

Timeline Summary of the French River Source Water Protection Plan

- **September 14, 2005** – French River Watershed Steering Committee meets for the first time to review Provincial requirements, background material, and risk identification
- **January 23, 2006** – French River Watershed Steering Committee meets continuing the discussion around Risk Identification
- **May 25, 2006** – French River Watershed Steering Committee meets to finalize priority list of threats to water quality, determine a plan of action for dealing with priority threats and discuss Water sampling partnership
- **September 26, 2006** – French River Watershed Steering Committee meets to review the draft plan, discuss implementation of plan (i.e. logo and fencing of agricultural fields), and update on new treatment plant
- **October 16, 2013** – French River Source Water Protection Committee meets consisting of: Bill Masters, Mike Gregory, Allan Bonnyman, Jim Baird, Greg Watson, Michelle Newell, Crawford MacPherson, David Blair, Charlotte Sullivan
 - The French River Watershed Source Water Management Plan (SWMP) was prepared in January 2007 to come into compliance with regulatory approvals
- **June 18, 2014** – French River Source Water Protection Committee meets consisting of: Mike Gregory, Bob Taylor, Greg Watson, Allan Bonnyman, David Blair, Mark Langille, Mike Forbes, Michelle Newell, Crawford MacPherson
 - The committee reviewed the most current watershed mapping and discussed current land uses and potential risks.
 - The Committee discussed whether the County should implement and/or subsidize a program for the regular pumping of septic tanks
 - The Committee discussed the use of ATVs within the watershed, and suggested possibly contact some of the local clubs to inform them of the water shed boundary
 - The Committee discussed the draft pamphlet to be distributed to water system users
 - The committee discussed having signs at all major water crossing referencing 911 in the event of any spills
 - The Committee suggested monitoring for fecal bacteria at various location within the watershed
 - Some members expressed concern with the potential for rare earth mining within the watershed area. David Blair suggested that he could arrange for a DNR geologist to attend the next meeting
- **October 19, 2015** - French River Source Water Protection Committee meets consisting of: Mike Gregory, Bob Taylor, Bill Masters, Greg Watson, Allan Bonnyman, Jim Baird, Michelle Newell, David Blair, Josh Blakeney, Charlotte Sullivan
 - The Committee reviewed the watershed map, with no major changes in use or risks being identified.

- The committee also discussed the blue green algae issues in Mattatall Lake and agreed that raw water should be tested for algae as a precaution. Darrell Taylor for NS Environment has been assisting
- The committee discussed the draft version of the information pamphlet and made the appropriate changes. Pamphlet will be updated and circulated to all property owners within the watershed
- The committee agreed to install new signs along the major roads indicating the entry points to the watershed.
- Josh Blakeney discussed the key points to consider in preparing a monitoring program. The committee suggested that perhaps Dal students could assist in this initiative
- David Blair indicated that David Whiteway (from DNR) is seeking information from the committee on the watershed location. Map information to be provided to DNR. The Committee would like DNR to report back on the implications of mineral extraction once they have reviewed the current boundary
- **May 2, 2016** - French River Source Water Protection Committee meets consisting of: Mike Gregory, Bob Taylor, Bill Masters, Greg Watson, Allan Bonnyman, Jim Baird, Doug Bastow, Michelle Newell, Crawford MacPherson, David Blair, Carrie Miller, John Drage, Garth Demont, Trevor MacHattie
 - Garth Demont and Trevor MacHattie from DNR presented information on the Cobequid Highland Geological Mapping Project. The province has identified a number of potential mineral resources and has placed a mineral closure on the area which will prevent anyone from staking a claim. Once the province better understand the potential for this area, they may issue a request for proposals from interested parties for the mining rights.
 - Any exploration and mining will be governed by market demand. Following additional research, the province will work with the SWPC to develop a plan/approach, and the area could then be promoted at the PDAC conference in 2017.
 - DNR to provide a map/shapefile of the area subject to the mineral closure.
 - Deputy Mayor Masters asked that the Committee seek legal advice from our solicitor on the Committee's ability to control or prevent any mineral exploration within the watershed
- **October 26, 2016** - French River Source Water Protection Committee meets consisting of: Mike Gregory, Bill Masters, Greg Watson, Jim Baird, Doug Bastow, Michelle Newell, Crawford MacPherson, Garth Demont
 - Garth Demont and Trevor MacHattie hosted a tour of the mineral exploration area prior to the meeting. Those in attendance included Doug Bastow, Greg Watson and Michael Gregory. A map of the geological formations was provided. Mr. Demont explained the mapping process and indicated that the critical formations are vertical. This would likely lead to a shaft process for mining as opposed to an open pit mine, which in turn should have less surface impacts.

- DNR carried out extensive research and sample analysis within the area of interest. The province is still 2 years away from a formal call for proposals for exploration in the area. Actual mining is likely at least 5 years away
- There is one pre-existing claim within the closure area (Barry MacKinnon) which could be renewed for up to two years.
- Trevor MacHattie from the province will continue collecting samples and working on mapping.
- It is expected that this Committee would have input into any future terms and conditions for mining within the watershed.
- Mr. Demont will be carrying out some surface water sampling and will try to utilize same sampling points as the Dalhousie Study from 2008-2011
- **July 18, 2017** - French River Source Water Protection Committee meets consisting of: Mike Gregory, Bill Masters, Greg Watson, Perry Swan, Doug Bastow, Michelle Newell, Garth Demont
 - Garth Demont provided an update on the mineral closure area within the watershed. The province plans to promote this closure area at the Prospectors and Developers Conference in March 2018, and will subsequently issue a request for proposals for interested parties.
 - The SWPC will need to develop terms and conditions to be included within the RFPs which will guide mining and exploration within the watershed. These terms and conditions should be finalized by the committee by March of 2018.
- **October 31, 2017** – French River Source Water Protection Committee meets. Also present: Garth Demont and Geoff Baldwin of DNR, and Mike Allen from NSE.
 - Geoff Baldwin gives a summary of his visit to a Nevada Goldmine
 - The RFP for the exploration rights was discussed, with a potential release date of March 2018. DNR staff noted that the RFP would likely require a community engagement piece by the successful bidder. DNR staff discussed sample documents from which information could be extracted to create some best management practices for exploration and mining within the watershed.
 - Meeting to be held in late November at Warwick Mtn ATV club – DNR to discuss possible mining implications with club/members of the public.
- **November 25, 2017** - DNR coordinated an information meeting at the Warwick Mtn ATV club.
- **December 5, 2017** – French River Source Water Protection Committee meets. Also present: Garth Demont of DNR and Mike Allen from NSE.
 - Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the development of Best Management Practices for exploration and mining within the watershed. Garth confirms the RFP is for exploration rights only.
 - Garth provided some background on a potential exploration program, which is expected to take up to 5 years, and start with non invasive work such as airborne/land based geophysics followed by some soil/sediment analysis (2 yrs). Drilling would occur afterwards.

- Garth discussed the logistics of drilling. Provincial oversight of drilling only provided on Crown land. The RFP could possibly require more oversight in the watershed area, along with public education.
 - Committee directs staff to draft some best management practices, which would draw on existing provincial regulations.
- **March 12, 2018** – letter forwarded to Energy and Mines from Mayor and Council requesting a delay in the Exploration RFP process. Department delays until May 2, 2018, with no further delays planned.
- **June 8, 2018:** – French River Source Water Protection Committee meets, NSE Present, Regrets from Garth Demont (Energy and Mines)
 - In the winter of 2018, Council directed staff to cease work on the development of best management practices for mining within the watershed area. The work exceeded staff's expertise and Council felt such documents should be the responsibility of the Province.
 - Draft mining RFP expected to be released by June 20. Committee expected to meet to review and provide comment to DNR after June 20th.
 - The potential of creating a designated Protected Watershed Area under the environment act was discussed. Mike Allen discussed the logistics of the designation process. Staff were directed to explore this process further.
 - SuNNS group presented their concerns with mining within the watershed area.
- **August 21, 2018** – French River Source Water Protection Committee meets, NSE Present, Regrets from Garth Demont (Energy and Mines).
 - Discussed DFO's position with mining – they will only be involved if there is a watercourse alteration or an environmental assessment is triggered for the mining.
 - DNR borehole map forwarded to committee
 - Draft RFP expected in September, with final to be released in October.
 - Motion passed – recommendation to Council to proceed with formal watershed designation under the environment act.
 - Committee recommends that letter be forwarded to the province requesting a delay in the RFP until the designation process is complete.
 - General steps in designation process reviewed.
- **August 30, 2018** – Colchester County Council authorizes staff to proceed with formal designation of watershed under the Environment Act.
- **September 18, 2018** – Letter to Minister of Energy and Mines from Mayor requesting that RFP be delayed until the formal designation process is complete.
- **October 10, 2018** - French River Source Water Protection Committee meets, NSE Present, Regrets from Garth Demont (Energy and Mines)
 - The Committee further discussed the designation of the watershed, and the details of the process.
 - Deputy Mayor Masters provided a summary of his meeting with the CAO and NS Energy and Mines the week prior. Meeting was requested by the province. Expect a draft RFP for exploration rights by November 5th.

- Staff directed to review/put forward potential clauses for the protected water area regulations for the next Committee meeting.
- **November 15, 2018** - French River Source Water Protection Committee meets, NSE Present, Regrets from Garth Demont (Energy and Mines)
 - Draft RFP not yet issued – no updates on schedule
 - Crawford reviewed watershed designations for other areas of the province. Potential activities to be regulated were discussed.
 - Committee directed staff to draft regulations.
- **December 13, 2018** - French River Source Water Protection Committee meets, NSE Present, Regrets from Garth Demont (Energy and Mines)
 - Draft of proposed regulations circulated to the Committee by staff. Draft document was discussed in detail. Staff to work with Mike Allen of NSE to ensure document will be acceptable to the Province.
 - No update on issuance of draft RFP.
- **January 15, 2019** - French River Source Water Protection Committee meets, NSE Present, Regrets from Garth Demont (Energy and Mines)
 - The Committee discussed the Province’s existing forestry code of practice and discussed how to incorporate forestry considerations into the draft regulations. Education and outreach may be the best approach for forestry.
 - The Committee discussed the Province’s Agricultural Best Management Practices
 - The latest draft of the watershed designation regulations was reviewed.
- **January 16, 2019** County staff become aware of uncapped drill hole in the watershed area via a call from a CBC reporter. Data provided by Energy and Mines the following day.
- **February 28, 2019** - French River Source Water Protection Committee meets, NSE Present, Regrets from Garth Demont (Energy and Mines)
 - The Committee discussed the uncapped drill hole in the watershed area. Staff directed to send a letter to the Department of Energy and Mines expressing dissatisfaction and asking for information on other possible uncapped holes.
 - Update of the latest draft of watershed regulations was reviewed by the Committee. Document forwarded to NSE for legal review.
 - SuNNS group expressed concerns with uncapped drill hole.
- **May 3, 2019** – letter sent to Energy and Mines on May 3, 2019, requesting more information on the uncapped drill hole. No response ever received.
- **May 13, 2019** - French River Source Water Protection Committee meets, NSE Present, Regrets from Garth Demont (Energy and Mines)
 - No update on release of RFP for exploration rights
 - Draft regulations reviewed, NSE provided some recommended changes
 - Public Consultation plan for draft regulations discussed. Sessions to take place mid June.
- **June 18/19, 2019** – Public Information Sessions held at Warwick Mtn Hall and Fire Hall.
- **June 24, 2019** - French River Source Water Protection Committee meets, NSE Present, Regrets from Garth Demont (Energy and Mines)

- Committee reviewed feedback from public information sessions and decided to circulate a public survey
- Survey components discussed
- Committee reviewed current version of the draft regulations
- Mr. David Swan presented his concerns to the Committee
- **August 19, 2019:** French River Source Water Protection Committee meets, NSE Present, Regrets from Garth Demont (Energy and Mines).
 - Garth Demont removed from circulation list for Committee meetings
 - Committee reviewed results of public survey
 - Committee received and reviewed interim results from an independent petition being circulated by concern citizens