

December 08, 2014

Attention: Mayor Savage, Regional Councillors

Cc. CMC, HSWRS, FBWHT

RE: Concerns with Respect to the Review of Options Re. Otter lake Landfill in the Current Review of the Halifax Solid Waste Resource Management Strategy

As Co-Chairs of Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust (FBWHT), we would like to bring to your attention a few issues of concern the FBWHT Board has, for consideration during Regional Council deliberations at Committee of the Whole on January 9, 2014. We are also providing a brief history of the Five Bridges Protected Wilderness Area to put the issues into context of FBWHT's and the public's interests.

FBWHT was formed in 2001 with a mandate to have the major portion of Crown lands on the Chebucto Peninsula designated as a provincial "Protected Wilderness Area". In October 2011, the province designated approximately 8,600 hectares of these crown lands as protected wilderness area. This area is situated west and southwest of the Otter Lake Landfill, approximately 1km distance and beyond from the disposal cells. For reference, the Bluff Trail system is situated in the wilderness area, also located west of the Otter Lake facility, as shown in the attached figure.

Important components the Province considers when evaluating candidate protected wilderness areas are:

- Social economic benefits
- Maintain biodiversity and ecological processes
- Climate change mitigation

Social economic benefits include wilderness recreation (fishing, hiking, canoeing), associated health benefits and tourism spin-offs/enhancements. Wilderness areas are extremely important for the sequestration of carbon, which is critical in the ongoing abatement of climate change. Important ecological processes include foremost maintaining "clean water and air".

Obviously the Province concluded the importance of creating these subject crown lands as protected. Therefore, we request Regional Council pay close attention to potential impacts that raising the height of the existing disposal cells could have on the protected wilderness area, particularly from:

- Blowing litter, odours, visibility and nuisance noise (particularly from trucks backing up)

Potential impacts to Nine Mile River is also an important concern, particularly considering increased development pressures within the headwater watershed lands of the Nine Mile River north of HWY 103, including residential subdivisions of Kingswood and Haliburton subdivisions who have aging septic systems, Lakeside Industrial Park, subdivisions in Timberlea, Halifax Water sewage treatment plant (situated adjacent Nine Mile River) and

two pumping stations (one situated next to the Nine Mile River and the other situated next to Governor Lake which flows into the Nine Mile River) and the new Brunello Estates golf course and associated residential community and commercial development.

We commend Halifax for paying attention to these concerns and working with the Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) and the Halifax Solid Waste Resource Society (HSWRS) to ensure sustainability of the natural environment. We do point out however, that the CMC/HSWRS makes reference to the potential for "significant" odour and noise issues. As there are no regulatory limits for source odours and noise at a distance from a source, and significant is difficult to define, due consideration must be given to the "nuisance" and "irritation" factor. This is an important consideration not only for residents and those playing on the golf course, but for those enjoying the ambience within the Five Bridges Wilderness Protected Area.

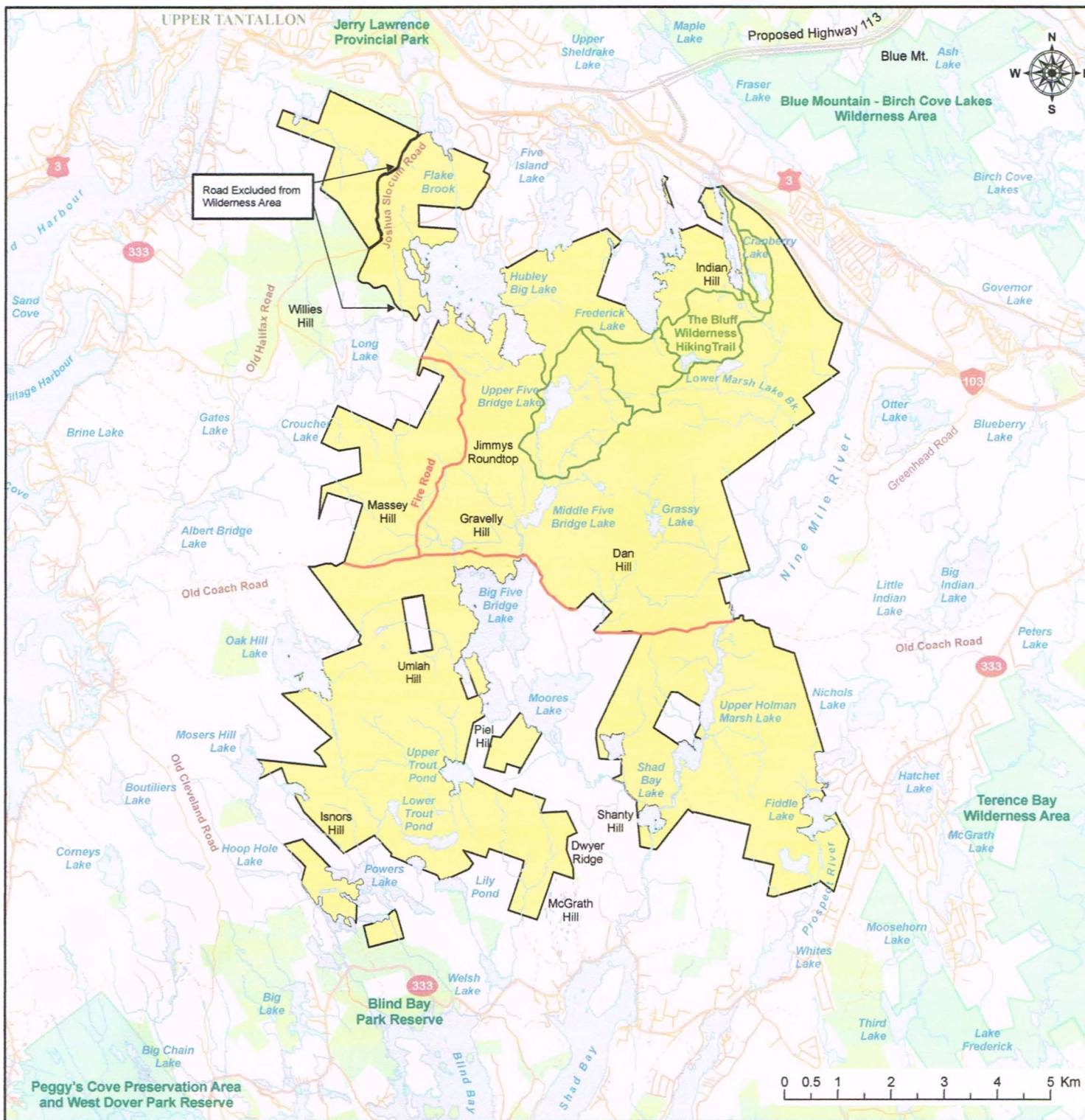
On a final note, we are very supportive of the examination/implementation of "waste to energy" alternatives. We look forward to Halifax working with the Province to ensure the proper regulatory framework is in place to allow this initiative to move forward to fruition.

We appreciate Regional Council's due consideration of these comments at this time.

Yours respectfully,

Harry Ward
Co-chair FBWH

Peter Lund, P. Geo
Co-Chair FBWHT



Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area



Roads and Trails

- Arterial; Highway
- Collector; Ramp
- Local Road
- Resource/Recreation; Abandoned Road
- - - Trail/footpath/portage; Track
- Railway
- Hwy 113 (proposed)
- Proposed Off-highway Vehicle Trail Management Agreement

Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area

Crown Land

Other Protected Areas

Map produced by the Protected Areas & Wetlands Branch of NS Environment, October 2011.

The information shown here was obtained courtesy of the NS Geomatics Centre (SNSMR) and the NS Department of Natural Resources.

© Crown Copyright, Province of Nova Scotia, 2011. All rights reserved.

This map is a geographic representation only. NS Environment accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions contained herein.