

FRENCH RIVER SOURCE WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the French River Source Water Protection Committee was held at the Tatamagouche Branch Library on Feb 27, 2026, at 10:00am.

Present:	Councillor Sherry Martell, Chair Mayor Christine Blair Mark LeFresne, Village Commission Rep Alex Feix, North Shore River Restoration Rep Dan Troke, CAO Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
Absent/Regrets:	Greg Watson, Citizen Rep, Watershed Jim Baird, Citizen Representative Paul Smith, Director of Community Development Mike Allen Nova Scotia Environment
Introductions:	The meeting was called to order at 10:17am.
Approval of Agenda:	Moved by Alex Feix and seconded by Mark LeFresne. “That the agenda be approved as presented to the Committee.” Carried unanimously
Approval of Minutes:	Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Alex Feix. “That the Minutes from the meeting of October 8, 2025, be approved as presented to the Committee.” Carried unanimously.
Business Arising:	None.
Presentation Overview – Forestry Management & Blue Green Algae:	Michelle noted presentations were delivered on Dec 4, 2025, regarding the Cyanobacteria Study, French River Watershed and Forest Management in Colchester. Committee members were provided with an information summary package. No follow up actions are required. The Dalhousie program related to the blue green algae will continue into 2026.
Sale of Northern Pulp Lands:	Correspondence has been sent to Domtar at the Committee’s request. The land sale to Bragg is anticipated to be finalized in April. Alex Feix will forward the watershed information to Jason Stewart, Forester for Bragg, and will also confirm receipt of the correspondence.
Signage	Signs have been printed and are ready to be installed once frost is out of the ground.
Watershed Newsletter	Michelle Boudreau and Paul Smith recently met with Todd Burgess from Forest Nova Scotia to discuss opportunities for public education within the watershed area. Forest NS offers a funding program that supports construction of forestry roads, and information about this program will be a valuable addition to the newsletter. Forest NS has

**Update on Activities, North
Shore River Restoration
Group**

also agreed to host a public open house in the area this Spring to share details about their programs and available resources. In addition, funding may potentially be available through DNR for the clean up of Fiona debris and low grade wood. Staff will draft a proposed watershed newsletter for presentation at the next meeting.

The financial budget for the year looks positive, with continued efforts underway to secure additional funding sources. Funding has been secured through DFO to support maintenance of the fish ladder on Waugh's River. Work is underway with Nick McInnes to develop cost estimates for a rock installation program.

The organization has partnered with an Indigenous group to pursue restoration funding. Through this collaboration, they will provide personnel and equipment/technical support, creating a mutually beneficial relationship.

The field season is expected to begin towards the end of May. Opportunities are also being explored to hire students through funding from the Clean Foundation. Alex will follow up with Dalhousie to determine whether there are opportunities to share resources related blue green algae program.

There is also concern the province may designate salmon as endangered species which could result in the closure of the recreational salmon fishery and have significant impacts on local tourism.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting May 8th, 2026.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:38am by Mayor Blair.

Michelle Boudreau & Christa Wojcik
Recording Secretary