

FRENCH RIVER SOURCE WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the French River Source Water Protection Committee was held at the Tatamagouche Fire Hall on August 19, 2019 at 10:00 am.

Present: Councillor Mike Gregory, Chair
Mayor Christine Blair
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart
Greg Watson, Citizen Rep
Doug Bastow, North Shore River Restoration Group
Kim Baldwin, Citizen Rep
Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
Michael Allen, Nova Scotia Environment (Watershed Planner)

Regrets: Perry Swan, Village Commission Rep

Approval of Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am

Greg Watson requested that the following item be added to the agenda:

Item 4b: Petition from Residents

Agenda was approved with the suggested amendment.

Moved by Greg Watson, Seconded by Mayor Blair.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meeting of June 24, 2019 were approved.

Moved by Mayor Blair, Seconded by Doug Bastow.

Business Arising:

- Please remove Garth Demont from circulation list as he has now retired
- There has still been no response from the Province regarding the Mayor's May 3rd letter to Energy and Mines
- A request for proposals for capping of the uncapped drill hole was circulated by the Province to Michelle Newell and Crawford Macpherson. No update has been provided on tendering, award and construction.

Review of Survey Results: Michelle Newell reviewed the Survey results and the following discussion took place:

- The option of compiling the survey results based on a per-owner basis instead of a per-lot basis was discussed. Concerns were raised that some owners had received multiple surveys for multiple lots, while others had not. Michelle Newell to review
- The Committee discussed whether more public education was required, or if the survey results needed to be compiled in a different way
- Staff noted that there will always be general opposition to regulations. Greg Watson added that people often seek compensation when their land is regulated

- The survey results showed that most people are in support of the components within the draft regulations (75% roughly), but yet only 50% of the respondents are in favour of implementing regulations
- Staff noted that the Committee needs to review its objectives and experience and decide if the approach is reasonable or if the burden is unfair.
- Proposed items within the draft regulations which are not already covered by provincial legislation include:
 - Prohibition of mining
 - Prohibition of landfills
 - Development
 - Buffer Strips (except commercial forestry)
 - Farming is currently only a best management practice. It was noted that animals in a water course are not regulated by the province unless there is damage to the watercourse
- Recent municipal By-law relates to asbestos disposal only, and not all landfills. Draft regulations would only deal with new landfills
- Existing pits and quarries would not be affected
- Commercial pesticide spraying requires a Nova Scotia Environment permit (the Municipality would also receive notice that this permit was granted)
- Greg Watson reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Committee and felt that perhaps the Committee's objectives need to be clarified, in terms of water quality and the best interest of watershed owners.

Petition from Residents

Greg Watson presented the interim results of a petition being circulated by some of the residents. The petition will be circulated until September 15th and discussed further at the next meeting. Michelle Newell expressed concerns with the lack of information in the petition document, and the door-to-door approach being used.

Next Steps

The Committee will review the draft regulations and survey results at the next meeting and must decide which regulations are palatable and which are not. Additional public meetings are not warranted at this time.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 18, 2019 at 10:00am. Location to be confirmed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Moved by Greg Watson

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Newell