

## FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Flood Advisory Committee was held in Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

**Present:**

Councillor Tim Johnson, Chair  
Councillor Lisa Patton  
Councillor Mike Cooper  
Mayor Christine Blair  
Hank Kolstee, Citizen Representative  
Robert Monk, Citizen Representative  
Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works  
Rod MacLennan, Project Supervisor/Consultant  
Terry McKay, Manager of Land Protection, NS Agriculture  
Charlotte Sullivan, NS Environment & Climate Change

**Approval of Agenda:**

An agenda was prepared and circulated for the Committee's review and approval.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Hank Kolstee

"That the agenda be approved as presented." Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the meeting held on June 13, 2023 were circulated for the Committee's review and approval.

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Robert Monk

"That the Minutes from the meeting on June 13, 2023 be approved as presented." Motion carried.

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

The RFQ for Heavy Equipment was sent to three contractors. TR Petroleum was the lowest bidder and will complete the 2023/24 flood work.

A social media post was made on the County Facebook page outlining the flood program and how to get involved.

**Oxbow Site Visit Update:**

The site visit took place on August 15<sup>th</sup> with 9 in attendance consisting of representatives from the County, Millbrook, and Province. Discussion was held on surrounding issues and possible options including:

- Area upstream is higher and directs water from the North River to the Salmon River
- A berm/bypass could be constructed to direct the water straight across the oxbow properties
- These properties could still be owned and maintained by current property owners but used occasionally to temporarily store flood waters
- Extend the berm to avoid ice jams at the next turn
- Determine what berms are to be lowered and to what elevation as part of the salt marsh project
- If Agriculture is lowering the berms in the area, this will affect flooding on the oxbow properties and they will not be useable

lands and would be considered salt marsh properties

- Properties are located within town limits so discussion needs to be held on the JFAC level

Agriculture has expressed an interest in a partnership on this project. The County does not have the staff resources for a project of this size and scope so discussions should be held with the province on the possibility of them managing the project. To be added to the next JFAC agenda.

#### **New Applications:**

The following new applications were received and will be added to the project list until further review is completed.

##### MacLand Drive, Onslow:

- Information redacted as per solicitor advice as it is a county employee
- Site visit completed
- Cross culvert across MacLand and private driveway culvert restricts flows from draining into the field causing entire area to remain wet
- Culvert replacement would improve flows but requires an application from this owner
- Survey of area required – can use in-house staff

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Hank Kolstee

“That the preliminary survey work be approved on MacLand Drive with scope of work and cost estimates prepared for the next meeting.” Motion carried.

##### Seascape Lane, Lower Five Islands:

- Drainage issue with a provincial culvert
- Site visit required

##### Meadowvale Road, Upper Stewiacke:

- Culvert undersized to allow water to drain – affects bridge access in driveway
- Site visit required

#### **Review of Projects for 2023/24:**

The following updates were made to the project list:

##### Soley Cove Road, Economy:

- Agreements signed
- Work can proceed

##### Adam McCallum Road, Onslow Mountain:

- Further damage caused by recent rain events
- Cost estimate increased

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Robert Monk

“That the cost estimate on the Patterson property be increased to \$7,500.” Motion carried.

Highway 311, North River:

- Schedule site visit in next couple of weeks

Rankine Drive, Onslow Mountain:

- No court related/legal implications so work can proceed
- Site visit required

Farnham Road, Bible Hill:

- Two issues here – flooding from the Farnham Brook and trunk sewer overflowing on property
- County and Village working on the sewer issue
- Site visit completed
- Berm could be constructed from the existing berm on Dalton Court and around the house leaving an opening for drainage
- Cost estimate \$15,000
- May require frost conditions before work can be done

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the Flood Advisory Committee approves the construction of a berm on the Farnham Road property and that work be completed this fiscal.” Motion carried.

**New Business:**

Councillor Johnson was contacted by a resident on Granville Drive who is having drainage issues on her property. Michelle has been in contact with the resident numerous times and provided an overview on the issue. This is not a flood mitigation issue and instead is caused by an old storm water system that was installed by Veteran Affairs and never maintained. Properties along Granville Drive have connected to this storm system which runs through private properties and across Onslow Road where it discharges into the environment. It is unknown how many properties are still connected to the system and the condition of the pipe.

When the new sewer system was approved for this area, the private storm water system was not included. The resident is looking for the county to fix and maintain this line to alleviate the issues on her property. One of the main concerns is no government entity is taking ownership and the entire system runs through private property with no recorded easements. The resident has been advised that this is not county infrastructure and that work cannot proceed on the private system or properties. Council may wish to add this for discussion at a future meeting.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am in Council Chambers.

**Adjournment:**

Moved by Hank Kolstee

“That the meeting adjourn at 3:23 pm.” Motion carried.

Crystal Deuville,  
Recording Secretary