

FRENCH RIVER SOURCE WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the French River Source Water Protection Committee was held at the Tatamagouche Library on January 15, 2019 at 10:30 am.

Present: Councillor Mike Gregory, Chair
Mayor Christine Blair (arrived at 10:45am)
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart
Kim Baldwin, Citizen Rep
Doug Bastow, North Shore River Restoration Group
Greg Watson, 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
Garth Demont, Department of Natural Resources

Approval of Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 10:40 am.

The agenda was approved.

Moved by Doug Bastow, Seconded by Kim Baldwin.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meeting of December 13, 2018 were approved.

Moved by Kim Baldwin, Seconded by Doug Bastow.

Business Arising: Councillor Gregory contacted Raymond Campbell regarding his gravel pit in the watershed area which isn't used very often, maybe once or twice per year for logging roads.

Forestry Code of Practice: Crawford Macpherson circulated a copy of the Forest Code of Practice, Working Paper, as issued by Nova Scotia Natural Resources (Paper FOR 2008-1). Greg Watson gave a general overview of the document. The code is mandatory on Crown land but is only a guideline on private land. It uses landscape level planning. G. Watson recommended pulling out useful sections but not implementing the entire code of practice within the watershed.

The group discussed possibly providing incentives for having certified individuals prepare ecosystems-based management plans for forestry activities within the watershed area. G. Watson estimates the cost of these plans at \$25/hectare. We could also consider requiring management plans over certain size parcels. The province does certifications and staff from Natural Resources (such as Peter Nielly) could be a good source of information. G. Watson to provide information to C. Macpherson on the PTA certification program through the province. Policing of any firm requirements will be a challenge.

C. Macpherson and G. Watson noted that an education and outreach-based approach would be best. We could provide lists of certified individuals who can prepare ecosystem-based plans

or could conduct regular workshops. M. Allen noted that the education route is a common approach for larger watershed plans.

G. Watson to review the Code of Practice in more detail and to suggest which portions could be adopted within the watershed. C. Macpherson will update the proposed watershed designation documents to reference the Forestry Code of Practice as a guide.

Agricultural Best Management Practices:

C. Macpherson circulated a document entitled 'A Guide to Agricultural Best Management Practices Within Municipal Drinking Water Supply Areas in Nova Scotia', as issued by the Province in 2017. This document is currently being updated by Nova Scotia Environment and a new version is expected in 2019. The document was generally discussed. Recommended setback from rivers for manure storage and active fields is 100 metres. The draft document for the designation of the watershed includes a reference to these Best Management Practices.

Draft Document – Designation, Protected Watershed:

The latest draft of the document was reviewed and changes from December were highlighted. M. Allen to provide wording on the definition of a water works operation. The term 'encourage' will be removed from the document, as it relates to farm plans, as this is a legal document. The Committee should focus on educating watershed users in this area.

There is more work to be done in the sections relating to agriculture and forestry. Some considerations could include applying wildlife buffers to forestry activities larger than 3 hectares, allowing only whole tree logging or logging on frozen ground near waterways, preventing clear cutting, requiring hand cutting in certain areas, or establishing forestry setbacks. M. Allen to review wording in other designated protected water areas in relation to forestry, for discussion at next meeting.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2019 at 10:30 am at the Tatamagouche Library.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08pm.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Stewart

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Newell