

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Source Water Protection Committee meeting convened 6:00 pm via Zoom on the above date. CAO Slaunwhite presiding as interim chair.

PRESENT: Councillor Dan Currie
Councillor Shawn McNamara
Pictou Resident Lorna MacIsaac
Caribou Resident Janice Porter
Town CAO / Minute Recorder Kyle Slaunwhite

REGRETS: Deputy Warden Wayne Murray
Councillor Darla MacKeil
County CAO Brian Cullen
County Engineer
Pictou Superintendant

1. CALL TO ORDER

CAO Slaunwhite called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as circulated.
CARRIED

SWP-04-29-21-2560

3. INTRODUCTION / WELCOME

The committee welcomed Councillor Currie and Councillor McNamara to the committee as council representatives for the Town of Pictou.

The committee reviewed the purpose of the Pictou/Caribou Source Water Protection Committee (SWPC). There is a regulatory requirement through Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) to have a SWPC. It was decided, through the development of a Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP), that the SWPC wanted to take an education and advisory approach to protecting wellfields. As such, the committee does not make rules, but they educate and follow other means to protect water supplies. The main topic of discussion recently is how the Town of Pictou's production wells could impact private well owners.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The previous minutes of October 14, 2020 were reviewed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Well #18

The site has undergone pump testing by Brewster's Well Drilling. This was completed in conjunction with a hydrogeologist and included residents who responded to notices about the pump test. Civic 420 Division Road was involved with the test. No influence was noticed on private wells, and minor impacts were noticed at Footes Lane Well. The outcome of the test is believed to yield 362 L/min from the site, pending NSE approval. If this receives approval construction will likely take 3-4 months before it can be put into service. When this occurs, at least two well sites will be decommissioned (Footes Lane and Exhibition).

- Councillor Currie asked about impact on Division Road well – none was noticed
- Lorna MacIsaac asked if this was the same well as discussed before. It was clarified that the Well #17 was drilled and put into service approximately two years ago. Well #18 is the current well and was only drilled in the Fall of 2020.

b. Well #17

As part of the Water Withdrawal Permit, the Town is required to re-assess Well #17, now that one year of data was collected. No results are available at this time.

c. Fraser Property

The Town was just notified by the current caretaker of the Fraser Property Margaret Lutchin, that consideration was being made to sell the property. The Town has Right of First Refusal and have requested a price, per the agreement. This would align with the SWPP that states land acquisition is a preferred method for water protection.

d. Hydrogeologist

The Town noted they have switched hydrogeologists due to a difference of views. Terry Matheson has been hired as the replacement hydrogeologist.

6. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Discussion around wellfield procurement as parallels were created with respect to the Pulp Mill Pipe
- Cost was identified as something for consideration of the Fraser property. The Town will investigate further; sources of funding would come from the Water Utility.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

October 14, 2021 at 6:00pm

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.