



Date: October 20, 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 October 15, 2025 electronically via Zoom. The following items were discussed:

UPDATE ON WATER UTILITY

Mr. Chad Greenham provided a summary of the *Shubenacadie River 3rd Stills Assessment Report*. The main takeaway from the report is that the water being released into the Shubenacadie River via the Engineered Spring is not being lost to Grand Lake. Based on this conclusion, the ratio of the Engineered Spring input to the withdrawal rate was reduced from 4:1 to 2:1

Mr. Chad Greenham also discussed a request from Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change for an additional *Intake Study* for the Regional Water Treatment Plant. Updates were provided for the Shubenacadie Water Treatment Plant, including progress on the backwash project and the development of the new production well, PW-2024.

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL DNA SAMPLING

Ms. Chelsea MacPherson reported that staff conducted environmental DNA sampling at 6 locations within the watershed, which will help determine the presence of aquatic invasive species and species at risk. Results are expected in Spring 2026.

NOVA SCOTIA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL BOAT WASH, GRAND LAKE

Ms. Chelsea MacPherson reported that the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council (NSISC) mobile boat wash event scheduled for Oakfield Park in 2025 was cancelled due to water conservation efforts. She noted that the project is funding-dependent, with the Oakfield Park public boat launch scheduled for summer 2026. NSISC staff have previously focused outreach efforts around fishing derbies but are seeking recommendations on timing to better engage with recreational boaters during popular weekends.

WATER CONSERVATION

Ms. Chelsea MacPherson presented a graph illustrating past and present Shubenacadie River levels and explained the various thresholds that trigger action, such as activating the engineered spring and implementing voluntary or mandatory water conservation measures. She also shared watershed photos comparing the significant rainfall event of July 2023 with the drought conditions of October 2025, highlighting the drastic differences and challenges associated with both extreme weather events. Ms. MacPherson further outlined the actions the Municipality has taken to educate the public and promote water conservation from within.

AEROTECH CONNECTOR GROUNDWATER DATA

Ms. Chelsea MacPherson noted Jesse Hulsman has been regularly attending advisory meetings on the Aerotech Connector Road. East Hants staff will request well quality data from the Aerotech monitoring well for the next two years.

CHINESE MYSTERY SNAIL

Ms. Chelsea MacPherson referenced an article that was published over the summer stating that there has been an increase in Chinese Mystery Snail sightings in the Halifax-Dartmouth Area. These invasive species can alter the water quality of lakes, which makes it a concern for the Grand Lake Watershed. Ms. Chelsea MacPherson noted that the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council (NSISC) will present at the Spring meeting.

MONTAGUE MINES SITE CLEAN-UP

Ms. Chelsea MacPherson noted that a former gold mine site contaminated with mercury and arsenic from mine tailings will be remediated to restore the land and surrounding wetlands to productive habitat. The site, located adjacent to Lake Charles, will provide environmental benefits to the Grand Lake watershed.

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