



Date: October 9, 2024
To: Municipal Council
cc: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Sandra Garden-Cole, EH Source Water Protection Committee Chairperson
RE: EH Source Water Protection Committee Report

The Committee held its regular meeting on October 9, 2024 electronically via Zoom. The following items were discussed and one recommendation is coming forward:

WETLAND VULNERABILITY STUDY

Brayden Thomas, Sarah Scarlett, Strum Consulting presented on “Wetland Vulnerability Study” via PowerPoint Presentation.

The presentation was regarding a GIS modelling program on Wetlands that was able to accurately find and determine the boundaries and levels of environmental stresses for wetlands.

INTRODUCTION TO AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Sarah Kingsbury, DFO, “Introduction to Aquatic Invasive Species” via PowerPoint Presentation.

The presentation was regarding how aquatic invasive species are introduced into Nova Scotia and the impacts that they have on local habitats. The presentation also included a discussion on preventative measures

The East Hants Source Water Protection Committee recommends to Council that ***Council send a letter for consideration to the Province requesting the installation of a permanent boat washdown area for the Shubenacadie Grand Lake boat launch at Oakfield Park and that enforcement be provided at peak seasons, such as the fishing derby season.***

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

RED SWAMP CRAWFISH

Madison Bond, Saint Mary’s University, “Red Swamp Crawfish” via PowerPoint Presentation.

Presented on how red swamp crawfish have been found in 3 Mile Lake, their effects on the local wildlife and how they could pose a threat to the Grand Lake watershed.

Mr. Jesse Hulsman suggested that East Hants will be reaching out to the WJCC summer camps and the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council and the Department of Fisheries & Oceans to set up an educational session on the invasive crayfish, which is at risk of spreading throughout the Grand Lake watershed which could negatively impact local food webs as well as recreational activities. We will also be looking into adding more information to social media regarding invasive species, such as who residents can contact when they find something and methods of preventing the introduction of new aquatic invasive species.

ENVIRONMENTAL SPRING, NEW WELL IN SHUBENACADIE AND 2023 HYDROLOGICAL STUDY

Mr. Chad Greenham provided an update that the environmental spring was still in operation and that a new production well had been drilled in Shubenacadie to replace the well that had collapsed earlier this year. The new well is expected to become operational within a couple months. Mr. Chad Greenham also provided an update on the 2023 hydrological study on the impact of the Engineering Spring on the Shubenacadie River water levels that had been postponed in 2023 has been recently completed and the report will be provided by the end of this fiscal year.

RESIDENT CONCERNS - LITTLE GRAND LAKE

A resident off Little Grand Lake had voiced concerns about the impact of recreational activities on the water quality, and samples were taken in August from Little Grand Lake found that the water quality was very comparable to the samples that were taken in the Source Water Protection Sampling locations on Grand Lake, which were very similar to previous years.

As Chair of the Committee, I move the adoption of this report.