

Watershed group plans meeting to discuss master plan

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- BY DAVE STEWART

The Winter River- Tracadie Bay Watershed Association will hold a public meeting on Nov. 15 to discuss a draft of its new master plan.

The association calls it the Watershed Management Plan.

The meeting will take place at Grand Tracadie School at 7 p. m.

The purpose of the meeting is to get feedback and suggestions from watershed residents and other interested people to incorporate into a final version of the plan that the group hopes to adopt early in 2013.

"This draft is the result of a process that has taken place over the last couple of years," said Don Mazer, cochair of the association.

The Guardian reported in Wednesday's paper that the group is calling on the City of Charlottetown to seek yet another source of water, besides the one the city will develop in 2014 in Miltonvale Park.

Mazer said Wednesday that while there have been discussions with the city on a third well field, the association hasn't listed it in the draft report.

The group has organized a series of public information sessions on key watershed issues (such as fish habitat, water extraction and climate change) to help residents become better informed.

"Since this is a community based plan, we held public consultations with several key stakeholder groups and with the larger watershed community to learn about their concerns and their hopes," Mazer said.

The central aspects of the report are the goals and objectives that are proposed for the work of the watershed group for the coming years and the strategies that will be implemented to attain them.

Cathy Corrigan, the other co- chair of the association, said it was important to have the report accurately reflect the concerns that people expressed and to develop a plan based on issues of greatest concern to the community.

"Not surprisingly, the issues of water quality, and water quantity related to the water extraction by the City of Charlottetown, emerged as clearly the most important concerns to our residents," she said. "We are hopeful that the approach we're proposing will be seen as a meaningful way of addressing these issues."

The proposed plan also identifies a number of other important issues where the group has developed goals, objectives and strategies to guide its work.