

July 9, 2024

Ref. #: M63-2024-2025

Abraham Zebian, Mayor
West Hants Regional Municipality
Po Box 3000, 76 Morrison Drive
Windsor Nova Scotia
B0N 2T0
AZebian@westhants.ca

Dear Mayor Zebian:

As the Minister responsible for Nova Scotia's *Agriculture Marshland Protection Act*, I am responding on behalf of the Premier. Thank you for your letter about dykeland concerns in your municipality.

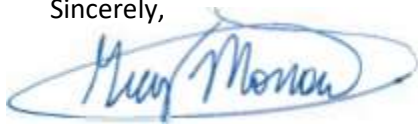
Our government values the importance of the marshland we protect. As you noted, the dykes in your municipality are facing flooding and climate change issues. We want to protect those dykes, and this is why we continue to maintain them.

In the extreme events in July 2023 and March 2024, the dyke system operated as designed. This past March, the dykes did not breach but there was an excessive high tide and run off from the higher land leading to water overtopping it. In July 2023, the Herbert River Dyke was intentionally breached by an excavator to allow the water to drain quickly to aid search and rescue efforts.

Flooding cannot always be prevented on agriculture marshland. To reduce the impact, the Department of Agriculture works closely with landowners to monitor dyke and aboiteaux structures for deficiencies and make repairs as needed. Repairs were completed in the last year at Scotch Village (NS049) and Herbert River (NS050). Maintenance work is planned along St. Croix (NS038) this summer. The Department will be making significant investment this year on Newport Town (NS027) where foreshore work to protect the dyke from erosion is necessary. We plan to post the tender for this project this summer.

I appreciate you reaching out on this issue and the contribution that farmers in your municipality make to our province.

Sincerely,



Honourable Greg Morrow
Minister of Agriculture