

## 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 21, 2018 at 10:00 am.

- Present:** Councillor Mike Gregory, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Bill Masters  
Greg Watson, Citizen Rep  
Perry Swan, Village Commission Rep  
Doug Bastow, North Shore River Restoration Group  
Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development  
Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works  
Michael Allen, Nova Scotia Environment (Watershed Planner)
- Regrets:** Garth Demont, Department of Natural Resources  
Kim Baldwin, Citizen Rep  
Mayor Christine Blair
- Approval of Agenda:** The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am.  
The agenda was approved with one addition – a presentation by the SuNNS group was added as item 4b.  
Motion by Deputy Mayor Masters, Seconded by Greg Watson.
- Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the meeting of June 8, 2018 were approved, moved by Deputy Mayor Masters, Seconded by Doug Bastow.
- Update – Mineral Exploration, Request for Proposals:** M. Newell provided the following updates:
- Staff sought feedback from DFO on their involvement with any exploration or mining activities. They would only be involved through either a watercourse alteration request or a formal environmental assessment. They would not prohibit exploration or mining at this juncture.
  - Staff have obtained the DNR Data from their field work – available to committee members upon request.
  - Staff sought feedback from DNR on what exploration activities would look like. DNR suspects this will include a combination of more detailed geological mapping, prospecting, and geochemical surveys, and airborne and ground geophysics followed up by trenching and/or drilling of the targets identified by these surveys.
  - DNR's Borehole map was forwarded to G. Watson, per his request.
  - DNR's presentation to Council was forwarded to G. Watson, per his request.
  - SuNNS' presentation from last meeting circulated to all committee members.
  - Current schedule for RFP: release of draft in September for public review and comment, release of final RFP in October. Energy and Mines expects to issue an exploration permit this calendar year.

## **Designation of Protected Water Area**

The committee requested that DNR provide a final copy of the RFP before it is formally released, to ensure that comments have been addressed.

G. Watson noted that, based on discussions with the public, one in twenty residents appear to support gold mining with the majority not being in favour. G. Watson put the following motions on the floor:

o “That the Committee recommends that Council proceed immediately with the process for formal designation of the watershed as a protected water area under section 106 of the environment act”, and,

Moved by Greg Watson, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Masters. Motion carried unanimously.

o “That the Committee recommends to Council that a letter be forwarded to the local MLA, the Minister of Energy and Mines, and Nova Scotia Environment, requesting a delay in the issuance of the request for proposals for mineral exploration rights until such time as the designation process is complete”.

Moved by Greg Watson, Seconded by Doug Bastow. Motion carried unanimously.

M. Newell and M. Allen provided a general overview of the designation process, which is expected to take at least a year.

The general steps for designation under the environment act are as follows:

1. Define the protection boundary
2. Draft proposed regulations for the protected water area – can include prohibition or controls on specific activities. NS Environment can assist with this process, and provide feedback
3. Council to approve proposed regulations and associated boundary
4. Public consultation
5. Formal submission of request for designation to Minister of the Environment
6. Review of request by the province

Council would need to approve proceeding with the designation before any of these activities are carried out.

## **SuNNS Group**

Gregor Wilson spoke on behalf of the SuNNS group and expressed sincere thanks to the source water protection committee for their support of the protected water designation. He noted that 500 people had signed a petition opposing mining within the watershed area. He questioned the province’s urgency to proceed with mining in the Tatamagouche area where there

are a number of other active mines in the province. He also noted that the SuNNS group are meeting with the Minister of Energy and Mines on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Wilson also provided information materials, which are attached.

**Next Meeting:**

Next meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Moved by: Greg Watson, Seconded by Doug Bastow.



Michelle Newell