local geology, development in the West Lake area and Hwy #1 runoff.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>6. Landowner Q&amp;A:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No questions</b></li> </ul> <p><u>Municipal Planning Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MEH Regional Plan Review underway.</li> <li>• Mount Uniacke Business Park study market study has begun to determine what businesses are suitable for the Business Park.</li> <li>• Rachel provided background paper Plan Review Background Paper: Potable Water.</li> <li>• No permits were issued in the Mount Uniacke area of the Pockwock watershed for 2014.</li> </ul> <p><b>7. Mining Presentation (in conjunction with Bennery Lake Watershed Management Committee Meeting) led by John MacNeil, Registrar with DNR Geoscience and Mines Branch.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p>
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Mineral Resources Act under review:

- February 4, 2015 deadline for comments to be considered in the review of the new *Mineral Resources Act (MRA)*.
- Halifax Water submitted comments.

DNR Online Interactive Minerals Map (NovaROC:

<http://novaroc.novascotia.ca/novaroc/page/flex/index.html?keepSyncToken=keepSyncToken&ts=1442338327489> );

- Very useful and user friendly;
- up-to-date claims are posted on this map;
- municipal water supply boundaries are in line with DNR's;
- moving to digital formatting helped synchronize the department's data; and
- mapping in real time provides hands-on way to know the current situation regarding mine leases and exploration.

Exploration:

- exploration activity is mostly research and development;
- exploration licenses costs \$10 and are valid for one year;
  - gives rights to explore and to apply for a lease;
  - license holder has to do recognized geoscience work in the area, which is good for information purposes for the government and others because it provides a better understanding of the mineral geology of province; e.g., acid drainage rock;
  - knowing the geology is a benefit to the landowner / keeper (e.g., to a water utility); and
- \$3 – 20 Million is generated annually through exploration in NS; and
- under the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act* –a Protected Area is not open for staking.

Mineral Lease:

- Mineral Rights are held by the Crown;
- applications are necessary to obtain a mineral lease;
- in advance of drilling or trenching, the party needs to give notice to DNR– failure to do so could result in monetary penalties;
- in order to move forward – need to provide an Environmental Assessment and Industrial Approval;
  - one-window process – brings together all regulators that are impacted by the proposal;
  - Federal counterparts may say it meets/needs a federal assessment;
  - usually need to provide everyone with more information;
  - all impacts to the area need to be identified and addressed;
  - techniques improve, and standards and thresholds change for those required

**Action**

<p>to mitigate impacts; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ an application does not require landowner notification.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually prospectors enter into a partnership because it is expensive to do exploration and then get a lease for millions of dollars for assessment and community engagement work.</li> <li>• A market-driven business; therefore, the market may fall out of the metal. A mine could be economical for 2 grams/ton of rock, but you need a certain size for it to be worthwhile.</li> <li>• While staked, an application is not permitted for 90 days.</li> </ul> <p><u>Landowner Rights:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The prospector is required to notify the landowner.</li> <li>• In terms of a municipal water supply area, the prospector must notify DNR.</li> <li>• While it is recommended that the prospector contact the utility, it is not required. <i>(Halifax Water as part of the MRA review recommended that the water utilities be consulted as a stakeholder).</i></li> <li>• The mining industry has learned that it is in their best interest to work with the landowner and other stakeholders; landowners may refuse, but prospectors can appeal to the Minister for access.</li> <li>• Although not a common practice in Nova Scotia, land can be expropriated for mining but government must get involved.</li> <li>• If minerals are found, the landowner agrees and market conditions allow, the following steps need to be followed to establish a mine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ apply for a mine lease;</li> <li>○ complete Environmental Assessment (EA);</li> <li>○ engage in public/stakeholder open house/information sessions;</li> <li>○ develop a plan; and</li> <li>○ provide security hold back to ensure there are funds available for mine remediation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Committee is tasked to know and to find out what's going on.</li> </ul> <p><b>8. Next Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 17, 2015 10:00 a.m.</li> <li>• Location – 2 Park Ave., Lower Sackville, Halifax Water Office</li> </ul> <p><b>9. Adjournment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>12:40 p.m.</b></li> </ul> <p>Barry Geddes – Chair  Tim O'Brien – Vice Chair  Anna McCarron –Secretary</p>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p>
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