



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Mayor Zebian and Members of West Hants Regional Municipality Council

Submitted by: Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Date: March 11, 2025

Subject: Landowner Appointment to Watershed Advisory Committees – Recommendation Report

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

Committee of the Whole recommends ...

that Council approves Lonny Curry, Stephen Marsters and Jamie Widden be appointed to the Davidson Lake and French Mill Brook Watershed Committee for the term March 25, 2025 to October 31, 2027

that Council approves Patrick Schofield and Bruce Atwell be appointed to the Mills Lake Watershed Advisory Committee for the term March 25, 2025 to October 31, 2027.

BACKGROUND

Property ☐	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☐	Social ☐	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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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 supplies 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 Mill 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.

NEXT STEPS

Landowner(s) will be contacted and notified of their appointments.

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.

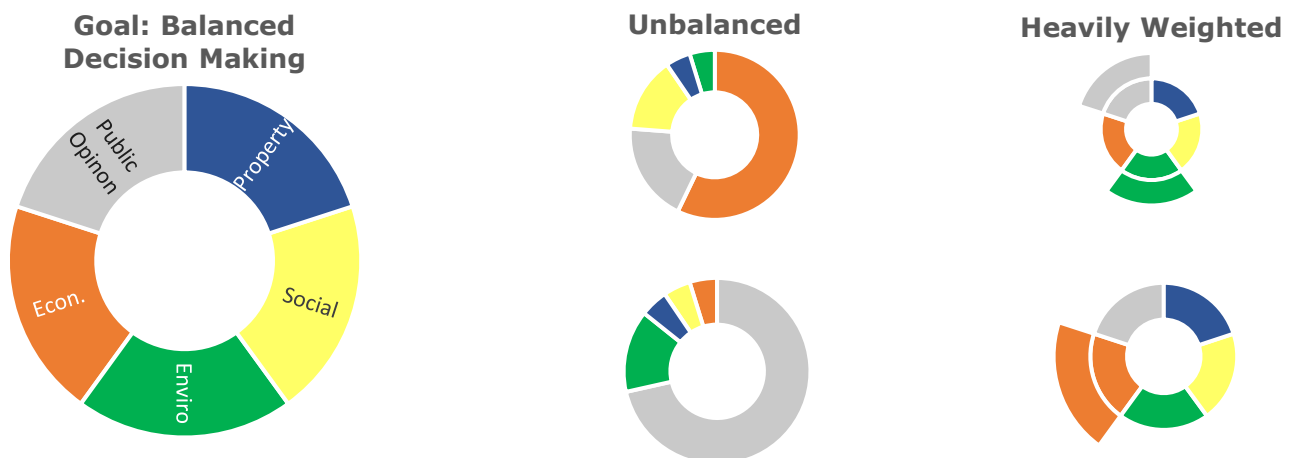
ALTERNATIVES

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



I support the recommendation.

Report Prepared by: _____
Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Report Reviewed by:  _____
Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer