

## **Scotian Materials: CLC Meeting #8**

Wednesday, March 13 2019

### **Attendance**

- Bud Baker, Resident (Chair)
- Anna McCarron, SWEPS
- Martin Zwicker, Resident
- Bill Horne, MLA (late)
- Cameron Wainwright, FRABA
- Sean MacLean, Maritimes Northeast Pipeline
- Rob McPherson, Scotian Materials
- Heather Mackay, Clean Earth (replacing Greg Hughes)
- Alyse Hand, NATIONAL Public Relations

### **Absent**

- Mimi LeCain, Resident
- Keri Irwin, Resident
- Jason Crowell, FRABA
- Angela Dicker, Resident
- Dean Bouchard, Halifax Stanfield International Airport

### **Meeting begins:**

Bud chairs the meeting. Bud asks if there are any errors or omissions from CLC Meeting #7. The question is raised to go over an issue brought up from meeting #7 minutes about the privacy of comments and sign-up sheets at public open houses. Rob says he looked into it, and whatever is submitted can end up in the public record. If this is an issue with a CLC member, it's something that would need to be brought up with the province's privacy commission. Scotian can make it clearer during the process that the information could be public so that people can choose whether to provide the information. Bud reviews the agenda and the group agrees to move forward with an added item to discuss a future site visit requested by Angela via text. Another item is brought up from meeting #7. A question was raised during the last meeting about the potential impact construction from the Aerotech connector would have on a black ash tree on Scotian's property. Bill mentioned he would look into it during the last meeting, but he wasn't able to follow up. Another item from meeting #7 was the over burden run off in the sedimentation pond from construction. Rob says he will be touching on that during his presentation. Rob gages group's interest in scheduling another site visit. He says the group will discuss what a site visit looks like and when it's appropriate to do so later in the meeting.

### **Update on Status of Operation from Rob**

Rob says there's been a change to Scotian Material's staffing. Mark Webb is no longer with Scotian Materials (SM). That position has not been replaced. Rob says last year SM blasted and crushed 130,000

tonnes of rock. SM also upgraded Resource Road to a maintainable provincial standard. Rob says SM is currently in the process of doing maintenance on crushing equipment. Crushing will begin again during the first two weeks of April 2019. Rob says power is up on the site and that this will be an operational year versus previous year of start-up work. SM has the asphalt plant on site and will be producing asphalt through the year. A scale is on site where trucks get weighed leaving the quarry. Martin asks what the size of the blasts will be. Rob answers approximately 50,000 tonnes for the first blast of this year. Bud asks if SM is blasting inward. Rob answers that SM is blasting into the pit then those rocks get put through the crusher. Rob asks if there are any more questions. Martin asks how many staff are on site. Rob says there were 25 last year, with 2 crusher crews. This year it will probably be half that and then it will be determined by market demand. The question of plans to do any work on the residential side is raised. Rob says not this year, but it is part of SM's master plan to do residential development. Rob says last year there were four blasting events in the quarry. SM did not receive any complaints about the noise, crushing, or traffic. However, one blast did not meet permit requirements for overpressure at the pipeline location (but this permit requirement shouldn't exist for underground structures, only above ground structures). Scotian had requested this requirement be adjusted in the permit and it was amended by NSE. K & M monitors the blasting and are an independent contractor. Rob says, at the moment, SM has four grades of aggregate, but they would have more this year. Rob says these are Type 1 and Type 2 aggregates, which are used for building roads. A CLC member asks if government is paying for Resource Road to be upgraded. Rob says no, SM is paying for that. Rob says SM did all upgrades, but government will maintain the road. Heather asks if blasting activity is all contract work. Rob says yes, it's all contract work.

Rob starts presentation on the annual monitoring report.

#### **Update on Ground Water:**

Rob says 21 ground water wells were monitored weekly or monthly per permit and only minor seasonal variations were recorded. The ground water quality was consistent with baseline. Rob says what that tells us is that the rock is tight and the fractures aren't all continuous. Rob says the consultant used worst case scenario for application but what we've learned is actual conditions are better than the conservative approach used by the consultant. In 2019 SM will continue to do water level samples. A question is raised about "rock quality" in quarry. Rob says rock quality is good and is not acid generating.

#### **Update on Surface Water:**

Rob says surface water was consistent with baseline, with the exception of higher nitrite being present in upstream and downstream locations. Rob says it was determined this was not quarry related. Bill asks about how high the nitrite levels were. Rob says nitrites were present in Stream 4 (not in every sample) just in some samples. Rob says these samples were taken in April & September monitoring events. Rob says Stream 4 sampling was done in April and Stream 5 sampling was done in September. Rob says monitoring events happens during a mix of weather conditions. Anna asks exact dates of monitoring events. Rob says monitoring event of Stream 4 took place on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2018 and monitoring event of Stream 5 took place on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Martin asks how far upstream the nitrites went. Rob says close to the highway. He says nitrites were identified in both upstream and downstream locations and were not related to quarry activity.

### **Update on discharge monitoring**

Rob says surface water discharge samples were collected while discharge was occurring. Results show the filter bag was effective in reducing TSS and metal concentrations. Rob says results from discharge sampling met guidelines for TSS and pH. He says copper and iron met stream baseline. Aluminum remains slightly above baseline. Nitrate is one sampling event above CCME FWAL (his consultant is suggesting that that could have been related to blast residue). There wasn't a direct correlation, but it was suggested that was most-likely the cause. These samples are all taken at the point of discharge at the quarry pond. Martin asks why the filter bag was not specified to address the aluminum. Rob says they picked the bags that they felt were going to do to the job and it worked at removing or significantly reducing all the metals. A filter bag will be used this year with a new specification that should address the remaining aluminum. Anna asks how the bags get disposed of. Rob says they disposed of at appropriate disposal sites. Rob says what SM is finding is that if SM keeps TSS low, there won't be any problems with water quality.

### **Update on wetlands:**

Rob says wetland water levels were monitored quarterly. Wetland assessment was conducted in three wetlands. No changes to the wetlands shape or overall functionality resulted from quarry activity.

### **Environmental Assessment Update:**

Rob says the province reviewed EA and asked for clarification from SM on water handling and requested a Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge (MEK) study. A group has done an initial site visit and that will be followed by a second site visit before the final draft that will be completed and submitted as early as July.

### **Questions:**

Rob begins by asking the group two questions: He wants to know when the group would like to go on another site visit and what they hope to gain from it. Anna says she would like to see the components of it, where the pit is and the discharge location and an example of the monitoring sites. Rob asks if the group would like to see the asphalt plant operations. There is no consensus among the group. Martin asks if Rob anticipates any significant agenda items coming up in the next few months. Rob says what will be significant will be the results of the supplemental EA studies and how things went in general as it pertains to the quarry. Bill asks if the quarry changes the patterns of wildlife. Rob indicates that any activity has an impact but there is wildlife around the quarry perimeter and travelling through it. Martin asks when SM anticipates clearing more land for expansion. Rob says that depends on EA timeline. If

approved, plans would be made to advance the quarry towards the highway. If not approved, alternate plans would need to be made. Martin says he would be interested to hold meeting #9 after the Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge study is complete. Martin says that would also be a good time to do a site visit. Rob suggests group picks a date for site visit.

The date of Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> is suggested by Rob. Rob says he will confirm with group, look into more details about site visit, and email out a draft agenda.

Rob reminds the group safety is paramount at the quarry. Safety precautions must be taken or committee members will not be allowed on the site. You have to bring your own **safety boots**. Safety vests, goggles and hard hats will be provided by Scotian Materials. If necessary, the site visit and the committee meeting will be two separate events.

Rob will determine where meeting site will be when he sends out the agenda. It makes the most sense to meet at Hilton Hotel, but this will be confirmed in agenda.

Martin raises the point that if we aren't meeting between now and September, and a complaint, or something that affects committee comes up, there's nothing in place to keep committee informed. Anna asks if there have there been any complaints. Rob says no, there hasn't-- other than Bill's complaint that was dealt with in an earlier meeting. Rob says it was determined that complaint was not related to quarry operations.

Rob encourages anyone to reach out to him if they have any further questions.

Meeting adjourned.