

## FRENCH RIVER SOURCE WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the French River Source Water Protection Committee was held via Zoom Webinars on August 24, 2022, at 10:00 am.

- Present:** Mayor Christine Blair  
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart  
Greg Watson, Citizen Rep, Watershed  
Doug Bastow, Past Member, North Shore River Restoration Group  
Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works  
Paul Smith, Director of Community Development  
Michael Allen, Watershed Planner, Nova Scotia Environment  
Patrick Lynch, Regional Forester, Central, DNR  
Scott Maston, Forestry Division, DNR
- Absent/Regrets:** Councillor Mike Gregory, Chair  
Kim Baldwin, Citizen Rep, Watershed  
Mark LeFresne, Village Commission Rep
- Introductions:** With the absence of Councillor Gregory, Deputy Mayor Stewart agreed to chair the meeting. As quorum was not met, no motions were passed at the meeting and anything requiring a decision was deferred to the next meeting.
- Committee members and attendees introduced themselves as some participants were new to the table. Doug Bastow mentioned that he is no longer a member of the North Shore River Restoration Group, and a new member will need to be appointed by that group.
- Approval of Agenda:** The Committee agreed to proceed with the agenda as presented.
- Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the meeting held on March 1, 2022 will be approved at the next meeting.
- Business Arising:** None.
- Protected Watershed Designation:** Michelle provided a brief history on the French River water supply, the process the Committee followed to apply for protected area status, creation and adoption of regulations, and the approval of the designation.
- Public Education, Siltation Control:** Siltation in the watershed caused by road maintenance by NSPW was previously discussed. The committee sent a letter to the Area Manager in February 2022 to request information on future practices to reduce siltation caused by road work. No response received to date. Michelle to forward a copy of the letter to Mike Allen.
- An article on erosion and sedimentation will be placed in the September newsletter.
- Michelle met recently with Councillor Gregory and Kim Baldwin regarding the new gravel and grading work completed on Slade Road and the potential impacts on the watershed. This item will be added to the agenda at the next meeting.
- Presentation, Forestry Practices:** Patrick Lynch and Scott Maston were invited to make a presentation on the province's regulations pertaining to forestry activities. Regulations were approved in January 2002 to ensure the protection of water quality and preserve wildlife.

The Crown owns approximately 12% of the French River Watershed and these regulations only apply to Crown lands where forestry activity is occurring. The regulations provide a breakdown on the number of wildlife clumps of trees required depending on size of harvesting, locations of clumps, special management zones (buffers) within proximity to watercourses, size and location of buffers, permitted vehicles and type of harvesting allowed in buffer zones. Private landowners are encouraged to follow these regulations, but not required.

A resource list was included in the presentation which could be used to educate private woodlot owners. Patrick worked with Pugwash on their recent development of regulations for their protected area designation which included a section on forestry. Patrick to send the related regulations along to Michelle for the committee to review in case they want to add forestry restrictions to their existing regulations. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

Greg Watson suggested adding potential algae issues in Johnston Lake in Warwick Mountain as a future agenda item.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 10am.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Motion carried.

Crystal Deuville,  
Recording Secretary