

FRENCH RIVER SOURCE WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the French River Source Water Protection Committee was held at the Tatamagouche Fire Hall on November 15, 2018 at 10:30 am.

- Present:** Councillor Mike Gregory, Chair
Mayor Christine Blair
Deputy Mayor, Geoff Stewart
Greg Watson, Citizen Rep
Kim Baldwin, Citizen Rep
Perry Swan, Village Commission Rep
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
Doug Bastow, North Shore River Restoration Group
- Approval of Agenda:** The meeting was called to order at 10:45 am.

The agenda was approved.

Moved by Mayor Blair, Seconded by Kim Baldwin.
- Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the meeting of October 10, 2018 were approved with one small change, that under 'Meeting with Energy and Mines', the number of registered watersheds be changed from 28 to 26.

Moved by Greg Watson, Seconded by Perry Swan.
- Business Arising:**
- No movement from Northern Pulp regarding their proposed transfer of lands to the conservancy. Only rumours at this point.
 - The draft exploration RFP from Energy and Mines has not yet been issued, not sure if/when it will be issued. There is no new information at this point.
 - G. Watson advised that there is no director or update on the Lahey Forestry Report.
- Introductions** Introductions for new Deputy Mayor were made and a brief overview of the Committee activities to date was provided.
- Designation of Protected Water Area:** C. Macpherson provided an overview of the Province's sample regulations for designated watersheds. These can be found in the Province's document entitled 'Designation of a Protected Water Area'. Activities which may be regulated include: home heating oil storage, contaminant storage, septic systems, forestry, watercourse alterations, waste disposal, agriculture, boating/fishing/swimming, burning, biocides.

Since existing forestry regulations apply only to commercial activities and not private land owners, the Committee could consider implementing watercourse setbacks for forestry activities. G. Watson suggested that it may be worthwhile for the

Committee to consider incorporating some of the recommendations of the Code of Forest Practice.

Setbacks could also be established for farming and agricultural activities, including both crop and livestock practices.

With regards to burning, and reducing forest fire risks, the Committee could consider restricting open fires between April and September.

Spraying is a provincially regulated practice in most instances, however at a minimum the Committee could consider requiring all spraying to be done via a certified company.

The Committee noted that some direct withdrawals from the river have been observed and M. Allen noted that a withdrawal approval is not required for volumes under 22,000 litres. The Committee may consider prohibiting direct withdrawals from the watershed.

M. Allen noted that any regulations put forward for consideration by the Province must be supported by the risks identified in the Source Water Protection Plan.

C. Macpherson provided a summary of his jurisdictional review of other designated watersheds in the Province. There are a range of options available for consideration in terms of mining, starting with a simple notification, to complete prohibition.

The Committee wishes to proceed based on a prohibition of mining activities but would consider allowing small pits and quarries. There are approximately 4 existing pits/quarries within the watershed area which must be considered.

(P. Swan left the meeting at 11:24 am)

The Committee directed staff to draft regulations for the proposed designation, to include mining as well as other activities such as forestry and farming. The draft will be reviewed at the next meeting, after which they would be reviewed by the solicitor for Nova Scotia Environment. Next steps would be public consultation and approval by Council.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2018 at 10:30 am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 am.

Moved by: Kim Baldwin.



Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Newell