

**Terms of Reference
Falmouth Watershed Committee
Approved by Council February 10, 2009
Amended by Council February 14, 2012**

**Sub-Committee of the Committee of the Whole
Municipality of the District of West Hants**

Falmouth Watershed Committee Objective

The primary objective of the Falmouth Watershed Committee is to promote stewardship within and cooperatively manage the French Mill Brook Watershed. The Committee recognizes that the protection of source water is the first step in the multi-barrier approach to clean, safe drinking water.

French Mill Brook Watershed

The Falmouth Water Utility is operated by the Municipality of the District of West Hants, and supplies potable water to areas of the community of Falmouth. The water is currently being withdrawn from the French Mill Brook Reservoir, which is supplied by the French Mill Brook and its watershed.

In 1983, the area surrounding French Mill Brook, Hants County was designated as a Protected Water Area at the request of the Municipality of the District of West Hants. Regulations were also enacted for the designated area to protect the water supply. The Municipality and the Nova Scotia Department of Environment had been working together on this designation for several years prior to the official designation. The regulations were updated in 2004 and again in 2007, due to the requirements under the Environment Act.

The French Mill Brook Watershed Protected Water Area covers approximately two thousand eight hundred and fourteen (2814) acres of land (1139ha), according to the plan prepared in 1974

Falmouth Watershed Committee

The Watershed Committee was first established in 1992 to manage the French Mill Brook Watershed through the involvement of all stakeholders, including landowners, municipal staff and government representatives.

Role of the Watershed Committee

The Falmouth Watershed Committee advises the Municipality's Committee of the Whole on issues pertaining to the French Mill Brook Watershed.

In addition, the Watershed Committee shall

- Assist in the development and implementation of a Source Water Protection Plan, which will be reviewed periodically.
- Assist with the revisions of the regulations for the Protected Water Area as required.
- Amend the Terms of Reference for the Falmouth Watershed Committee from time to time.
- Provide a forum for the involvement of the landowners and exchange of information in matters regarding the watershed and water resources.
- Provide a forum to deal with issues and concerns in the watershed. The Committee will address problems on matters of concern as they arise.
- Advise on forestry matters and other land use issues.
- Develop Best Management Practices for activities in the Watershed. These Best Management Practices will also be used to guide the approval process for activities.
- Review and make recommendations on activities affecting the Protected Water Area, as requested by the Municipality.
- Provide and Develop information and education about the Protected Water Area for local residents, landowners, and users of the watershed.
- Liaise with the government agencies and other resources not represented on the Committee on matters affecting the Protected Water Area, such as the Nova Scotia Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Membership (Eleven members)

- Municipal Councilors (Three representatives)
- Director of Public Works (or representative)
- Director of Planning (or representative)
- Nova Scotia Environment (one member)
- Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (one member)
- Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (one member)

- Watershed Landowner Representatives (three members not including the Municipality)

Meeting Quorum: 6 Committee Members

- Two of the three Councilors must be in attendance.
- Two Watershed Landowner Representatives (not including the Municipality) must be in attendance.

All landowners within the watershed are welcome to attend the Watershed Committee Meetings.

Secretarial services will be provided by the Public Works Department for all meetings.

Members Role

Municipal Councilors

It is the responsibility of the Councilors to represent the interests of the citizens served by the Falmouth Water Utility and the Council of the Municipality of the District of West Hants.

The Chairperson of the Watershed Committee is responsible for reporting the findings of the Falmouth Watershed Committee to the Committee of the Whole.

Municipal Staff (Public Works and Planning Departments)

Municipal staff will report to the Committee on activities undertaken by the Municipality and approvals granted in the Protected Water Area. The Water Works Operator (Municipality) is responsible for issuing approval for forestry, mining operations and other activities within the Protected Water Area. Municipal staff will also be responsible for overseeing construction of roads, pipelines, railways, telephone and power lines within the Protected Water Area. Municipal staff will work with the Committee providing information and advising on topics relating to source water protection, watershed management, land use and the operation of the Falmouth Water Utility. Staff will also bring forth concerns relating to water quality and watershed management.

Nova Scotia Environment

The representative will work with the Committee providing information and advising on topic related to source water protection, watershed management, the Environment Act, and the Protected Water Area Regulations.

Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

The representative will work with the Committee providing information and advising on topics related to forestry, wildlife, and source water protection.

Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

The representative will work with the Committee providing information and advising them on topics related to roads, bridges, and transportation.

Watershed Landowner Representatives

The Watershed Landowner Representatives are encouraged to; express their and other landowner's concerns and interests; advise and provide information to the Committee on land use management and source water protection; and report any problems that they encounter within the watershed.

Committee Meetings

The Falmouth Watershed Committee meets quarterly (third Tuesday of the month) and as required at the West Hants Municipal Office, unless otherwise indicated.