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**Yarmouth-Argyle
District Planning Commission**

November 8, 2016

Wardens and Councils
District of Argyle
District of Clare
District of Yarmouth

Re: Carleton River Watershed Area Water Quality Monitoring Steering Committee
2017 NS Federation of Agriculture Water Resources Program Funding Grant
Municipal Representatives Participation

Dear Wardens and Councils,

The 'Carleton River Watershed Area Water Quality Monitoring Steering Committee' was established in 2015 following public concern for the environmental water quality in the Carleton River watershed area evidenced in water quality surveys conducted by the Department of Environment beginning in 2008. The mandate of the Steering Committee is to guide and maintain a community based volunteer water quality monitoring program and to act as an advisory group to the Municipalities of the District of Yarmouth, District of Argyle, and the District of Clare, stakeholders, and communities in the Carleton River watershed area, on the water quality, monitoring, and reporting within the watersheds. The Steering Committee is hosted by the District of Yarmouth which provides logistical and staff support. The Committee has a broad and inclusive membership including a member representing the NS Mink Breeders Association, representatives from the NS Departments of Environment and Agriculture, a representative from the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, members of the Tusket River Environmental Association and the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute and community members. Key members of the Committee are the representatives from each of the local Municipal Governments.

In June of 2016 the Steering Committee was successful in applying for a NS Federation of Agriculture Water Resources Program Grant. This grant for 2017 has enabled the Committee to engage Stantec Consulting Ltd. to undertake a year long study titled 'An Assessment of Environmental Pressures on Water Quality in the Carleton River Catchment and Adjacent Areas'. We very much look forward to this work being undertaken by a professional consulting firm to provide a valuable assessment of the state of the watershed area in 2017. A great deal of work has been undertaken by industry and government to address water quality issues in recent years, and this project is an opportunity for further understanding of water quality issues in the area.

As Municipal Elections were completed in October, new Councils and new Councilors are now working in our region. This letter is an update for the new representatives and to inform everyone of our ongoing and upcoming activities. We are holding our semi-annual fall meeting scheduled for November 18, 2016 at the Municipality of Yarmouth Administration Building in Hebron. We very much appreciate the valued participation of our Municipal Council representatives on the Steering Committee, and encourage all of the Councils to appoint a Councilor to be their representative on the Committee, and to attend our November 18 meeting. The Stantec consultant will be providing an overview and discussion on the 2017 project for the Committee, and reports on recent activities in the watershed area will also be included on the agenda. Notices and agendas have been circulated to all current Steering Committee members, however as noted, with election changes I would like to take this opportunity to update the Councils and encourage continued participation on our Committee.

Thank you.

Brad Fulton
Steering Committee Chair