

**Nova Scotia Ground Water Association**  
**Fall Meeting, November 30, 2019**  
**Delta Dartmouth**

Start Time: 10:00 AM

**Call to Order**

Heather Cross welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending and called the meeting to order.

**1. Review/Approval of 2019 Fall Meeting Agenda**

**MOTION** to approve fall meeting Agenda by Dean Walker, seconded by Mark Verge, that the Agenda be **accepted. CARRIED**

**2. Review/Approval of Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**MOTION** to approve 2019 AGM Minutes by Dean Walker, seconded by Melvin MacDonald, that the 2019 Annual General Minutes be **accepted. CARRIED**

**3. Presentation**

Heather Cross presented some information on the Oxford sinkhole, based mainly on a paper by Amy Tizzard: *Tizzard, A., Demont, G. J. and Brushett, D. M. 2019. An Overview of Work on the Oxford Sinkhole, 2018-2019, in Geoscience and Mines Branch, Report of Activities 2018-2019; Nova Scotia Department of Energy and Mines, Report ME 2019-002, p. 63-68.*

A copy of the paper was distributed. There were some updates since a geophysical/geotechnical report was completed in August 2019. DOTIR is evaluating the risk to Highway 104 and geotechnical drilling started in fall 2019. No data from 2019 is available at present.

It was noted that “In areas of sinkhole development the primary geohazard is related to sudden catastrophic subsidence due to collapse of cavities in the bedrock created by the dissolution of the gypsum and/or limestone. Caution should be exercised in these areas prior to construction of buildings or roads.” Construction activities by drill rigs and excavators should also consider risk in such areas.

Heather Cross also noted concerns about metals such as lead with the Tainted Water articles in the media in recent weeks. There are various protocols being used for sampling, depending on type of water supply. She suggested contacting the lab to be used for analysis for bottle size and type and whether a preservative is needed or not. She distributed copies of selected material from the NSE website on sample collection & preservation (chemical/physical) and drop on water fact sheets on lead, copper and corrosive water. These are mainly for private wells. For public water supplies (registered, municipal), it's best to contact NSE.

*Added after meeting: Source of material: <https://novascotia.ca/nse/water/privatewells.asp>*

*Under General Information section, click on Drop on Water fact sheets. These include many parameters, including the lead, copper and corrosive water fact sheets handed out.*

*Under Water Testing section, click on Sample collection and preservation: Chemical/Physical Quality*

*Note that materials are updated as needed, so always check that you have the latest version.*

#### **4. Financials**

There were no questions. **MOTION** to approve the 2018 Financials by Kris Castle, seconded by Ralph Jacobs, that the 2018 Financial statement be **accepted. CARRIED**

#### **5. New Business**

Discussion arose around uncertified people doing work and not doing it properly, especially well diggers, e.g.

- Some uncertified people are purchasing crocks for dug well construction.
- One contractor received a complaint from a home builder that the well digger thought the area was too wet and used brush and stumps to try and dry it. Heather indicated that such practices may result in significant deterioration of water quality, to the point of the water being unusable.
- Another contractor indicated that an uncertified contractor was constructing a dug well under another's COQ. NSE went out but said this was alright. The Well Construction Regulations indicate that a certified person must be on site at all times.

*Added after meeting from the WCR for Well diggers*

*5 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), a person must hold a certificate of qualification for a well digger to do any of the following:*

- (a) hold themselves out as a well digger;*
- (b) manually dig or operate machinery to dig a well;*
- (c) construct a dug well;*
- (d) repair a dug well;*
- (e) modify a dug well;*
- (f) decommission a dug well.*

...

*(3) A certificate of qualification is not required for a person who is assisting a well digger if the person is under the supervision of the well digger while performing any of the tasks listed in clauses (1)(b) to (f).*

*(4) A person must be at least 18 years old and must meet all of the following qualifications to be issued a certificate of qualification as a well digger:*

...

*(b) they must provide proof of on-site work experience in constructing at least 3 dug wells while under the supervision of a well digger;*

...

The process for complaints was discussed, with some items from the AGM minutes being applicable. Contractors are confused about who to call or go to with issues, as they are often not able to reach anyone by telephone. Heather noted that at the AGM, there was a suggestion that industry forward complaints to Noreene, who could then forward them to NSE and copy the

Board of Directors, so there will be a tracking record. There was a suggestion that complaints be given a tracking/ticket/reference number (HRM does this). NSGWA could give such a reference number before forwarding complaints to NSE.

It was asked if there was any reply to the following item from the AGM: “*Jordan also noted a case where a driller was told someone uncertified could run the rig if a certified driller was available within a certain distance/time, which is contrary to the Regulations. NSE will look into this.*” Jordan was not present, and Mark Verge has not heard anything.

The question was asked if there was any progress on the ‘check box’ for COQ number and well log record on building permits. Heather noted that at the AGM, NSGWA was waiting for a response. One contractor noted that the local building inspector would add a check box and use it if he received permission to do so.

## **6. Other Business**

Having text messages to remind of upcoming meetings: the group felt that this is a good idea.

Suggestions for upcoming 2020 Regional’s: It is best to hold the Regionals when the roads are closed rather than after they open. No particular topics were mentioned, and the group were asked to provide suggestions to the office or any of the Board of Directors.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

### **Attendees:**

Heather Cross	Wayne Christie	Ralph Jacobs
Mark Verge	Timothy Veinot	Bill Graham
Paul Dominey	Bill Dooks	Byron Jacobs
Ronald Zinck	Dean Walker	Melvin MacDonald
Jim Steeves	Steve Johnstone	Kenneth Sharpe
Eddson Corkum	Matt Bonn	Brendon Bruckschwanger
Kendall Veinotte	Garry Collicutt	Greg Johnson
Paul Slauenwhite	Eugene Lenihan	John Chapman
Mark Williams	David Palmer	Jeff Hartt
Joe Archibald	Waldon Carty	Gerald Spencer
Frank Norris	Mike Steeves	Kris Castle
Tino Winter	Joe MacDonald	Lloyd Berringer
Brian George	Doug Bryant	
Cecil Martin	John Martin	