



Source Water Protection Advisory Committee Meeting

December 10, 2025
2:30 p.m.
Council Chambers – Town Hall
Agenda

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Source Water Protection Advisory Committee Meeting, September 10, 2025.

3. Declaration of Interest

4. Chairpersons Comments

5. Public Input

PLEASE NOTE:

- *Reminder to all speakers that the Town conducts its business with the seven sacred teachings in mind, truth, honesty, love, courage, respect, wisdom and humility.*
- *Members of the public participating in public input will conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful to the public, council and staff. Should this not occur, the Chair will advise them to end their questions and/or comments immediately.*
- *You have up to 5 minutes to provide input to be directed to the Chair.*
- *Responses will be provided after the meeting either via email or in person and may be included on a future report.*
- *Any input that relates to personnel, current or potential litigation issues, or planning issues for which a public hearing has already occurred, but no decision has been made by Council, will not be responded to.*



6. Continuing Business:

- a. Update and Presentation, Colin Walker on conservation measures/drought and where we are today.

7. New Business

- a. Introduction Martin Kehoe, Manager of Environmental Services.
- b. Workplan and Discussion on the Water Conservation Policy By-Law and education materials.

8. Roundtable

9. Next Meeting

- a. March 11, 2026 – 2:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment



ATTENDING

- Councillor Howard Williams (Chair),
- Mayor, Jody Mackay (virtual)
- Councillor Ian Palmeter
- Meghan Swanburg
- Greg Cumings, Source Water Protection Planner NS (virtual)
- Jeremy Strong, Citizen
- Marcel Falkenham, Acadia University Representative

ALSO ATTENDING

- Colin Walker, CBCL Hydrogeologist (virtual)
- Laura Mosher, Manager of Planning, Municipality of the County of Kings (virtual)
- Devin Lake, Director of Planning and Public Works
- Mark Fredericks, Senior Planner Town of Wolfville

ABSENT

- Councillor Peter Allen, Municipality of the County of Kings

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Councillor Howard Williams, called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented, agenda approved.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE SOURCE WATER PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 14, 2025.

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes as distributed.

CARRIED

PUBLIC INPUT:

No public attendees or online participants.

LAND USE BYLAW UPDATE AND WELLFIELD PROTECTION OVERLAY DETAILS:

Mark Fredericks, Senior Planner with the Town of Wolfville, originally proposed the planning application to be a stand alone project, since then he and Laura Mosher, Manager of Planning, Municipality of the County of Kings have worked together on rolling the well field protection



controls into another project already being worked on in Greenwich, an update to their land use bylaw, adding an extra layer to the zoning and boundaries around our wellfields.

Laura Mosher, Manager of Planning, Municipality of the County, we can update our mapping so that our overlay matches your overlay and our regulations will match your regulations. The overlay will align with updated mapping provided by Mark and includes three wells, covering a broader area including parts of Ridge Road. The overlay prohibits high-risk uses even if the zoning would otherwise allow.

Laura confirmed that the proposed amendments, updated mapping, and regulations are expected to go to the Planning Department at Kings County late 2025, October or November.

DROUGHT AND WATER LEVELS – COLIN WALKER, CBCL HYDROGEOLOGIST

Colin has been working with Devin, the Town, and Water Utility Operators due to increasingly dry conditions and concerns about aquifer levels.

Colin presented background information on water levels and drought, water levels are the primary indicator, but climate conditions (rainfall, heat, evaporation) also play a key role. Sea level is often used as a preliminary reference point when assessing groundwater pressure. A phenomenon called freshwater head helps maintain aquifer pressure, even if water levels drop near or below sea level. It was previously mentioned in past meetings an idea to add a monitoring well near the river to detect potential saltwater intrusion, staff acknowledged the importance of this and committed to revisiting the idea. Currently, there is no saltwater-indicating monitoring well.

Two monitoring wells exist but currently lack sensors; sensors have been ordered and will be installed this fall. The Town's production wells already have sensors, but manual calibration and data validation will be performed to improve accuracy.

Colin stated that, to his knowledge, no large agricultural wells tap into the Town's aquifer, aside from Acadia's two wells, which are the largest, but generally non-consumptive users—one draws water, the other recharges the aquifer.

Gregory Cummings suggested that the best way to assess other users of the aquifer is to review provincial water withdrawal permits.



WATER CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Colin emphasized a tiered approach:

- **Voluntary water reduction** – public guidelines and awareness campaigns.
- **Monitoring effectiveness** – compare pre- and post-guideline water usage.
- **Mandatory restrictions** – only considered in extreme cases and would require legislation and enforcement.

Voluntary reduction is preferred and is already being experimented with by the town.

ACTION ITEMS:

POLICY AND BYLAW DEVELOPMENT

A formal "If X happens, then do Y" framework needs to be developed. This would link measurable conditions (e.g., low water levels) to specific actions (e.g., issuing conservation advisories). Devin suggested the Source Water Protection committee serve as a steering committee for the development of this policy and bylaw framework. This context would add to our current Source Water Protection Plan.

- **NEXT MEETING:** December 10, 2025, 2:30-4:30
- **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

As recorded by Microsoft Teams, summarized by ChatGPT (checked by K Outerleys).