

FRENCH RIVER SOURCE WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the French River Source Water Protection Committee was held via Zoom Webinars on March 1, 2022 at 11:00 am.

- Present:** Councillor Mike Gregory, Chair
Mayor Christine Blair
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart
Kim Baldwin, Citizen Rep, Watershed
Mark LeFresne, Village Commission Rep
Greg Watson, Citizen Rep, Watershed (*arrived at 11:30am*)
Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
Michael Allen, Watershed Planner, Nova Scotia Environment
- Absent/Regrets:** Doug Bastow, North Shore River Restoration Group
- Introductions:** Committee members and attendees introduced themselves as some participants were new to the table.
- Approval of Agenda:** An agenda was prepared and circulated for the Committee's review and approval.
- Moved by: Mayor Blair
Seconded by: Kim Baldwin
- "That the agenda be approved as presented."
- Motion carried.
- Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the meeting held on November 23, 2021 were circulated for the Committee's review and approval.
- Moved by: Mayor Blair
Seconded by: Mark LeFresne
- "That the Minutes from the meeting on November 23, 2021 be approved as presented."
- Motion carried.
- Business Arising:** None.
- Committee Terms of Reference:** Michelle reviewed the Terms of Reference including Committee membership, supporting members, mandate, meeting frequency and the Committee's connection to the Water Utility's Approval to Operate.
- Protected Watershed Designation** Michelle advised that the Committee's application to have the French River Watershed designated as protected under the Nova Scotia Environment Act was approved. Copies of the regulations were attached to the meeting package and mailed to all property owners within the watershed area.
- Contents of the regulations were briefly reviewed. Pits and quarries are still permitted as long as provincial regulations and permitting are followed. Full prohibitions exist on landfilling, mining, and exploration. Manure storage must be contained within 100m of a

watercourse, and the regs also include setbacks from all watercourses as well as requirements for sedimentation control plans.

It was clarified that only watersheds serving as public drinking water supplies can seek protected designation under the Act. Also, regulations will differ among designated watersheds, depending on the application made by that specific jurisdiction.

Public Education:

Siltation Control:

- A letter has been forwarded to Nova Scotia Public Works (formerly NS Transportation) to request information on sediment control practices during road maintenance activities. No response received to date.
- General information on sedimentation impacts to be included in future County Newsletters/social media postings.

Forestry Practices:

- There are no formal updates on the province's implementation of the recommendations from the Lahey Forestry Report. Greg Watson indicated that there may be some movement in this area.
- Greg isn't aware of any harvesting happening in the watershed at this time. His company did some work in New Annan in the Fall and the proper protections were put in place.
- Michael Allen suggested inviting one of the Province's Integrated Resource Managers to speak with the Committee, perhaps Tim O'Brien who is local to Colchester. The Committee would like more information on forestry practices that are currently in place/being considered, along with considerations for private land vs crown land.
- Greg to consider who could also speak to the Committee from the private side of forestry.
- Greg suggested that the Committee ask the province for a status update on existing Crown Land within the watershed area (Greg later forwarded the information - PID 20325023).

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 11am. Location to be determined.

Adjournment:

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Stewart

"That the meeting be adjourned at 11:45 am."

Motion carried.

Michelle Boudreau,
Recording Secretary