

## FRENCH RIVER SOURCE WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the French River Source Water Protection Committee was held at the Tatamagouche Fire Hall on October 10, 2018 at 10:30 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)  
Kim Baldwin, Citizen Rep
- Regrets:** Garth Demont, Department of Natural Resources  
Mayor Christine Blair – **arrived at 10:56 am**
- Approval of Agenda:** The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am.  
  
The agenda was approved.  
Moved by Deputy Mayor Masters, Seconded by Doug Bastow.
- Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the meeting of June 8, 2018 were approved.  
Moved by Doug Bastow, Seconded by Kim Baldwin.
- Business Arising:**
- Council approved the motion to proceed with protected area designation
  - The Dr. Cook property has been turned over to the Conservancy of Canada (all within the watershed). Lands owned by the Conservancy are not exempt from mining activities. G. Watson noted that Northern Pulp owns property in the watershed and may be making a donation to the Conservancy as well.
- Updates  
Designation of Protected  
Water Area:**
- Michael Allen confirmed that NSE and staff will provide support throughout the process.
  - The Committee agreed to consider the entire watershed boundary upstream of the water plant intake as part of the designation process. M. Allen noted that, although it is best to have a legal survey, that would be a large job, and so a good GIS map would be sufficient.
  - If the designation process is successful, a signage program for the trails will be needed.
  - The Committee will need to decide next which activities they want to control and/or restrict as part of the designation application.
  - Michael Allen also suggested that the Committee should include any risks identified in the source water protection plan. The risks outlined in the plan may need updating as

part of this process. Any mining moving forward would have to undergo a federal EA.

- The Committee agreed that the designation should prohibit any mining and related activities and no refining or processing should occur in the watershed area.
- Any existing pits and quarries in the watershed area could be affected and should be identified as part of the process.
- Greg Watson noted that the move to designate the watershed is an important way to illustrate that the Committee has done all it can to protect the resource.

### **Meeting with Energy and Mines:**

Deputy Mayor Masters provided a summary of the meeting with Energy and Mines (EM) the week prior. The following is a recap of that meeting:

- The meeting was requested by the Province once they discovered that the Committee is proceeding with designation.
- The Province is looking for any suggestions that could make the public consultation process work more efficiently moving forward.
- The Deputy Minister and Executive Director were originally attempting to be open and engage the community for buy-in opportunities, but this resulted in a lot of opposition.
- While they are doing everything possible to allow mining to happen safely, they recognize and understand the Committee's position of doing everything we can to protect the water supply. They noted that mining is already happening in existing watershed areas.
- M. Allen noted that there are approximately 26 designated/protected watersheds in the province, and 7 of them prohibit mining, while 4 of them restrict mining.
- EM expects a draft of the exploration RFP to be ready by November 5<sup>th</sup>. They've committed that the RFP will require independent oversight of exploration activities within the watershed area.

### **Going Forward:**

The following are discussion notes and ideas moving forward:

- The Committee has decided that a prohibition on mining should be proposed, and not a restriction to activities.
- Can also consider prohibition or restrictions to other watershed activities.
- C Macpherson noted that the following activities could be considered as risks/items of concerns: farming (there are currently 6 cattle farmers in the watershed area), septic

fields, ATV/motorized vehicles crossing watercourses, sedimentation/pollutants, trucking companies, forestry.

- G. Watson noted that fracking should be addressed in any regulations as well. The Committee could consider a prohibition on hydrocarbon extraction or production as well.
- M. Allen will forward a summary of sample regulations relating to pits/mines to M. Newell.
- G. Watson indicated there may be upcoming changes to forestry regulations pending the outcome on the Lahey Report on Forestry.
- The Committee directed staff to come back with a review of the existing protected water areas, and to present proposed clauses and regulations for the Committee to consider.
- The Committee could consider inviting forestry people to the next meeting.
- The designation process will eventually require meetings with various stakeholder groups within the watershed area.

**Next Meeting:**

Next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2018 at 10:30 am

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 am.

Moved by: Kim Baldwin.



Minutes Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Newell