

**Community Liaison Committee  
Highway 102 Aerotech Connector Road Project  
MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Meeting Date / Time:</b>	February 13, 2024 7:00 pm	<b>Chair:</b>	K. Green
<b>Date Issued:</b>	April 3, 2024	<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Teleconference
<b>Meeting No.:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Recorded &amp; Reviewed:</b>	K. Green
<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	Peter Fleming	NS Public Works	
	Aaron MacDonald	NS Public Works	
	Matt Clarke	NS Public Works	
	Kimberlea Green	WSP	
	Bob Guscott	SWEPS	
	Allan Billard	SWEPS	
	Adam Arthur	Community Representative	
	Tim Adams	Community Representative	
	Barry Geddes	Halifax Water	
	Wayne Strobo	CPWAC	
	Brian Wong	MLA	

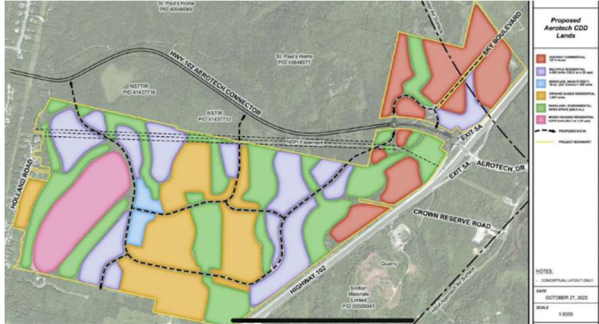
<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Actioner</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Introductions</b>	
	Acknowledgement of attendees.	Info
<b>2.</b>	<b>Project Update</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A. MacDonald is project engineer as of October 2023</li> <li>b. Work to continue into summer of 2024</li> <li>c. Environmental culverts installed</li> <li>d. Wetland alteration in progress</li> <li>e. Blasting continues, anticipated until April 2024.</li> <li>f. ATV abutments have been poured. Work is to continue in early summer.</li> </ul>	Info
<b>3.</b>	<b>Issues and Concerns</b>	
	<p><b>Issues and concerns raised and discussed during this CLC meeting, along with responses from DPW, are provided in the attached table to these minutes. Below is a brief summary of the concerns and responses.</b></p>	

<p>a. SWEPS submitted a Vegetation Plan for DPW consideration in October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPW has a meeting at end of month, and will follow up with SWEPS afterwards.</li> </ul> <p>b. HW and CPWAC raised several concerns related to erosion and sediment control and water quality, specifically, impacts to Wetland 28 and subsequently Hollands Brook and Lake Fletcher, which has been carrying high levels of turbid water and sediment-loadings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetland 28 is included in the Wetland Alteration Permit. DPW’s consultant will be conducting monitoring in accordance with the requirements of the permit. Wetland 28 will be assessed, and additional action taken, as necessary.</li> <li>• NSECC and DFO have been notified and have been onsite and are working with the Contractor to ensure compliance with the site-specific Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan. DPW will work closely with regulators to ensure all work remains within compliance.</li> <li>• W. Stobo noted that the Collin’s Park pumping station has been impacted.</li> <li>• B. Geddes advised that there have been impacts on Lake Fletcher and the CP water treatment process has had to be adjusted to deal with the sediment loading.</li> </ul> <p>c. W. Stobo (CPWAC) noted that as per the EA Conditions of Approval, DPW is required to exercise due diligence with respect to the undertaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPW will continue to work with NESCC and DFO and request additional regulatory presence if required.</li> <li>• Additional turbidity monitoring will be implemented by DPW</li> </ul> <p>d. B. Geddes (HW) noted that the use of clay is contributing to the issues. Other projects are not having significant ESC challenges (e.g. Glendale project, Bedford/Burnside Connector). DWP should consider methods implemented for these projects.</p> <p>e. B. Wong (MLA) asked if there had been any potable water quality complaints from local residences to date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T. Adams has indicated that his well has been impacted – bad odour. T. Adams indicated he has not heard from the OCC. Aaron MacDonald to follow up.</li> <li>• DPW was not aware of any other potable water complaints that have been received to date.</li> </ul> <p>f. HW and CPWAC noted that the CLC did not meet 2 times in 2023 as per the CLC Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPW acknowledges that there should be at least 2 meetings per year and will plan accordingly moving forward</li> </ul> <p>g. CPWAC requested confirmation be provided regarding the disposal of acid rock</p>	<p>DPW</p> <p>Info</p> <p>Info</p> <p>Info</p> <p>Info</p> <p>DPW</p> <p>DPW</p> <p>DPW</p> <p>Info</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPW advised that SBM is being disposed of off-site at an approved ARD facility. The contractor has an SBM Management plan in place which is approved and enforced by NSECC.</li> </ul>	Info
<p>h. W. Stobo advised that CPWAC has submitted a letter to the Minister of NSECC. No response had been received to date.</p>	Info
<p>i. Local OHV community raised concerns about runoff from future development on the south side of the Connector Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future development is outside the scope of the Aerotech Connector Road project.</li> <li>• A. Arthur noted that the purpose of the Connector Road was to alleviate traffic on Hwy 2 and future development is foreseeable.</li> </ul>	Info
<p>j. Community member concerned about direct impacts on their property related to flooding, foundation damage, water quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any concerns regarding potable water quality should be submitted to the OCC ( <a href="mailto:dpw-occ@novascotia.ca">dpw-occ@novascotia.ca</a> ) so issues can be tracked and followed up on.</li> <li>• DPW is aware of all project specific claims that have been submitted through the OCC, and residents are encouraged to continue to report any issues.</li> <li>• T. Adams stated that he was not getting a response from the OCC.</li> <li>• B. Wong advised that the OCC needs to respond to complainants.</li> <li>• A. MacDonald noted that DPW is preparing a log of OCC complaints and a summary table is being compiled.</li> </ul>	Info
<p>k. HW inquired about the surface water monitoring program and if the sampling results could be shared.</p>	DPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPW to look into and advise.</li> </ul>	DPW
<p>l. Municipality of East Hants asked if the design and construction considered the disturbing of materials (that protect the watershed from acid rock) when intersection connections are made in the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPW is aware of a submission to HRM Planning and Development for a proposed site connection to the new Aerotech Connector. DPW has not been informed of official acceptance of that submittal. Currently, no intersection connections will be roughed in. Any additional connections that are to be constructed after the project will have to be assessed on an individual basis.</li> </ul>	Info
<p>m. DPW advised that complaints are being shared with the Contractor, as well as regulators.</p>	Info
<p>n. HW and CPWAC inquired as to what specific mitigation measures were in place and whether the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan can be shared with the CLC.</p>	DPW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPW to look into and advise.</li> </ul>	DPW

<b>4.</b>	<b>General</b>	
	o. Next meeting to be scheduled for mid to late April, prior to full ramp up of construction activities.	DPW
	<b>MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:00 pm</b>	

ISSUES AND CONCERNS RAISED BY THE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE, JANUARY 2024

CLC MEMBER	AFFILIATION	QUESTIONS / CONCERNS	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) RESPONSE
Allan Billard	SWEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Back in October SWEPS submitted a Vegetation Plan to the department regarding our preliminary ideas for ‘greening’ up parts of the Aerotech Bypass route. We have buy-in from the Trans Canada Trail Foundation to assist us with part of the cost and we are hoping the department will participate. I attach the plan here. Could you ask that the issue be put on the agenda for the CLC meeting with the idea of getting feedback from the department?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Vegetation Plan has been submitted to the appropriate DPW (Department of Public Works) groups for review. Currently, we do not have a decision. Any revegetation plan needs to consider driver and AT user safety and ongoing maintenance. There is a meeting scheduled for the end of February to discuss. DPW will follow up after the February meeting.</li> </ul>
Jesse Hulsman	Municipality of East Hants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has the design and construction considered the disturbing of materials (that protect the watershed from acid rock) when intersection connections are made in the future? Or will those intersections be roughed in? There looks to be 2 or 3 conceptual connections with the Clayton-Marchand Homes Development concept plan</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current project is accounting for the presence of sulphide bearing material by removing all disturbed rock to an approved disposal facility. DPW is aware of a submission to HRM Planning and Development for the proposed site connections to the new Aerotech Connector. With that said, we have not been informed of any official acceptance of that submittal and therefore have not received direction to alter the existing design to account for proposed developments. At the moment, no intersection connections will be roughed in. Any additional connections that are to be constructed after the project will have to be environmentally assessed on an individual basis.</li> </ul>
Tim Adams	Community Representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous flooding of my property and pond caused directly by Dexter’s and the Provinces activity adjacent to my property.</li> <li>Failure of the pumping ponds going up the new road have destroyed my home.</li> <li>Once we mitigated our basement from the above, we discovered a large crack in our foundation.</li> <li>The pond has been destroyed and we want mitigation. Ken Burrows is getting mitigation for his ponds why not me.</li> <li>Legal counsel has been engaged on my side.</li> <li>What will happen when the project is over (everyone was warned by me at multiple meetings at the local firewall water is going to be an issue) who is responsible for the management of the runoff from the project as it is all headed to me and pine oak.</li> <li>my well and the heavy odor now present in it since construction and blasting and flooding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPW is aware of all project specific claims that have been submitted through the OCC. The purpose of the CLC to is to represent community interests and provide a platform for concerns to be communicated. We certainly want residents to bring forward their concerns however, we will not be able to discuss any specifics pertaining to individual concerns/claims between residents and the contractor/DPW. Those should be discussed through the proper channels.</li> <li>We encourage the public to keep submitting their concerns through the OCC as it provides an accountable way to log and track the progress of each claim.</li> <li>All water generated within the <b>provincial ROW</b> will be controlled through a series of ditching and culverts. After construction is complete, no water that is generated within the provincial ROW will be promoted towards any privately owned property.</li> <li>Well: Any concerns regarding potable water quality should be submitted to the OCC (<a href="mailto:dpw-occ@novascotia.ca">dpw-occ@novascotia.ca</a>) so the issue can be tracked and followed up on.</li> </ul>
Adam Arthur	Local OHV Community	<p>I would like to talk about this proposed development on the south side of the connector road. Everything from it will be running downhill into our lake. We think it’s bad right now but just wait. I think this definitely concerns the Aerotech connector committee. Please refer to request from Clayton Developments: <a href="#">HRM Phase 5 Site Specific Requests Clayton Dev</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future development is outside the scope of the Aerotech Connector Road project and will be assessed at the time an application is made to the appropriate municipal and provincial authorities.</li> </ul>

## ISSUES AND CONCERNS RAISED BY THE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE, JANUARY 2024

CLC MEMBER	AFFILIATION	QUESTIONS / CONCERNS	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) RESPONSE
Barry Geddes	Halifax Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of tributaries to Lake Fletcher that originate from the Aerotech Connector project have been heavily impacted since the beginning of the project, but none have been as impacted by the project as wetland 28 which is the headwater wetland to Hollands Brook. Hollands Brook is tributary to Lake Fletcher above the Collin’s Park water supply plant intake and has been carrying high levels of turbid water to Lake Fletcher since October 2023. We have been monitoring Hollands brook independently since 2009 and it has never been as impacted as it is right now. As a result, Lake Fletcher is heavily impacted which has forced Halifax Water to alter operations at the water treatment plant to effectively treat the water. Should the project continue in this manner, the status of Lake Fletcher as a long term is questioned. The source of contamination can be traced back to inadequate erosion and sedimentation measures and the construction of a large clay fill area along wetland 28.</li> <li>• The following are recommendations that could be employed to improve the situation. These are for NSTPW to consider and implement:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is Halifax Water’s understanding that more fill is needed to bring the road up to the required grade. It is recommended that crushed rock be used for the remainder of the road to reduce the impact to the drinking water supply area. Areas that have already used clay should be capped immediately with rock free of acid bearing ore;</li> <li>2. Consider implementing best practices to reduce the amount of sediment runoff such as:                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Modified wet weather work window where no work is allowed during heavy rain fall events. Heavy rain fall event is defined as 20mm in 24hr period;</li> <li>b. Improve erosion and sedimentation control efforts. Currently only one silt fence lines most of the project area. This has proven to be inadequate as silt makes its way into the watercourse after every rainfall event directly impacting the Collin’s Park water supply plant. The following are recommendations that could be considered:                       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Add a second line of silt fence;</li> <li>ii. Leave grubbing along exposed area to act as physical berm;</li> <li>iii. Add more settling ponds;</li> <li>iv. Increase pump watches to avoid failures;</li> <li>v. Increase sampling downstream beyond the construction footprint to better understand the impact to watercourse and wetlands beyond the project area;</li> </ol> </li> <li>c. For the remainder of the project have all truck deliveries via Hwy 102 to reduce sediment being trucked onto Fall River Road (Hwy 2)</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. The clay fill area along Wetland 28 is impacted beyond the erosion and control measures (silt fencing). This occurred because of fence failure and inadequate maintenance and repairs in a timely manner. It is recommended that a wetland impact study be completed to assess the damage and if compensation is required to repair the long-term damage. Further it is recommended that a wetland specialist from the Provincial wetland group be assigned to oversee the impact study and recommended to stay on during the remainder of the project to assess other deficiencies that could impact other wetlands and watercourses within the water supply area as the project goes on.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPW appreciate the suggestions brought forward by Halifax Water. The suggestions provided will be shared with the entire project team for full consideration. NSECC (Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change) and DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) have been notified and are aware of the issue. They have been on site and inspected erosion and sedimentation control measures and are working with the Contractor to ensure compliance with the site-specific ESC Plan. DPW will work closely with regulators to ensure all work remains within compliance. DPW plans to retain the services of a qualified professional to complete additional site-specific turbidity testing.</li> <li>• Wetland 28 is included in the Wetland Alteration Permit. DPW’s consultant will be conducting monitoring in accordance with the requirements of the permit. Wetland 28 will be assessed, and additional action taken, as necessary.</li> </ul>

## ISSUES AND CONCERNS RAISED BY THE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE, JANUARY 2024

CLC MEMBER	AFFILIATION	QUESTIONS / CONCERNS	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) RESPONSE
		<p>4. Improve communications with the CLC. As per the CLC Terms of Reference the CLC was to meet at least 2 times per year. This is a minimal requirement to ensure effective communication between NSTPW and the communities they represent. The CLC did not meet at all in 2023.</p> <p>5. Reporting. As per the Terms it is important to provide the CLC with yearly reports of the project to identify any issues and proactively mitigate them before they get out of hand. To my knowledge no reports were shared with the CLC in 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Halifax Water would like to thank you for providing the opportunity to address our concerns and recommendations in order to allow the continued use of Lake Fletcher as a long-term water supply for the Collin's Park water supply plant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was one CLC meeting held in 2023 (July 11<sup>th</sup>), the minutes will be uploaded to the website shortly. DPW agrees that there should be at least 2 meetings per year and will plan accordingly moving forward. DPW will also ensure that all meeting minutes are uploaded to the website in a timely manner.</li> <li>The terms of reference do not require annual reporting to the CLC. Meeting minutes are shared through the website and are available for future reference.</li> </ul>
Anna Carron (on behalf of Richard Pickrill)	CPWAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Community Liaison Committee</u>: It is our understanding that the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was developed to ensure effective communication between the Department of Public Works (formerly NSTIR), the contractor and stakeholders, among them, the CPWAC. Early in the project, a number of meetings were held to address concerns and to share important information about the project. To our knowledge, no meetings were held in 2023 nor were any reports provided to the CPWAC or other stakeholders, which are required annually according to the CLC's Terms of Reference (ToR), section 3.2, page 3. Considering the recent turn of events, communication is more important than ever. Therefore, the CPWAC is requesting a CLC meeting be held as soon as is practical and that biannual meetings be held, as per the ToR, until the project is completed. This will improve communications between all groups.</li> <li><u>Acid Rock</u>: From the outset, acid rock disruption and disposal has been a major concern to the CPWAC. Plans, approved in the EA, have been put in place for its disposal. Informal discussions have reassured us that this plan has been followed. However, since we have not received formal reporting through the CLC, we request confirmation be provided regarding the disposal of acid rock.</li> <li><u>Change in Hydrology</u>: Run-off from the site has increased and/or water retention and buffering in the catchment has decreased, causing a change in the hydrology that includes localized flooding, which subsequently increases the risk of contamination to the municipal drinking water supply source – Lake Fletcher.</li> <li><u>Intake Protection Zone Impacts</u>: Run-off from the site has also contained high sediment-loadings which has silted waterways, ditches and ponds and visibly impacted the water quality in Lake Fletcher. Further, recent high rain / storm events have impacted the water quality in the Halifax Water High Risk Intake Protection Zone, requiring Halifax Water to adjust operations at the water treatment plant. Moreover, to some degree, the impacts are watershed wide.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Community Liaison Committee</u>: There was one CLC meeting held in 2023 (July 11<sup>th</sup>), the minutes will be uploaded to the website shortly. DPW agrees that there should be at least 2 meetings per year and will plan accordingly moving forward. DPW will also ensure that all meeting minutes are uploaded to the website in a timely manner.</li> <li><u>Acid Rock</u>: SBM is being disposed of off-site at an approved ARD facility. The contractor has an SBM Management plan in place which, as per the regulations, is approved and enforced by NSECC.</li> <li><u>Hydrology/IPZ Impacts/RBC</u>: NSECC approves site specific ESC Plans developed by the Contractor. These plans are developed in accordance with the Conditions of Approval of the EA. NSECC and DFO have been notified and are aware issues pertaining to sediment runoff. They have been on site and inspected erosion and sedimentation control measures and are working with the Contractor to ensure compliance with the site-specific ESC Plan. DPW will work closely with regulators to ensure that all work remains within compliance. DPW plans to retain the services of a qualified professional to complete additional site-specific turbidity testing.</li> </ul>

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CLC MEMBER	AFFILIATION	QUESTIONS / CONCERNS	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) RESPONSE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="602 318 1681 620">• <u>Reduced Buffering Capacity</u>: Beginning the construction at the bottom end of the catchment (Highway 2) and progressively working upslope, has left more of the worksite exposed and for longer, reduced the buffering capacity of the lower catchment and increased runoff and siltation, more than if the project had been developed from Highway 102 downslope to the lakes, as was initially advised in our letter dated 4 December 2020. Similarly, polluted runoff into the neighboring ditches and waterways would have been reduced if truck traffic (transporting silt from earth-laden tires) to and from the site had been routed via the 102 Highway rather than through the community via Highway 2 along the lake shore.</li>   <li data-bbox="602 661 1681 1272">• <u>Water Quality Monitoring and Erosion and Sedimentation Control</u>: It is the CPWAC's understanding that water quality monitoring and an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan are a requirement of the Environmental Assessment. However, the control measures in place have proven to be insufficient in that they have done very little to protect the water quality and wetlands of the receiving waters downstream of the construction project due to erosion and sedimentation, subsequently imposing a long-term impact on the health of the CPW catchment and water quality. Over the past year, a number of high impact incidents have been observed by CPWAC members, impacted citizens and other members of the community, which suggests sediment concentrations have exceeded guidelines and that construction area water has breached the erosion control measures with little effort to restore the measures in a timely manner. These incidents have resulted in the direct impact of the primary water supply – Lake Fletcher – for the Collins Park Municipal Water Supply Plant, not to mention the private users who are drawing water from this system as well. Therefore, the CPWAC intends to request that NSECC conduct a complete review of all Erosion and Sedimentation measures in place to assess whether the conditions of the Minister's Approval have been met. We are also requesting additional sampling downstream of the project area to increase awareness of the impact the project is having beyond the construction footprint.</li>   <li data-bbox="602 1312 1681 1614">• <u>Wetland Destruction</u>: Evidence suggests the destruction of wetlands has gone beyond the geographical bounds of the approved project. The Committee intends to request from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change that a wetland and watercourse impact study be completed immediately to the impacted wetlands and watercourses to better understand the long-term effect of the project. Further, should the study show that the wetlands and watercourses have been impacted, we intend to request that the Minister of Environment and Climate Change reconsider where the current wetland compensation funds are being allocated toward using them to restore the impacted wetlands and watercourse(s) in the catchment to help reestablish baseline water quality to Lake Fletcher.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1774 1312 2769 1443">• A Wetland Alteration Permit is in place for this project which requires DPW to monitor all wetlands impacted by construction. All wetlands will be assessed and if necessary, appropriate measures will be implemented. DPW is open to considering wetland restoration projects within the watershed.</li> </ul>