



Date: April 9, 2025
To: Municipal Council
cc: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Sandra Garden-Cole, EH Source Water Protection Committee Chairperson
RE: **EH Source Water Protection Committee Report**

The Committee held its regular meeting on April 9, 2025 electronically via Zoom. The following items were discussed:

SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Councillor Sandra Garden-Cole be appointed as Chairperson for the East Hants Source Water Protection Advisory Committee with Councillor Cecil Dixon appointed to serve as Vice Chairperson.

LOVE YOUR LAKE

Kelly Schnare, Re-Imaging Atlantic Harbours, presented on “Love Your Lake” via PowerPoint Presentation.

The presentation detailed an NGO that pairs with local grass roots organizations to perform lakefront property assessments. These assessments evaluate the present environment and provides recommendations on different ways that the homeowner could have a more environmentally friendly shoreline, such as allowing natural vegetation to grow and removing any existing retaining walls or rip rap and allowing a natural shoreline to form.

This presentation stimulated further questions and discussions specific to what lakes have already been assessed in the surrounding municipalities, on how community engagement was achieved, and the lack of funding provided by the Provincial or Federal government for these types of assessments. Grand Lake has been selected as one of the lakes for 2025.

VACANT LOT HIGHWAY #2, FALL RIVER

Mr. Shawn Harris provided an update that there is still not an active application currently on a vacant lot at 3061 Highway #2, Fall River, which was purchase of by a developer in 2024 and is located on Lake Thomas. The Municipality will continue to monitor its status, since development could have an impact on the Grand Lake watershed.

HEAVY RAINFALL AT AEROTECH CONNECTOR

Mr. Shawn Harris provided an update on the heavy rainfall incident that occurred between March 31st-April 1st at the Aerotech Connector construction site. During this period, heavy rainfall caused significant amounts of sediment in the rain runoff at a Dexter Construction staging site near Exit 5A. Consultants for the Department of Public Work were onsite during and after the rainfall and noted that no sediment was identified leaving the site. Dexter Construction was aware of the issue and took action to correct the sediment release.

2024 SOURCE WATER PROTECTION RESULTS

Mr. Shawn Harris presented and discussed the source water sampling results from 2024 for Grand Lake and Shubenacadie. For Grand Lake, there were concerns with Total Coliform spikes. Total Coliform at SWPP#3 and SWPP#4 during the June and July sampling events resulted in the highest values. These elevated results lowered during the August sampling event, and were similar to 2023 results.

There was an update on a prior discussion on tracking pH and the accuracy of lab results compared to on-site sampling. At this time, the difference in the results is not a concern for staff.

GRAND LAKE WATERSHED & WETLAND INTERSECTION

Ms. Chelsea MacPherson shared a map of the existing Grand Lake watershed delineation and where it intersected with existing wetlands. This data came from a study that was done in Cape Breton and was brought to the attention of East Hants. Mr. Barry Geddes questioned the data used for the existing Grand Lake delineation, as he noted it appears to be different than what Halifax Water uses. This will be further investigated.

SHUBENACADIE PW-2024 UPDATE

Ms. Chelsea MacPherson shared a map of the previously drilled wells around the Shubenacadie Water Treatment Plant. Due to reoccurring sedimentation issues, PW-1 was previously replaced with PW-2019 and PW-2 is now being replaced with PW-2024, which is scheduled to be in production this May. The future of TW-2024 (which did not produce enough water) is still being discussed.

There are no motions coming forward as a result of the meeting.

As Chair of the Committee, I move the adoption of this report.