



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
--------------------------------------	--	---	--

To: Mayor Zebian and Members of Council

Submitted by: Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Date: September 22, 2026

Subject: Landowner Appointment to the Mills Lake Watershed Advisory Committee

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act – Sections 24-27 (Standing, special and advisory committees; Vacancy on Boards, Commissions and Committees; Citizen Advisory Committees; and Community Committees).

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

COUNCIL APPROVES GREG O'LEARY BE APPOINTED TO THE MILLS LAKE WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM OCTOBER 31, 2026 TO OCTOBER 31, 2028.

BACKGROUND

Property ☐	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☐	Social ☒	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☒
-----------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------	---

The primary objective of each Watershed Advisory Committee is to provide a forum for the Landowners, the Municipality and other Stakeholders to work cooperatively to maintain the water quality and quantity in each Watershed within the region. These committees recognize that the protection of source water is the first step in the multi-barrier approach to clean, safe drinking water.

Watersheds supply the reservoir from which the Windsor Water Utility, operated by the Municipality, withdraws water. These Committees advise the Municipality and Director of Public Works on issues pertaining to the Watersheds.

The Mill Lakes Watershed supplies the reservoir from which the Windsor Water Utility, operated by the Municipality, withdraws water. The Windsor Water Utility currently supplies water to the community of Windsor and the Three Mile Plains Water Utility. The Three Mile Plains Water Utility services communities of Three Mile Plains, Currys Corner, Garlands Crossing, and Wentworth Creek.

The Davidson Lake & French Mill Brook Watershed Committee, which is a combined utility with the former Hantsport, Falmouth and Three Mile Plains Water Utilities is operated by the West Hants Regional Municipality and supplies potable water to the areas of the communities of Hantsport, Hants Border and Glooscap First Nations Source water for the utility is withdrawn from the Davidson Lake, which is supplied by a near by spring. The Community of Falmouth Source water for the utility is withdrawn from the French Mill Brook Reservoir, which is supplied by the French Mill Brook and its watershed.

DISCUSSION

Landowners are responsible for having representation on the Watershed Committee. They are in a unique position of knowing the watershed and their land, in addition to their own and their neighbours' land use practices. 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 and report any problems that they may encounter within the watershed.

Watershed Advisory Committees are comprised of:

Four (4) Landowner Representatives

One (1) Councillor and one (1) alternate

One (1) Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry Representative

One (1) Water Utility Representative

One (1) Planning and Development Department Representative

One (1) Nova Scotia Environment Representative (voting)

Committee members must be landowners within the watershed they are appointed

Mr. O-Leary's appointment is the only appointment due for renewal, as the terms of all other appointees remain effective until October 31, 2027.

NEXT STEPS

If approved, Mr. O'Leary will be contacted and notified of his appointment.

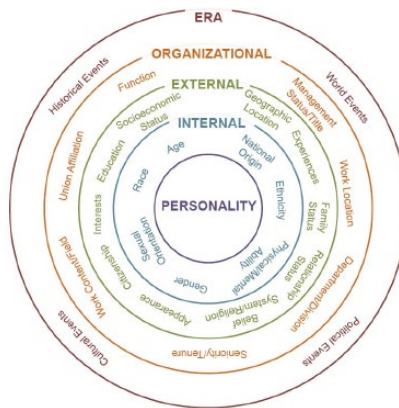
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Resident members appointed to a Committee of Council will receive remuneration in accordance with the Council Remuneration Policy, which is identified in the annual Operating Budget.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Watershed Advisory Committee membership framework supports equitable representation by including landowners, municipal representatives, utility representatives, and provincial government stakeholders, ensuring a variety of perspectives are considered in source water protection discussions.

While membership is restricted to landowners within the watershed to ensure local knowledge and direct stakeholder representation, The Committee's collaborative structure promotes inclusive decision-making by bringing together individuals with diverse experiences, expertise, and interests related to environmental stewardship and water resource management.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The appointment of a landowner representative to the Mill Lakes Watershed Advisory Committee supports the Municipality's commitment to protecting and enhancing source water quality and quantity within the watershed. Maintaining active landowner participation on the Committee contributes to the long-term sustainability of the watershed, helps protect drinking water sources for residents served by the Windsor and Three Mile Plains Water Utilities, and supports the Municipality's broader environmental stewardship and source water protection goals.

ALTERNATIVES

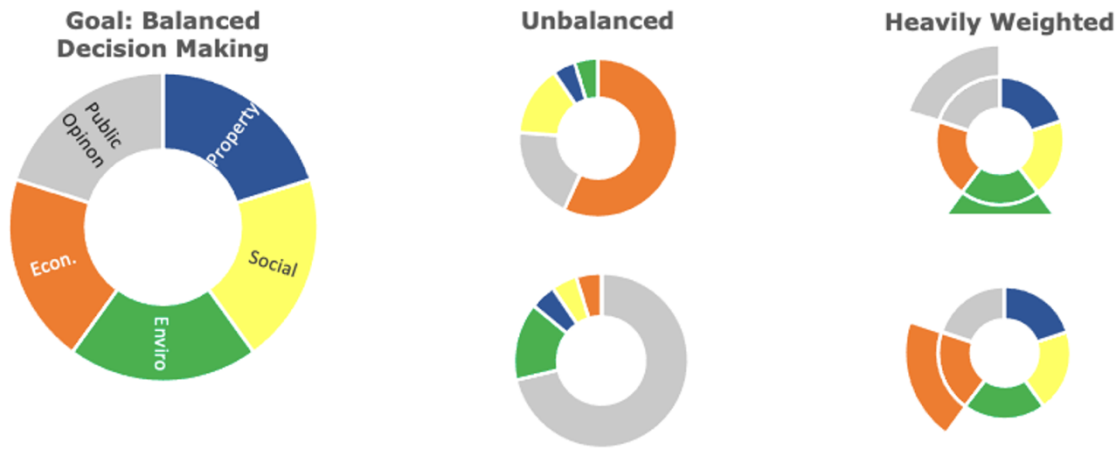
Council could choose to direct staff to re-advertise for the vacancies; however, this will result in additional costs associated with advertising and may delay the committees meeting. This is not the recommendation from staff.

ATTACHMENTS

None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

Council has been provided with a reference taken from the Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy , Appendix C “Decision Making by Council and Committee of the Whole” as a reminder of the principles highlighted for good decision making.



Report Prepared by: _____
Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Report Reviewed by: _____
Carlee Rochon, Director Financial Services

Report Approved by:  _____
Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer