

DEBERT SOURCE WATER PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Debert Source Water Protection Advisory Committee was held at the Debert Administration Building, 439 MacElmon Road, on July 7, 2017 at 10:10 am.

- Present:** Mayor Christine Blair, Chair
Steve Emery, Home Hardware
James Freill, Home Hardware
Don Geldart, Citizen Rep
Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
- Regrets:** Doug MacInnes, Councillor
Dawn MacNeill/Charlotte Sullivan, Nova Scotia Environment
Crawford Macpherson, Director of Community Development
- Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved by the Committee, moved by Steve Emery seconded by Don Geldart.
- Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from October 24, 2016 were approved by the Committee, moved by Steve Emery, seconded by Don Geldart.
- Business Arising:** Michelle Newell provided an update on the issue of water royalties which was discussed at the last meeting. The Municipality has no jurisdiction or authority to implement any kind of water withdrawal fees. The province already charges a nominal fee to those with withdrawal permits. Some municipalities in other provinces have recently gained authority to charge such fees, however this is not an option in Nova Scotia. The province monitors annual water withdrawal quantities from permitted companies/municipalities, and so far, there are no concerns with resource capacity. County staff will be ensuring that properties containing commercial wells are also taxed based on a commercial rate, and staff and Council will be working with large water users/companies going forward to encourage them to donate to local organizations as a potential way to support the County's not-for-profit grant program.
- Terms of Reference:** Michelle Newell provided an overview of the Committee's Terms and Reference and mandate.
- Watershed Uses:** The Committee discussed any changes or events which have occurred within the watershed areas for Wells 1C and 2A since October 2016. No changes or issues noted.
- Signage:** Signs have been installed in Debert. Don Geldart noted that there is illegal dumping behind Canso Crescent along the trails. Michelle Newell to discuss with the County's Solid Waste Enforcement Officer. Possible use of gates to be reviewed.

**Source Water Protection
Monitoring Program:**

The Committee reviewed the existing plan. No comments or questions.

**Emergency Response
Plan:**

The Committee discussed the need to develop documents to address the following potential emergencies:

1. Drought
2. Contamination (at well or within watershed)
3. Major Power Outage
4. CN Rail Emergency

The Committee suggested that staff forward the existing watershed maps to CN for information.

The Committee discussed fuel storage within the watershed and asked if staff could do annual inspections on fuel storage tanks. NS Environment may already be carrying this out. Michelle Newell to confirm.

Next Meeting:

The Committee agreed to meet again on Friday, October 13th at 10 am.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 10:48 am.

Michelle Newell