

# DAVIDSON LAKE WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Terms of Reference

### **OBJECTIVE**

The primary objective of the Davidson Lake Watershed Advisory Committee is to provide a forum for the landowners, the Municipality of West Hants, and other stakeholders to work cooperatively to maintain the water quality and quantity in the Davidson Lake watershed. The Committee recognizes that the protection of source water is the first step in the multi-barrier approach to clean, safe drinking water.

### **THE WATERSHED**

The Davidson Lake watershed supplies the reservoir from which the Hantsport Water Utility withdraws water. The Hantsport Water Utility, which is operated by the Municipality of West Hants, supplies drinking water to the communities of Hantsport, Hants Border, and Glooscap First Nation.

The Davidson Lake watershed is located in Bishopville approximately 10 kilometers southwest of Hantsport. The watershed has limited access from Eldridge Road and Bishopville Road, while the water treatment plant is located at 2160 Bishopville Road. The natural watershed covers approximately 133 hectares (329 acres). Forestry is the main activity in the watershed. Most of the land is owned by the Municipality, Atlantic Star Forestry, and Timberland Holdings. In addition to the above land owners, there are three private landowners, two with woods camps, but there are no permanent residential properties in the watershed.

The Davidson Lake Protected Water Area (PWA) is based on topographic drainage and shares a boundary with the French Mill Brook Protected Water Area. The PWA is undergoing final approval from the Department of Environment. A section of the natural watershed for Davidson Lake is protected under the French Mill Brook PWA.

### **ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Davidson Lake Watershed Advisory Committee was established in 2007 in response to the requirement of Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) to develop and prescribe regulations for the PWA, as well as a Source Water Protection Plan

(SWPP).

The Davidson Lake Watershed Advisory Committee advises West Hants Council and the Director of Public Works on issues pertaining to the Davidson Lake PWA.

In addition, the Davidson Lake Watershed Advisory Committee shall:

- Assist in the implementation and periodic review of a Source Water Protection Plan.
- Assist with development and revisions of the Regulations for the Protected Water Area as required.
- Review and amend these Committee Terms of Reference from time to time.
- Provide a forum for the involvement of landowners and exchange of information in matters regarding the watershed and water resources.
- Provide a forum for discussion and recommendations to deal with issues and concerns in the watershed. The Committee will address problems and propose solutions to Council on matters of concern, as they arise.
- Advise on forestry matters and other land use issues.
- Assist with development and revisions of Best Management Practices for activities in the watershed. These Best Management Practices will also be used to guide any approval processes for activities.
- Review and make recommendations on activities affecting the Protected Water Area, as requested by the Municipality of West Hants.
- Provide and develop information and education about the Protected Water Area for local residents, landowners, and users of the watershed.
- Liaise with government agencies and other resources not represented on the committee on matters affecting the Protected Water Area, such as the provincial Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).
- Provide information on Committee activities to landowners in the Protected Water Area.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Landowner Representatives -1 member

West Hants Councillors - 3 members

Department of Natural Resources -1

Hantsport Water Utility -1 member

West Hants Planning Department -1 member

Nova Scotia Environment - 1 resource member (non-voting)

Meeting Quorum: Four (4), of which one (1) must be a Councillor.

Chair: The Committee Chair will be elected by and from the Committee members. The Chairperson shall be responsible for reporting the activities of the Watershed Advisory Committee to the West Hants Committee of the Whole.

Administrative services will be provided by the Municipality of West Hants.

## **MEMBERS ROLES**

### **Landowners**

The landowners are responsible for providing representation of landowners to the Davidson Lake Watershed Advisory Committee. They are in a unique position of knowing the watershed and the land, in addition to their own and their neighbours' land use practices. The landowners are encouraged to:

- Express their concerns and interests
- Advise and provide information to the Committee on land use management and source water protection;
- Communicate with other landowners on Committee activities;
- Report any problems they may encounter within the watershed.

### **Municipal Councillors**

It is the responsibility of the Councillors to represent the interests of the citizens served by the Hantsport Water Utility, the watershed landowners, and the West Hants Council.

### **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**

The DNR representative will work with the Committee providing information and advising on topics related to forestry, wildlife, and source water protection.

### **Staff (Water Works Operator and Planning Department)**

Staff will report to the Committee on activities undertaken by the Municipality of West Hants and any approvals given in the Protected Water Area. Staff will work with the Committee providing information and advising on topics relating to source water protection, watershed management, land use and the operation of the Hantsport Water Utility. Staff will also bring forth concerns relating to water quality and watershed management.

**Nova Scotia Environment (NSE)**

The NSE representative will work with the Committee providing information and advising on topics related to source water protection, watershed management, the Environment Act and Protected Water Area Regulations.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Davidson Lake Watershed Advisory Committee shall meet quarterly, or as required. Members of the public are welcome to attend Watershed Advisory Committee meetings as observers. A Landowner Meeting may be called at the discretion of the Committee.

Decisions and recommendations will be done by consensus of the Hantsport Watershed Advisory Committee members, or when required by legislation, in the form of formal motions.

Approved by:   
Cathie Osborne, CPA, CGA  
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: Dec 15, 2015