

From: Ted Saulnier
To: s. 480(1)
Subject: RE: Redo of ADA Pilot Project public consultation
Date: March 3, 2025 12:31:00 PM

This is not a new policy, but rather a revised one. This form was used in the past and had kind of slipped away. It was intended to notify all Councillors of the nature of the motion being put forward. As Councillors we are briefed on all agenda topics 5 or 6 days in advance. Just having a notice of motion does not satisfy protocol for advance notice and is why I asked Councillor Madden what the nature of the motion was at our last Council meeting. The form allows for Council to see in advance the nature of any and all notices of motions. So yes the motion will be on the agenda.

Regards

Ted

From: s. 480(1)
Sent: March 3, 2025 11:07 AM
To: Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>
Subject: RE: Redo of ADA Pilot Project public consultation

I watched the meeting and Alain asked for that motion to be filled out on a form for all councilors to decide if it makes the agenda for this month (from what I hear this was never asked of before and motions to put items on the next agenda where excepted during council meetings) can you tell me if that motion is indeed on the agenda for this month? Thanks. s. 480(1)

On Mar. 3, 2025 9:45 a.m., Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com> wrote:

Yes, thank you s. 480(1) I have received your email and I apologize for not responding earlier. Council, including myself, anticipated this issue would come up at our Council meeting and therefore waited to see the collective decision before addressing this issue. As you probably know, a notice of motion has been made on this issue for our next Council meeting.

Thanks again for your community concerns.

Ted

From: s. 480(1)
Sent: March 3, 2025 7:37 AM
To: s. 480(1) Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>

Cc: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>

Subject: RE: Redo of ADA Pilot Project public consultation

Ted, Looking for confirmation that you received this email sent Feb.26, 2025

s. 480(1)

From: s. 480(1)

Sent: February 26, 2025 4:59 PM

To: Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>

Cc: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>

Subject: Redo of ADA Pilot Project public consultation

Ted Saulnier Deputy Warden, Councillor District 2

Ted, I know you have received numerus emails lately regarding a reset on the ADA Pilot Project and to have true Public Consultation on all 53 selected sites. For some reason Alain dose not want to advise council on this matter yet it is council that should be directing him as to the wishes of their constituents. All this would take is a motion to reconsider the previous motion to have the 47 (now 48) sites left opened again for public consultation to include the 5 sites already bid on included. This would be the only open and fair outcome as the tender process on the 5 sites is now tainted by an unfair advantage to those given sensitive information prior to the bid.

Also, through my research and I am sure you know this that the Tusket River is not part of Lobster Bay, it is a tributary. Lobster bay from what I can find starts at the mouth of the tributaries and outwards to the ocean so to have notices of public consultations for an ADA Pilot Project in Lobster Bay and Pubnico Harbour misleading and false advertising to your constituents.

Lastly, after reviewing some of the FOIPOP emails (attached) I find it very disturbing that the CAO of our Municipality would hire facilitators (spin doctors) to intervene in any public meeting to control the conversation to get a favorable outcome rather than a true feeling of what the public wants. Also to have an outside group insist the use of facilitators in these public meeting and even offer to pay for them or ask for a RCMP contact number to have on stand-by a complete violation of council's conflict of interest guidelines and

an insult to the tax payers of the Municipality.

I therefore, as a constituent in your district propose you either make the motion to reconsider the previous motion or if it is made by another councillor support it.

Thanks, s. 480(1) 

Cc: Alain Muise

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From: s. 480(1)
To: [Malcolm Madden](#)
Subject: ADA FOIPOP INFORMATION
Date: March 3, 2025 2:10:41 PM

To my councillor, Malcolm Madden,

Just wanted to make you aware that I just paid 195.00 to the municipality to release, FOIPOP information between Colton LeBlanc and MoDa since 2018, concerning the ADA Pilot Project, in the Municipality of Argyle! I already received information between, d'Eon's Oyster and MoDa.

I'm really trying to understand, why I wasn't included in this information, in the first place, as my property is adjacent to this project. A simple invitation to participate in the decisions made, would have prevented all this distrust, we now have for our representatives!

Hoping at the next council meeting, the warden and deputy warden along with the councillors, will realize, they made a huge mistake in keeping this project from 85% of the residents! This project involved all of us, not just a few!

I'm hoping that this will be rectified and that we are given a fair opportunity, to participate in these very important decisions that affect our beloved waterways, in the Municipality of Argyle. Thank you for representing us and being our voice! You may share this email, with other councillors, if you wish to do so!

Sincerely,

s. 480(1)

Sent from my iPad

From: Malcolm Madden
To: s. 480(1)
Subject: RE: request for March 20 Council session
Date: March 4, 2025 7:41:00 PM

I believe that you must make a request to Alain or Nicole for presentations. Presentations are made before the regular council meeting.

From: s. 480(1)
Sent: March 4, 2025 3:17 PM
To: Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>
Cc: s. 480(1)
Subject: request for March 20 Council session

Hi Malcolm,

For the session on March 20 can we please ask you to file the notice of motion (if required as a formality) as requested by Alain Muise at the last session?

I'd also like to speak with presentation if its allowed. I understand we can get 20 min? I plan to present the overwhelming email evidence to show the conflicts of interest to date, and how they can be resolved with the requested letter to DFA s. 480(1) 'd also like to ensure CAO Alain Muise recuses himself from this part of the agenda as he acknowledged and agreed in my last email to council.

I also request that anyone involved in these conflicts of interest not be allowed to sit in the session (recuse themselves) while I am presenting. I do not want to be intimidated or disrupted. This includes, Nolan Deon, Colton Deon, Charlene Leblanc, Alix D'entremont, AANS president Jeff Bishop and other members of AANS, Bruce Hancock from DFA, Former Warden Danny Muise, and Alain Muise, CAO of MoDA.

I will send more email evidence in the coming days so council can review and absorb the COIs in advance. Council also has the opportunity to review the FOIPOP releases on their own to familiarize themselves with these issues. They are available on the Argyle Municipality website.

The presentation will be diplomatic, respectful, professional, and only focus on facts vs opinion. This brief should then assist council with deliberation.

Thank you,

s. 480(1)

From: s. 480(1)
To: [Ted Saulnier](#)
Cc: [Alain Muise](#)
Subject: March Municipal Council Meeting
Date: March 7, 2025 9:38:12 AM

Hi Ted, I would like speak and do a small presentation at the March 20th Council Meeting, can you let me know the procedure I need to follow to make this happen.

Thanks s. 480(1)

From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [s. 480\(1\)](#); [Alain Muise](#)
Cc: [Ted Saulnier](#); [Malcolm Madden](#)
Subject: Re: March 20 council session
Date: March 7, 2025 10:22:51 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-http_mun](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)

Good morning [s. 480\(1\)](#)

This email is in your response to your request to speak/present at our March 20th council meeting. Unfortunately, there will not be an opportunity to present. As per policy, requests for presentations are made in advance and at the moment, other organizations have scheduled presentations for our meetings and the soonest you could present would be in June. I know that is not convenient for you.

This is what we can do; you may ask any questions on any items on the agenda during question period, which is at the end of our meeting. Typically, people have 3-5 minutes to speak. Another option would be to prepare any information ahead of time and send it along through Councillor Madden or myself, as I will be chairing the meeting, and either one of us would ensure that council gets it before the meeting.

Thank you,

Nicole



Nicole Albright
 Warden
 Municipality of Argyle
 Councillor District 5

5 Rue J.E. Hatfield Court / PO Box 10
 Tusket, Nova Scotia B0W 3M0

902-307-4474

nalbright@munargyle.com

www.munargyle.com

From: [s. 480\(1\)](#)
Sent: March 5, 2025 12:29 PM
To: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>
Cc: Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>; Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>;
 Nicole Albright <nalbright@munargyle.com>
Subject: March 20 council session

Good morning Alain,

In regard to the upcoming council session on March 20th, is it possible to request an opportunity to speak and present? If so, what are the formalities involved, and how would that be conducted? Would it be before the session or after, time limit, etc.?

Thank you,

s. 480(1)

Ste Anne du Ruisseau, NS

BOW s. 480(1)

From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Racheal Surette](#)
Subject: Response to request for presentation
Date: March 7, 2025 10:26:46 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-http___mun](#)
[Outlook-http___mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http___mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http___mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http___mun.png](#)

Good morning,

I wanted you all to be aware that a request to speak/present at our March 20th council meeting was made by [s. 480\(1\)](#) He has sent me, Ted, Malcolm and Alain the request.

I just responded to his request, and I am sharing my response with all of you. Ted and Malcolm are not on this thread because they already got the information. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

Good morning [s. 480\(1\)](#)

This email is in your response to your request to speak/present at our March 20th council meeting. Unfortunately, there will not be an opportunity to present. As per policy, requests for presentations are made in advance and at the moment, other organizations have scheduled presentations for our meetings and the soonest you could present would be in June. I know that is not convenient for you.

This is what we can do; you may ask any questions on any items on the agenda during question period, which is at the end of our meeting. Typically, people have 3-5 minutes to speak. Another option would be to prepare any information ahead of time and send it along through Councillor Madden or myself, as I will be chairing the meeting, and either one of us would ensure that council gets it before the meeting.

Thank you,

Nicole



Nicole Albright
Warden
Municipality of Argyle
Councillor District 5

5 Rue J.E. Hatfield Court / PO Box 10
Tusket, Nova Scotia B0W 3M0

902-307-4474

nalbright@munargyle.com

www.munargyle.com

From: [Ted Saulnier](#)
To: [Alain Muise](#)
Cc: [Nicole Albright](#)
Subject: FW: March Municipal Council Meeting
Date: March 7, 2025 10:48:00 AM

I can only guest on **s. 480(1)** presentation topic, however seeing that we cannot accommodate **s. 480(1)** until the month of June, I will reply to **s. 480(1)** with this info and leave procedural process to you.

From: **s. 480(1)**
Sent: March 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>
Cc: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>
Subject: March Municipal Council Meeting

Hi Ted, I would like speak and do a small presentation at the March 20th Council Meeting, can you let me know the procedure I need to follow to make this happen.

Thanks **s. 480(1)**

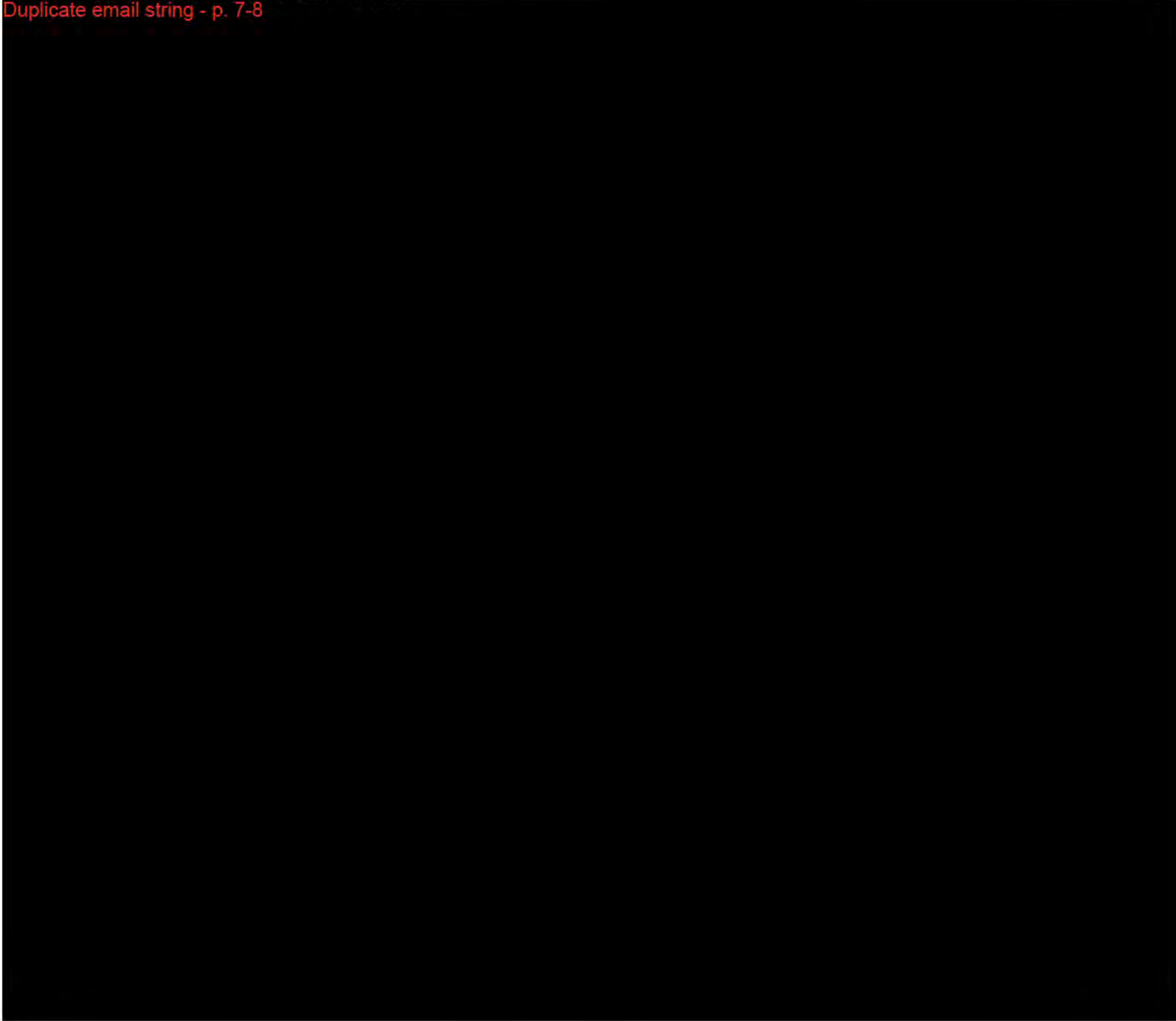
From: [Malcolm Madden](#)
To: [Nicole Albright](#)
Subject: RE: March 20 council session
Date: March 7, 2025 10:49:37 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Good morning, Nicole. I'm preparing myself for a possible dialog with s. 480(1)
Can you inform me know who is presenting at the upcoming meetings?

From: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>

Sent: March 7, 2025 10:23 AM

Duplicate email string - p. 7-8



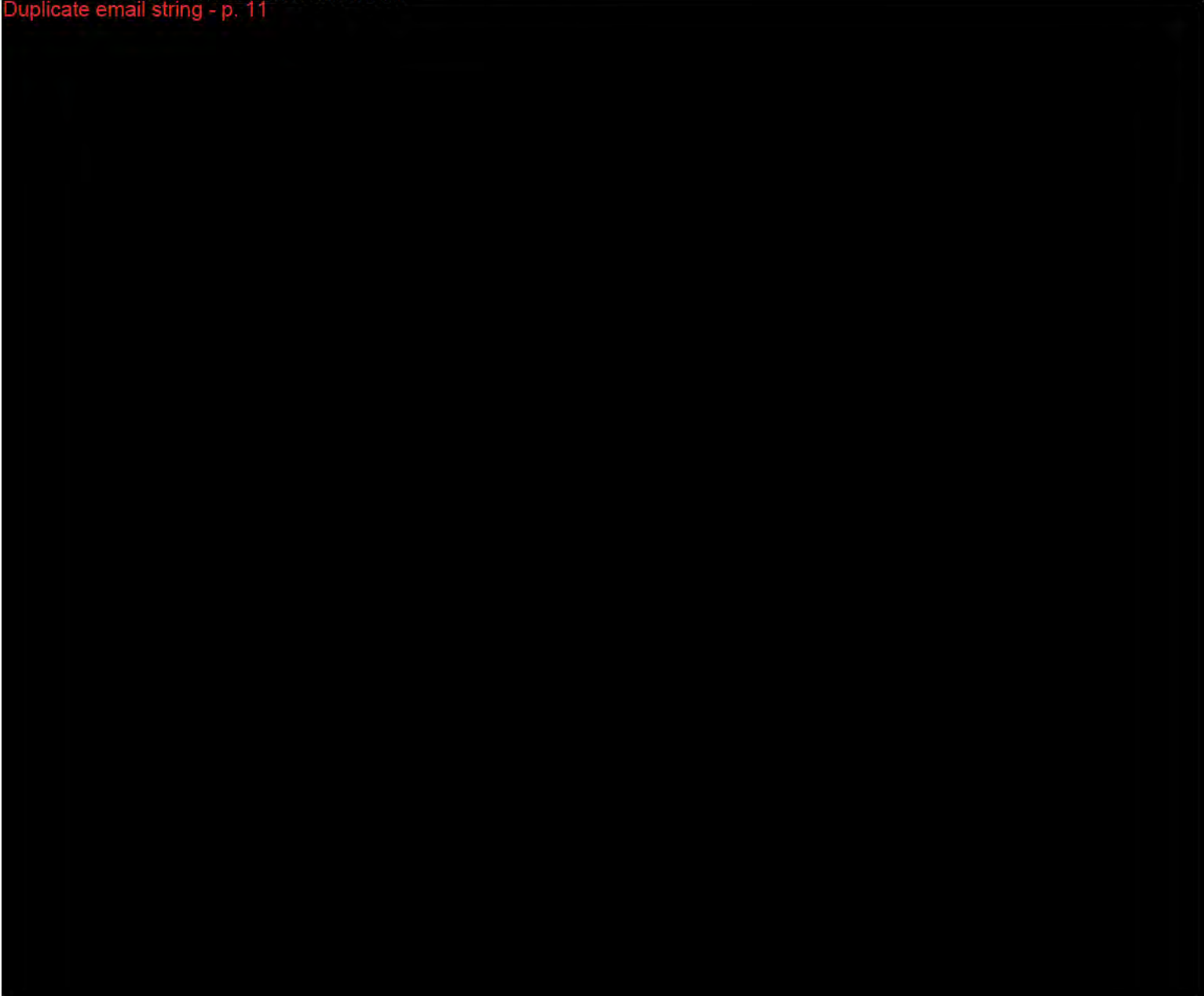
From: [Alain Muise](#)
To: [Ted Saulnier](#)
Cc: [Nicole Albright](#)
Subject: RE: March Municipal Council Meeting
Date: March 7, 2025 11:05:17 AM

Nicoles answer is appropriate for § 480(1) also, we can accept a written document that shall be shared with council or he has the right to speak, as anyone would, during question period. It is respectful of him to ask in advance for sure but our procedural policy is clear on presentations.

Aa

From: Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>
Sent: March 7, 2025 10:48 AM

Duplicate email string - p. 11



From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Malcolm Madden](#)
Subject: Re: March 20 council session
Date: March 7, 2025 1:53:10 PM

This is what I found out:

Tim Doucette for March 20th,
Denise Vacon, YWN for April. There's another one in April as well for "We've got your backpack" program.
May, waiting for confirmation for Barb's Bench.

Nicole Albright
Warden
Councillor District 5
Municipality of Argyle
902-307-4474

On Mar 7, 2025, at 12:01 PM, Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com> wrote:

Just wondering who or what group has reserved the time spot allotted before our council meeting for April and May. I don't if s. 480(1) is around.

From: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>
Sent: March 7, 2025 11:18 AM
To: Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>
Subject: Re: March 20 council session

After I pressed sent, I realized I may have misunderstood your question. If you're asking which organization is presenting, I am trying to find that out and will let you know. If you meant from the ADA group, I am not certain.

Nicole

Nicole Albright
Warden
Councillor District 5
Municipality of Argyle
902-307-4474

On Mar 7, 2025, at 11:15 AM, Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com> wrote:

I am honestly not 100% sure. Is he around? I know that Ted also received a request from s. 480(1) shortly after I sent out the email. If I get confirmation on who it may be, I'll let you know.

Nicole

Nicole Albright
Warden
Councillor District 5
Municipality of Argyle
902-307-4474

On Mar 7, 2025, at 10:49 AM, Malcolm Madden
<mmadden@munargyle.com> wrote:

Duplicate email string - pp. 12-13



From: s. 480(1)
To: [Malcolm Madden](#); [Nicole Albright](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#)
Cc: s. 480(1)
Subject: RE: March 20 council session
Date: March 7, 2025 3:43:33 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Nicole,

Thanks for the response. There is a lot to unpack here. In the interest of transparency, my feeling is that all of council needs to be on this string as well as some of the more concerned residents in Argyle (who feel that they haven't had a fair chance to be heard). I've been advised that these residents are also voicing similar requests and concerns through their own councillors (included on this email).

As a recap, the Argyle constituents listed here have requested council to deliberate and consider sending a letter to DFA announcing MoDA's error in not conducting adequate public consultation on the ADA locations; and, in turn, request DFA redo public stakeholder engagement on all 53 locations vs the 47 as offered by Minister Smith in Aug 2024.

We understand this item is on the agenda for the March 20th session.

It is critical that your constituents be given an opportunity to speak before (not after) this deliberation in order for you and council to understand the magnitude of the situation at hand. We'd like ensure that a reasonable opportunity is given to all of your constituents and respectfully ask you to reconsider and prioritize this item for March 20. We cannot wait until June to hold this discussion or delay this agenda item. Time is of the essence and DFA will be making decisions on these locations based on the fundamental conflicts of interest created by MoDA. Is there a way we can agree to sequence and prioritize this agenda item, discussion, and deliberation to ensure it receives the priority that it deserves? As a concession on our end, perhaps we can agree to shorten the time to 15min?

We know you as Warden have the authority to adjust the agenda accordingly to suit the needs of council and the constituents you represent.

While AANS, Deon's Oysters, and other farmers have had an opportunity to present before

council in the past, it would only be fair for you to allow the public to be treated as an equal stakeholder (as defined in your MOU with DFA) for the very first time. I am making this request based on those cc'd; we envision a short presentation will be provided by 3-4 residents vs many individuals requesting 20min presentations. We hope that is fair and will be accepted. By refusing this request, or only permitting residents to speak at the end of the meeting session, you will be again violating your Ethics/Code of Conduct, Schedule A, Section 14 by providing bias, privileged arrangements, special treatment, and an advantage to those in industry alone. That's been and continues to be at the expense of your constituents here in Argyle.

This is a moment of reflection for council and all those involved in ADA. It would look poorly for council to downplay the concerns of your constituents and continue to minimize our opportunity to be heard. The email evidence that we have shared with you to date and the additional email evidence to come, demonstrates a complete bias against the public whether wittingly or unwittingly by council and MoDA staff. Conversely, this is an opportunity to repair the conflicts of interest that exist in a transparent, balanced and unbiased manner to promote a fair implementation of the ADA.

In summary, we again respectfully ask you to reconsider and find an alternative arrangement that works for all.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

s. 480(1)

Ste Anne du Ruisseau, Nova Scotia

B0W s. 480(1)

From: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>

Sent: March 7, 2025 10:23 AM

Duplicate email string - pp. 7-8

From: [Malcolm Madden](#)
To: [Nicole Albright](#)
Subject: RE: March 20 council session
Date: March 7, 2025 4:27:58 PM

Thank you. Much appreciated

From: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>
Sent: March 7, 2025 1:53 PM

Duplicate email string - pp. 15-17



From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Alain Muise](#)
Subject: Fwd: March 20 council session
Date: March 7, 2025 4:45:50 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Sorry! You were not added to this response. I assume it's intentional. THIS is why I didn't want to respond to him.

I will think on this.

Nicole Albright

Warden

Councillor District 5

Municipality of Argyle

902-307-4474

Begin forwarded message:

Duplicate email string - pp. 18-21



From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Malcolm Madden](#)
Subject: Re: March 20 council session
Date: March 7, 2025 4:46:07 PM

No problem.
Nicole Albright
Warden
Councillor District 5
Municipality of Argyle
902-307-4474

On Mar 7, 2025, at 4:27 PM, Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com> wrote:

Duplicate email string - pp. 22-25



From: [Mike/Ramona Scott](#)
To: [Chris Thibedeau](#)
Cc: [Malcolm Madden](#); [Nicole Albright](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#); s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

Subject: RE: March 20 council session
Date: March 7, 2025 4:53:30 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [s. 480\(1\)](#) [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi [s. 480\(1\)](#) good points. I have also requested time to speak through my councillor but have yet to receive a response let alone an acknowledgement of receiving my email. In light of what is going on with the Provincial Government lately announcing that Nova Scotia is open for business this is the tip of the iceberg, first they eliminate the public consultation process for the ADA with assistance from MoDA and then we are silenced by our very own council when we try to bring our concerns to them. How, in my opinion can we trust our council to deal with the impending decisions on Fracking, Open Pit Mining, Clear Cutting our Crown Lands for wind farms, Possible Oil Exploration on Georges etc. an Industrial Park on The Sea as I said is the tip of the iceberg and our council should be open to hear what kind of a response to these issues their constituents want not bowing to the Provincial wims. I thought these type of problems were just South of the border but I guess we have to deal with them here also. [s. 480\(1\)](#)
[s. 480\(1\)](#) resident district #2

Duplicate email string - pp. 18-21

From: s. 480(1)
To: [Ted Saulnier](mailto:ted.saulnier@munargyle.com)
Subject: RE: March Municipal Council Meeting
Date: March 7, 2025 7:43:01 PM

Ted, while I appreciate that you are trying to get the sites in the Tusket River removed, dose this mean Tyler's site at Mike's Island also? I believe it was 2020 when you was first elected, well before the decisions on the ADA was made. You yourself told me you took a tour of the proposed sites by boat. I have defended you on many issues as well as argued some issues so don't patronize me saying you was not involved. You have the opportunity to right a wrong now so all we ask is for you to do the right thing and support us. s. 480(1)

On Mar. 7, 2025 7:10 p.m., Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com> wrote:

Hi s. 480(1) first I want to apologize for sending my first reply to you just today. I read your email the day you sent it and wrote back but accidently didn't press the send button. I did not and could not give any of my time before for any decision making what so ever on all and any ADA decisions. All motions, decisions and anything else pertaining to the ADA was all done before I was first elected. As much as I am concerned with all of the Municipality, my primary concern is with district 2 and the sites in the Tusker River area. I have been working behind the scene and engaged Provincial dignitaries, including our MLA and our Premier on your behalf and I shall continue to do so.

From: s. 480(1)
Sent: March 7, 2025 5:49 PM
To: Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>
Subject: RE: March Municipal Council Meeting

That's funny as my friend got the same message that he could present in June. Ted, as you know how I feel, to block us from providing information to council prior to a vote on an issue while you, as council, offered unlimited time for the Oyster Farmers to present prior to the last vote and even allowed a change to the agenda so they could speak at the first of council is a conflict of interest by giving an unfair advantage to a special interest group over your constituents. I will be shore to pass this information along to the rest of your constituents who also have concerns regarding the consultation process. I find this very strange as all we are looking for is a letter sent to NSDFA stating the consultation was not done fairly, this has already been stated by council and NSDFA and a reset is to be done on the remaining 47 (now 48) sites, so how is it not done fairly on 48 sites yet the other 5 get an unfair advantage with their picks. As I said, just a letter and then it's in the hands of NSDFA. s. 480(1)

On Mar. 7, 2025 5:05 p.m., Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com> wrote:

Good morning s. 480(1) we have received other requests for presentation on March 20th and

it is policy to hear one presentation per meeting. As it stands now, the closest opportunity for a presentation at a Council meeting is June. I have forwarded your request to the ones who would schedule all presentations and they will be in touch with you .

Regards

Ted

From: s. 480(1)
Sent: March 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>
Cc: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>
Subject: March Municipal Council Meeting

Hi Ted, I would like speak and do a small presentation at the March 20th Council Meeting, can you let me know the procedure I need to follow to make this happen.

Thanks

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ce courriel par erreur, svp répondez à ce message suivi de sa suppression, y compris dans votre dossier d'éléments supprimés, afin que cette erreur ne se reproduise pas à l'avenir

From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Ted Saulnier](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Racheal Surette](#)
Cc: [Alain Muise](#)
Subject: Response to Mr. Thibedeau
Date: March 7, 2025 8:21:00 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-http_mun](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)

Good evening everyone,

I hope you have all had the chance to read the email from s. 480(1) to council with a request to present on the ADA. I have also sent a response to his request to present at our March 20th meeting. He then sent another response to my answer and does not agree with what I offered. Here are the facts:

1. We have a policy regarding presentations. Residents must submit a request in writing, fill a form and there is a decision made to be put on the agenda. For example, Tim Doucette is presenting on the night of March 20th. He asked to be put on the agenda shortly after the election (Dec. 6, 2024). It took 3 months for him to get on. s. 480(1) wants us to bypass policy and procedure and put his group on for the March 20th meeting whereas there are other groups who have followed the policy and had to wait until April and May.
2. The agenda belongs to Council. We are all, not only the Warden, the owners of the agenda as Alain has told us multiple times. We have not yet seen the agenda for that meeting, but we know that Councillor Madden has made a notice of motion to add ADA to the agenda. Mr. Thibedeau is asking us to change the order of the agenda so that his group can speak on the ADA. He wants his group to speak before the motion is brought forward. He states that industry and DFA have both had the chance to speak to us already and wants equal opportunity for his group. Some of you may remember that in July 2024, the public had the opportunity to speak/voice concerns on the ADA, we had private meetings in resident's homes as well as the public engagement sessions, which the province endorsed.
3. In my response to his request, I have provided s. 480(1) the opportunity to speak during question period which is typically when the public can ask questions about items on the agenda. This is not a place for a presentation, and it is relatively a short time span (3-5 minutes). Further to this, he can submit information prior to the meeting, which he already has with multiple emails.
4. s. 480(1) as well as his group have had ample opportunity to inform us of their issues. We have had multiple emails, they have talked to council, we have had private meetings as well as the public engagement sessions. We have allowed all groups/people who want to speak on this matter the opportunity to speak.

Having said all of this, I would like input on this from council rather than make the decision on my own before I respond to him. Please send along feedback as to how you feel we should proceed to s. 480(1) request to make a presentation before the motion is made rather than ask questions at question period (which is our process).

Remember, we have a policy and a process that guides us on how to deal with these types of requests, which is exactly what was explained to him. In my opinion, we do not have to accommodate his request as it is our council meeting, and I feel that it is important to follow the process.

On another note, I would love feedback sooner rather than later as I am going on vacation tomorrow for March Break and will very rarely be checking emails. My response to him will be my last (as I have previously mentioned to council). I will not entertain back and forth with him.

Thanks for your time,

Nicole



Nicole Albright
Warden
Municipality of Argyle
Councillor District 5

5 Rue J.E. Hatfield Court / PO Box 10
Tusket, Nova Scotia B0W 3M0

902-307-4474



nalbright@munargyle.com

www.munargyle.com

From: [Darryl LeBlanc](#)
To: [Nicole Albright](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Glenn Digdon](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Racheal Surette](#)
Cc: [Alain Muise](#)
Subject: Re: Response to Mr. Thibedeau
Date: March 7, 2025 8:27:18 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-http_mun](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)


In my view, we have a policy, and he has options outside of presenting. It's not fair to others that look to present for Council to bypass the policy.

Just my thoughts

Darryl LeBlanc
Councillor District 6
Municipality of Argyle
902 740 3261

From: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munaregyle.com>

Duplicate email string - pp. 43-44



From: [Ted Saulnier](#)
To: [Nicole Albright](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Glenn Diggon](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Racheal Surette](#)
Cc: [Alain Muisse](#)
Subject: RE: Response to Mr. Thibedeau
Date: March 7, 2025 8:44:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

I agree with Darryl and I will further add that there is the matter of precedent here as well. Making an exception with policy is dangerous and can appear to serve as a solution, but can lead to future problems. Kind of setting our own trap.

From: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>
Sent: March 7, 2025 8:21 PM

Duplicate email string - pp. 43-44



From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Ted Saulnier](#)
Cc: [Kathy Bourque](#); [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Racheal Surette](#); [Alain Muise](#)
Subject: Re: Response to Mr. Thibedeau
Date: March 7, 2025 9:34:37 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Thank you Darryl and Ted. I appreciate the feedback.
Nicole Albright
Warden
Councillor District 5
Municipality of Argyle
902-307-4474

On Mar 7, 2025, at 8:45 PM, Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com> wrote:

I agree with Darryl and I will further add that there is the matter of precedent here as well. Making an exception with policy is dangerous and can appear to serve as a solution, but can lead to future problems. Kind of setting our own trap.

From: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>
Sent: March 7, 2025 8:21 PM

Duplicate email string - pp. 43-44



From: [Glenn Diggdon](#)
To: [Ted Saulnier](#)
Subject: RE: Response to Mr. Thibedeau
Date: March 7, 2025 10:01:15 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

I agree with Daryll, we should not go against our own policies. Please Nicole, enjoy your vacation you have earned it and deserve it. Do not worry about your emails, I am sure that you will get a lot more Take care

From: Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>
Sent: March 7, 2025 8:45 PM
To: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>; Kathy Bourque <kbourque@munargyle.com>; Glenn Diggdon <gddiggdon@munargyle.com>; Gordon Boudreau <gboudreau@munargyle.com>; Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>; Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>; Greg Foster <gfooster@munargyle.com>; Racheal Surette <rsurette@munargyle.com>
Cc: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>
Subject: RE: Response to Mr. Thibedeau

I agree with Darryl and I will further add that there is the matter of precedent here as well. Making an exception with policy is dangerous and can appear to serve as a solution, but can lead to future problems. Kind of setting our own trap.

From: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>
Sent: March 7, 2025 8:21 PM

Duplicate email string - pp. 43-44



From: [Glenn Diggdon](#)
To: [Nicole Albright](#)
Subject: RE: Response to Mr. Thibedeau
Date: March 7, 2025 10:05:00 PM

I agree that we should not start breaking our own policies.

Nicole, please enjoy your vacation, you have earned and deserve it. Don't worry about emails.

Take care, Glenn

From: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>
Sent: March 7, 2025 9:35 PM
To: Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>
Cc: Kathy Bourque <kbourque@munargyle.com>; Glenn Diggdon <gdiggdon@munargyle.com>; Gordon Boudreau <gboudreau@munargyle.com>; Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>; Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>; Greg Foster <gfoster@munargyle.com>; Racheal Surette <rsurette@munargyle.com>; Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>
Subject: Re: Response to Mr. Thibedeau

Thank you Darryl and Ted. I appreciate the feedback.

Nicole Albright

Warden

Councillor District 5

Municipality of Argyle

902-307-4474

On Mar 7, 2025, at 8:45 PM, Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com> wrote:

I agree with Darryl and I will further add that there is the matter of precedent here as well. Making an exception with policy is dangerous and can appear to serve as a solution, but can lead to future problems. Kind of setting our own trap.

From: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>
Sent: March 7, 2025 8:21 PM

Duplicate email string - pp. 43-44



From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Racheal Surette](#)
Cc: [Ted Saulnier](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Alain Muise](#)
Subject: Re: Response to Mr. Thibedeau
Date: March 7, 2025 10:18:57 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Thank you to both Glenn and Racheal!
 Nicole Albright
 Warden
 Councillor District 5
 Municipality of Argyle
 902-307-4474

On Mar 7, 2025, at 10:10 PM, Racheal Surette <rsurette@munargyle.com> wrote:

I agree with following the policy, if we have had someone make a request in December to be placed on the agenda for a presentation, it is not fair for them to be displaced. Nor is it fair to displace anyone else who is on the upcoming agendas.

I believe that if someone has a problem with the policy, then the appropriate procedure would be to make a motion for an amendment. Which would be heard at the next Council meeting, following a 7-day notice? I think.

Racheal

From: Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>
Sent: March 7, 2025 8:45 PM
To: Nicole Albright <NAlbright@munargyle.com>; Kathy Bourque <kbourque@munargyle.com>; Glenn Diggdon <gdiggdon@munargyle.com>; Gordon Boudreau <gboudreau@munargyle.com>; Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>; Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>; Greg Foster <gfooster@munargyle.com>; Racheal Surette <rsurette@munargyle.com>
Cc: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>
Subject: RE: Response to Mr. Thibedeau

I agree with Darryl and I will further add that there is the matter of precedent here as well. Making an exception with policy is dangerous and can appear to serve as a solution, but can lead to future problems. Kind of setting our own

From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Kathy Bourque](#)
Cc: [Racheal Surette](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Glenn Diqudon](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Alain Muise](#)
Subject: Re: Response to Mr. Thibedeau
Date: March 8, 2025 6:45:41 AM

Thank you Kathy!
Nicole Albright
Warden
Councillor District 5
Municipality of Argyle
902-307-4474

On Mar 8, 2025, at 12:05 AM, Kathy Bourque <kbourque@munargyle.com> wrote:

Let's follow our policy.
I still believe that he is knocking on the wrong door.
Kathy Bourque
District 7
Municipality of Argyle
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2025, at 10:18 PM, Nicole Albright <NAlbright@munargyle.com> wrote:

Duplicate email string - pp. 60-63



From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Chris Thibedeau](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#); [Alain Muise](#)
Cc: s. 480(1)

Subject: Re: March 20 council session
Date: March 8, 2025 8:47:07 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[ARTICLE C6 - Public Presentation.pdf](#)
[Outlook-http_mun](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)

s. 480(1) Et al,

Respectfully, we have a policy on presentations, which I alerted you to in a previous email. Council has decided to stand by our policy. The agenda belongs to council and we have decided to follow our policy on your request to present.

We have presenters who have already adhered to our policy, as previously mentioned, and are scheduled for several upcoming meetings. I have attached the policy for your information. We have offered you 2 options, you may speak during question period and/or submit information to Council prior to the meeting, which you have already done. Council has received your emails. Understand that anyone has the ability to speak at the end of the meeting during question period. This is the chance for the public to ask questions on any items on the agenda. That time is limited to 3-5 minutes.

Be assured that Council is fully aware of the issue on which you want to speak. They have seen your emails and 5/9 councillors were at the July 2024 meeting when residents opposing the ADA had the opportunity to speak.

This is the decision of Council.

Nicole


Nicole Albright




Warden
Municipality of Argyle
Councillor District 5

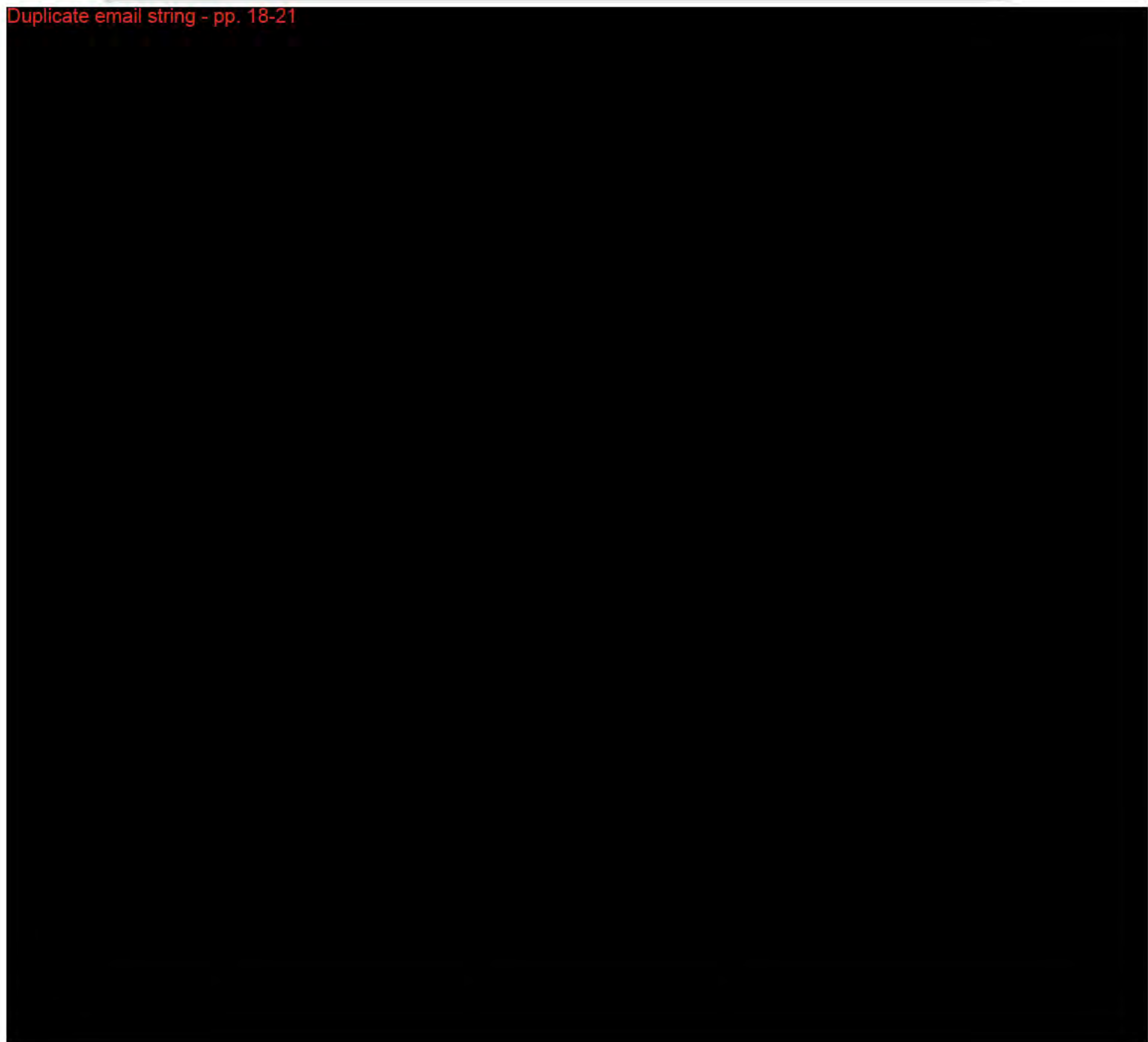
5 Rue J.E. Hatfield Court / PO Box 10
Tusket, Nova Scotia B0W 3M0

902-307-4474 

 nalbright@munargyle.com

 www.munargyle.com

Duplicate email string - pp. 18-21





POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION MANUAL	REFERENCE NUMBER: C6
SECTION: COUNCIL POLICY	POLICY TITLE: PUBLIC PRESENTATION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To establish a Policy to provide a regular opportunity for members of the public to make presentations to Council. The policy is intended to guide the Office of the CAO when approving or scheduling requests from the public to make a presentation to Council. This Policy is not intended to limit Councillors from lobbying other Councillors or Council itself from time to time to consider matters of general interest in their respective districts. Councillors may approach Council or a Committee directly to consider hearing presentations from members of the public from within their own district without being limited by this policy.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

- 2.1. The objective of the Public Presentation to Council Policy is to:
- 2.1.1. Reserve time for members of the public to make a ten-minute presentation to Council at the Regular Council Meeting each month.
 - 2.1.2. To reserve time for an additional ten minutes on a Council agenda, following a public presentation, for Council members to ask questions pertaining to the information provided in a presentation from a member of the public.
 - 2.1.3. Manage the impact of public presentation on a regular Council agenda.

3. PROCESS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL

- 3.1. One week in advance of a Council meeting:
- 3.1.1. The applicant shall submit a completed "Application Form – Request for Making Presentation to Council" in writing by letter, or email, identifying: the nature of the presentation to be made, and the name, address and phone number of the presenters.
 - 3.1.2. This will allow the Office of the CAO to determine the most appropriate Council meeting to accommodate the request and give the request appropriate consideration. A written copy of the presentation may accompany the form at this time.
- 3.2. By 12:00 noon on the Friday before the Council meeting:
- 3.2.1. A copy or a written description of the presentation, if not submitted with the application, must be submitted to the Office of the CAO staff will provide an electronic copy of the presentation to Councillors in advance of the scheduled presentation. Where this deadline



POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION MANUAL	REFERENCE NUMBER: C6
SECTION: COUNCIL POLICY	POLICY TITLE: PUBLIC PRESENTATION

is not met, the request will be postponed until the next available presentation time slot, and the presenter will be appropriately advised.

3.3. Steps 3.1 and 3.2 can be done at the same time provided the respective deadlines are met.

4. PROCESS TO REVIEW, APPROVE, OR REJECT

4.1. Processing a completed application:

4.1.1. Upon receipt of a properly completed application, staff shall review the application.

4.1.2. The application may be:

4.1.2.1. Placed on an appropriate agenda;

4.1.2.2. Referred to a staff member or department where the subject matter of the presentation can be adequately addressed by staff;

4.1.2.3. Refused, where the subject matter of the presentation is a matter outside the jurisdiction of the municipality;

4.1.2.4. Refused when it is determined by the Office of the CAO that the presentation is intended to sell or market a product to the Municipality;

4.1.2.5. Refused, for any other reason, after consultation with the Warden, with explanation by the CAO in writing to Council giving the reason for the refusal.

4.1.3. Councillors will be notified of requests and advised of the status of the application on a timely basis.

4.2. Conditions attached to approved application:

4.2.1. Approved presentations placed on a Council agenda shall be scheduled on an "as requested" basis, subject to the following criteria:

4.2.1.1. A maximum of one public presentation shall be scheduled per meeting, unless emergency situations exists or for other good reason there is cause for more presentations as determined by the Office of the CAO or the Warden;

4.2.1.2. Each presentation shall deal with one topic only;

4.2.1.3. Each presentation shall consist of a maximum of two presenters;

4.2.1.4. Each presenter shall speak for a maximum of five (5) minutes or one presenter shall speak for a maximum of ten (10) minutes;



POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION MANUAL	REFERENCE NUMBER: C6
SECTION: COUNCIL POLICY	POLICY TITLE: PUBLIC PRESENTATION

- 4.2.1.5. Presentations from Municipal partner organizations shall be limited to 30 minutes per presentation;
- 4.2.1.6. An additional ten (10) minutes will be allocated on the agenda for discussion (questions/answers);
- 4.2.1.7. Members of Council may ask questions of clarification of the presenter(s);
- 4.2.1.8. Any debate of the subject matter shall not occur at the time of the presentation, rather at a later portion of the meeting or at a future meeting.

5. NOTIFICATION TO PRESENTER

- 5.1. The list of presentation requests will be finalized, and the presenter(s) notified by noon on the Friday immediately preceding a Council meeting regarding disposition of their request.

6. OTHER

- 6.1. The Chairperson may interrupt the presentation when the timeframe is exceeded and ask direction from Council on whether the presentation shall continue.
- 6.2. Upon completion of the presentation, Council may refer the matter as appropriate for further consideration.
- 6.3. It is Council's practice to neither reject, nor accept a financial request via presentation, though may do so via motion under extraordinary circumstances.

7. BASIS FOR REJECTION

- 7.1. Failure to adhere to the requirements to this Policy is basis for rejection.
- 7.2. Where a presenter has previously addressed Council, further applications to address Council in relation to the same matter will only be accepted if new issues are to be introduced. Issues previously raised are not to be re-presented unless specifically approved by Council in advance of the presentation. The issue, however, can be addressed by other means (i.e. written report to Council).

8. DISPOSITION OF REJECTED APPLICATION

- 8.1. Any application to make a presentation to Council, which is rejected by the CAO and the Warden, shall be immediately reported electronically to all of Council.

9. SUMMARY OF PROCEDURE AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION APPROVAL



POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION MANUAL	REFERENCE NUMBER: C6
SECTION: COUNCIL POLICY	POLICY TITLE: PUBLIC PRESENTATION

9.1. Application to make a presentation:

9.1.1. Applicant makes a "request" one week preceding a Council meeting and completes a "formal" application to make a presentation;

9.1.2. Applicant provides a written copy of the presentation by 12:00 noon on the Friday preceding a Council meeting.

9.2. Conditions attached to approved applications:

9.2.1. Presenter is advised of disposition of request by the Friday before Council meeting;

9.2.2. One presentation per meeting (unless otherwise determined by the CAO);

9.2.3. One topic per presentation;

9.2.4. Maximum of 10 minutes per presentation;

9.2.5. Maximum of 10 minutes for questions/answers;

9.2.6. Relevant and timely;

9.2.7. No debate on subject matter at time of presentation.


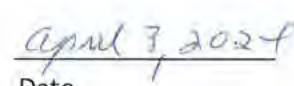
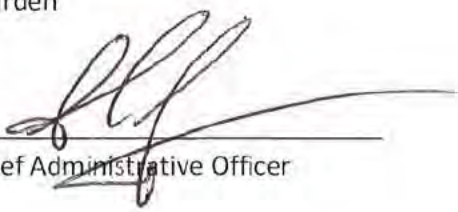
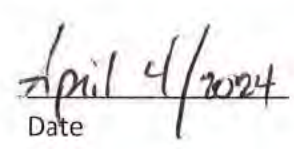
9.3. Procedure if request is rejected:

9.3.1. Presenter is advised of rejection and reason;

9.3.2. Councillors are advised.



POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION MANUAL	REFERENCE NUMBER: C6
SECTION: COUNCIL POLICY	POLICY TITLE: PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Chief Administrative Officers' Annotation for Official Policy Record	
Date of Notice to Council Members of Intent to Consider (7-days minimum)	March 14, 2024
Date of Passage of Current Policy	March 28, 2024
I certify that this policy was adopted by Council as indicated above.	
 _____ Warden	 _____ Date
 _____ Chief Administrative Officer	 _____ Date

Version Log		
Version #	Amendment	Date
1	Original Policy	December 10, 2013
1.1	Change CAO/Clerk/Treasurer to appropriate staff.	March 28, 2024

From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Kathy Bourque](#)
Cc: [Racheal Surette](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Alain Muise](#)
Subject: Re: Response to Mr. Thibedeau
Date: March 8, 2025 8:50:44 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-http__mun](#)
[Outlook-http__mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http__mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http__mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http__mun.png](#)

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on such short notice. I appreciate you taking the time to give input. I have sent s. 480(1) a response that we are standing by our policy.

I am away for March Break and will not be responding to emails. See you in a week!!

Nicole



Nicole Albright
Warden
Municipality of Argyle
Councillor District 5

5 Rue J.E. Hatfield Court / PO Box 10
Tusket, Nova Scotia B0W 3M0

902-307-4474



nalbright@munargyle.com

www.munargyle.com

From: Kathy Bourque <kbourque@munargyle.com>

Sent: March 8, 2025 12:05 AM

Duplicate email string - pp. 64-67

From: s. 480(1)
To: [Nicole Albright](#); [Chris Thibedeau](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#); [Alain Muise](#)
Cc: s. 480(1)

Subject: Re: March 20 council session
Date: March 8, 2025 11:04:06 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-http_mun](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

With respect Nicole would it not be prudent, in light of the obvious conflicts of interest and quite blatant favoring of the industry over your constituents, to move the vote from the upcoming meeting on the 20th March to a date where the legitimate concerns of MANY of the residents of Argyle can be heard BEFORE council votes.

This would go some way to address the many issues that have been revealed by the FOI requests that have made some very interesting & damning reading regards breaches of the council's own code of ethics and conflict of interest policy.

Yours
A very concerned constituent of Argyle

s. 480(1)

On 3/8/2025 8:47 AM, Nicole Albright wrote:

Duplicate email string - pp. 68-73

From: s. 480(1)
To: [Nicole Albright](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Digdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#)
Cc: s. 480(1)
Subject: RE: March 20 council session
Date: March 9, 2025 8:06:47 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Nicole,

As an option, would council consider a separate standalone session/meeting? The topic is serious and certainly warrants a detailed discussion before deliberation.

Unfortunately, we're not convinced council is fully aware and briefed of the COI evidence we intend to present as; 1) no real or adequate consultation has been performed with the public (admitted in your June 2024 session), 2) CAO denials of the allegations and evidence presented thus far, and 3) the Deputy Warden asking why ADA needed to be on the March 20 agenda in the last session. On top of this, some councillors are not acknowledging their constituents on the issue, avoiding the topic, and/or continue to downplay the concerns. Why is that? Can we truly be assured Council is fully aware of the issues?

The fact is this information we've collected is so highly nuanced that it requires a presentation so that council can understand what has transpired over the last 7 years. By not allowing this information to be drawn out, councillors will never truly comprehend or appreciate the inherent bias to this point.

I know that you're hoping to pass this issue over to DFA but how can you when the conflicts of interest occurred under your watch and with 5 of the 9 current councillors?

Is CAO Muise to be included in this discussion and topic? I see you readed him to the string after he recused himself on Feb 26.

s. 480(1)

From: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>

Sent: March 8, 2025 8:47 AM

Duplicate email string - pp. 68-73

From: s. 480(1)
To: [Nicole Albright](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Digdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#)
Cc: s. 480(1)
Subject: RE: March 20 council session
Date: March 10, 2025 3:56:04 PM
Attachments: [image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[Automatic reply March 20 council session.msg](#)

Hi Ted,

I've received Nicole's Out of Office notification.

As you are Deputy Warden and next in command, can we formally ask you to acknowledge this email request (see previous)? Please reply all.

We'd further ask you to converse with the other councillors to see if a side session can be provided as requested below and make a decision.

Council, we are your constituents asking for an opportunity to speak to you on March 20, or a side session before March 20. If the Warden is unavailable, we are expecting you to coordinate this yourselves (we assume led by the DW) and provide us with a solution that is acceptable.

- An offer for us to speak after you deliberate and table a motion is not acceptable.
- An offer for us to speak in June is not acceptable.
- An ongoing effort to deflect or defend these serious COI allegations or discourage and minimize public feedback (5min at the end of a session post deliberation) or delay (an offer to speak in June) is not acceptable.
 - We formally ask for an alternative solution that works for council and works for your constituents.

To us this feels like the same 7-year playbook. DFA and MoDA were prompted by AANS and Deon's Oyster to minimize and discourage public consultation to-date. These groups lobbied and had insider knowledge and data from the onset. They influenced and knew of the ADA locations 2 years before the public was made aware. The Argyle residents were not allowed or provided an opportunity to comment or provide feedback. We have evidence to support this and would like to show it to you.

Offering this opportunity to residents only 1) post ADA location creation, 2) post applicant approval, 3) and post application, in the final 30 days is biased and unfair and not transparent. Remember, the ADA process does not offer a face-to-face meeting in the final 30 days. DFA has architected this to minimize any public involvement. We can only offer feedback in writing in the final 30 days. It's done this way on purpose to discourage and minimize feedback.

Offering your constituents to only speak at the end of your March 20th council session, post deliberation, is far too late and again comes from the same play book. It's unfair and continues the bias we have received from the onset.

As a courtesy, we are offering to only share this evidence with council pending your decision to send DFA a letter recommending they redo public consultations on all 53 (not 47) locations due to the evidence at hand. As a reminder, if you refuse to send this letter request to DFA, we will have no alternative other than to release this evidence to the wider public, media, ombudsman, and NS auditor general requesting a formal investigation be launched.

We cannot encourage you enough to take this opportunity to simply request a redo on public consultations to avoid a much more serious investigation which will result in embarrassment for you and MoDA.

Finally, in the evidence we have obtained, there are individuals that participate in council that should recuse themselves from any ADA discussions and decisions. These individuals have an opportunity to declare any COIs related to any aquaculture or ADA matters. We shouldn't have to identify this for you. It should never have come to this.

We cannot put into words our utter disappointment in council and MoDA. We plead for you to fix this.

Sincerely,

s. 480(1)

Ste Anne du Ruisseau, Nova Scotia
B0W s. 480(1)

From: [Ted Saulnier](#)
To: [Julie Atkinson](#)
Subject: FW: March 20 council session
Date: March 11, 2025 8:47:00 AM
Attachments: [image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[Automatic reply March 20 council session.msg](#)

Duplicate email string - pp. 99-108



From: [Ted Saulnier](#)
To: [Chris Thibedeau](#); [Nicole Albright](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#)
Cc: s. 480(1)

Subject: RE: March 20 council session
Date: March 11, 2025 12:23:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Good Day s. 480(1)

Thank for your email and I appreciated your position. This point has been previously addressed and Council has just recently voted to uphold Municipal policy on Presentations. Council will not be led to negotiate under threat of investigation. If you wish to go down this road, that will be your choice.

If there is anything else I can help you with, feel free to reach out.

Respectfully

Ted

Duplicate email string - pp. 99-108

From: s. 480(1)
To: [Chris Thibedeau](#)
Cc: [Nicole Albright](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Dingdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#); s. 480(1)
 s. 480(1)
Subject: Re: March 20 council session
Date: March 11, 2025 1:34:28 PM

You don't often get email from s. 480(1) [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon everyone,

I have been a resident in the Municipality of Argyle, my entire life. s. 480(1) years to be exact! Eel Brook and Lr. Eel Brook have been my communities throughout my life. I always felt at home here. Our representatives over the years, have always looked out for us and I have never had any doubts that they weren't doing their jobs, to the best of their abilities!

In the past year, I have had so many second thoughts about what's going on behind closed with our MLA and Warden, Deputy Warden, Councillors and Municipal staff. I felt obligated to request FOIPOP information from the Municipality! Do you know what it feels like, to not trust the people, that are supposed to have your best interest at heart? Our representatives, don't even the courtesy of having a meeting with us, to discuss projects they have approved within the municipality and with provincial government.

We are not violent residents. We want the best for our communities and we deserve to be part of these huge decisions, that will affect our properties and livelihoods!

Please respond to s. 480(1) email and be part of the solution, not the problem!

Sincerely

s. 480(1)

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 11, 2025, at 12:45 PM, s. 480(1) wrote:

Good morning, Ted,

We have not received an acknowledgement of our previous email as we requested from you in your role as Deputy Warden. Once again, we formally request that you confirm receipt.

We are simply looking for an opportunity to speak with council. We've reviewed many historical emails showing how MoDA was willing to be very flexible in offering meeting solutions for Deon's Oysters and ADA and accommodate "their" desired schedule.

Your constituents expect the same treatment and courtesy.

We are not asking for anything unreasonable here and expect an offer of alternative and flexible meeting dates and mediums.

See 2 example screen shots below. There are many more if you need to be convinced further.

For the record, why do we have to plead with our council to be fair to all stakeholders?


Regards,

s. 480(1)

<image002.png>

<image009.jpg>

Duplicate email string - pp. 99-108

From: s. 480(1)
To: [Ted Saulnier](#); [Nicole Albright](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Digdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#)
Cc: Duplicate email string - pp. 121-131

Subject: RE: March 20 council session
Date: March 11, 2025 1:52:12 PM
Attachments: [image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)

Thank you, I note that your response came in at the time I drafted my last email.

Respectfully Ted, you are underestimating and misinterpreting the seriousness of the conflicts of interest that council and MoDA staff failed to manage. As we had previously stated, Council has an opportunity to resolve these conflicts by sending a letter to DFA to request a redo on public consultation for the 53 locations (vs 47). That's an easy outcome for all. It's a relief valve. Instead, your posture and response today further indicate you are choosing to block and delay (using the convenience of formalities) to avoid our request to present these findings to you. You can pretend the COIs don't exist, but this is heading down a path where we will release to the wider media and public. Since your response continues to be unfair and biased, we may start this now. We had hoped to offer you this courtesy but since it is not being offered reciprocally, we will just do it.

You have a choice to send the letter (which would be the fair and right thing to do for all including the industry and wider public.) Or you can choose to stay the course you are on in full bias to defend and protect the lobbying interests of AANS and the local farmers. Doing so will put you and council in violation of Your Ethics and Code of Conduct. We will present much more evidence to you in the coming days that will now provide a date and time stamp that you are/were aware of the COIs that exist. You can choose to ignore, defend, or seek a resolution. You also get to live with the outcome of your decision. That's not a threat. That's the reality. Since you are refusing to give us the opportunity to speak and present, we will be watching very closely on March 20th to see this critical council decision. I think you sense that an unfavorable decision will ratchet up the intensity from your constituents. We know you are feeling this already.

Were very disappointed you continue to choose and protect the interests of AANS and a small minority of farmers. The evidence shows AANS and select farmers cheated and MoDA not only knew, they helped them. And this was on your watch. That makes you and 4-5 other legacy councillors accountable and possibly culpable. For the new councillors, you are now aware of this issue and evidence which means you can also be held accountable.

Finally, the fact that you are suddenly deciding to enact a policy to prevent us from speaking is disingenuous, and we all see it. What is the next policy you are going to implement to try and stifle us? Perhaps a course in Civics 101 is required for those that do not understand how municipal government operates. Remember Ted and councillors, you represent us. You are not doing a good job. You can fix this.

Let this stand as a historical record for future FOIPOP requests.

Sincerely,

s. 480(1)

Ste Anne du Ruisseau, Nova Scotia

BOW s. 480(1)

From: Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>

Sent: March 11, 2025 10:24 AM

Duplicate email string - pp. 121-131

From: s. 480(1)
To:
Cc: [Ted Saulnier](#); [Nicole Albright](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#); s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

Subject: Re: March 20 council session
Date: March 11, 2025 5:28:09 PM

Attachments: [image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)

Council is in the business of addressing the concerns and needs of the people who trusted them enough to put them in the position to be on council and consequently pay their wages, or am I missing the point of democracy? Seems like a lot of folks are these days.

Duplicate email string - pp. 144-156



From: s. 480(1)
To: [Chris Thibedeau](#); [Nicole Albright](#); [Malcolm Madden](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#)
Cc: s. 480(1)
Subject: RE: March 20 council session
Date: March 12, 2025 8:51:01 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[Reply to Nicole #2.docx](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from s. 480(1) [Learn why this is important](#)

Attached, is my observation of the dialog between s. 480(1) and Warden Nicole Albright and the stance that our Municipality has taken to silence the constituents on the issue of the ADA and not allowing speakers or presenters prior to a motion requiring a vote by council.

Duplicate email string - pp. 90-97



I have read Nicole Albright's response to [REDACTED] regarding not allowing him to speak at the March 20th council meeting [REDACTED] motion that is on the agenda for that meeting, I received the same response from my councillor Ted Saulnier. While Warden Albright gave a couple options, #1 to speak after the council meeting in question period after the vote on a motion, #2 To send the information to Malchom or her, as she will be chairing the meeting, and they will give this information to council members prior to the meeting. Apparently Warden Albright and Deputy Warden Saulnier are now sticklers of council policy on the issue of Aquaculture, as this appears to be the only time they want to apply policies. Even in their messages they can't seem to agree on how to block information, Ted's reply to me says 1 presenter per council session, yet Nicole's reply says they have presenters scheduled for that meeting, implying more than 1. Even more disturbing is the authoritarian attitude Warden Albright makes in her last statement **"They (councillors) have seen your emails and 5/9 councillors were at the July 2024 meeting when residents opposing the ADA had their opportunity to speak"**. This, to me anyways, seems to say Warden Albright has made the decision that discussion is closed to the public on this subject. What ever happened to Democracy in our Municipality?

First, let's start with a little background information. During a previous council meeting, councillor Guy Surette was looking to put a motion on the floor to send a letter to Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) that proper public consultation was not done on the ADA pilot project and that a redo on all 53 sites was needed. CAO Muise spoke up and said due to various councillors missing and staff on vacation perhaps they should wait until the June meeting to hear this motion (this is what a facilitator does, redirect the conversation), being the good councillor Guy was, he excepted this and the motion was moved to the agenda of the next meeting (note, no form had to be filled out, or at any previous meetings to put a motion on the next agenda as was required by councillor Madden, once again suggested by CAO Muise). Now come the June council session and the room is full of Oyster Fishers or those looking to get into business (coincidence, I think not, but who would have tipped them off?), so the motion is middle of the agenda yet someone in the audience asks if it can be dealt with first so they don't have to stick around, which is agreed by then Deputy Warden Albright, who was chairing the meeting, under direction of CAO Muise (notice the pattern developing, agenda changes on the fly, numerous speakers lined up to present, prior to the vote, not scheduled presenters?). Now, as I watched this meeting, [REDACTED] s. 480(1) did present on behalf of the ARA and then various Oyster proponents including [REDACTED] s. 480(1) who began with a remark directed at [REDACTED] s. 480(1), in an attempt, to intimidate any further public discussion. Now here is where the rules of order should have come into effect, #1 at that point, Chairperson Albright should have directed [REDACTED] s. 480(1) that his comments be directed to the chair and not

other presenters, not done, why? #2 As Deputy [REDACTED] Albright has an immediate family member in the employ of s. 480(1) she should have declared herself in "Conflict of Interest" at the beginning of council meetings as all councillors must do, she did not and should have recused herself from any discussion and votes on this issue, then and in the future. These are the rules of order that Warden Albright so eloquently presents to the constituents, but dose not want to follow herself. Now, to my councillor and Deputy Warden Saulnier, you have been stating lately to constituents in district #2, your riding (including an email to myself) , that all decisions on the ADA where made prior to you being elected and you therefore had no input on the Pilot project or decision making on it, yet you still vote on all motions going forward dismissing the concerns of your constituents and relying solely on your "high ranking official" (Member of the PC Party and chairperson of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Loans Board) perhaps you should also recuse yourself? While we appreciate your efforts, as you say, "you are working behind the scenes, negotiating with dignitaries, our MLA and the Premier to have the Tusket River sites removed" you must feel this is the direction your constituents want. I would think by now you realize this is the direction the majority of constituents in the Municipality want.

Now, to the rest of council, new and old, this is it in a nutshell. A motion has been passed by council that the remaining 47 sites of the ADA should have a redo as the public was not properly engaged and this has been sent to NSDFA, thus admitting that proper public consultation was not done on the ADA Pilot Project. To admit public consultation was not done on 47 sites and not the 53, as they were all done under the same umbrella, is completely unfathomable, how can you say 47 sites were not consulted on properly yet 6 were (now 48 and 5 as 1 of the 6 was not bid on). So, all the public is asking for is the letter to NSDFA that was previously sent to be amended to include all 53 sites. Pretty simple right, then as council has been telling us, this all falls in the hands of the Provincial Government where we can then take our fight. But first, MoDA oversaw public consultation, this is why we continue to have to push for this amendment. Councillors, as you saw at last council session, the letter looking for support from the provincial government to adopt their agenda of mining, fracking, oil exploration and aquaculture while also proposing to limit the ability of the Governor General, limit access to media, limit the requests to freedom of information requests all to bypass their responsibilities to the constituents of the province (remember this is the tip of the iceberg and the next fight might be in your district). Is this the direction our Municipality is also taking? You [REDACTED] to right a wrong, lets do the right thing, support the motion to amend the let [REDACTED] to include all 53 sites.

s. 480(1) [REDACTED] constituent of district #2

[REDACTED]

From: s. 480(1)
 To: s. 480(1)
 Cc: Nicole Albright; Malcolm Madden; Greg Foster; Kathy Bourque; Ted Saulnier; Gordon Boudreau; Darryl LeBlanc; Glenn Diggon; Racheal Surette; s. 480(1)
 s. 480(1)

Subject: RE: March 20 council session
 Date: March 12, 2025 2:15:35 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from s. 480(1) [Learn why this is important](#)

I forgot to add a couple more points to my previous email that I, as a constituent of the Municipality of Argyle, find very disturbing and must share with council. I have sent this to my councillor Ted Saulnier and CAO Alain Muise but, March 03/24, not sure if it was shared with the rest of council but Ted recently expressed to a group that he was unaware of these FOIPOP emails that are now on the Municipal website for all to see.

s. 480(1) has shared lots of FOIPOP information with you to confirm that a Conflict of Interest has occurred with MoDA concerning the ADA. This is what bothers me most is that the special interest group, AANS, has incorporated themselves so much in the business of MoDA that they feel they can and would provide paid facilitators to direct the topic of public meetings and confirm that our CAO has used them in the public consultation meetings on the ADA. Also to request RCMP contact information from our CAO in case the "Anti-people show up" to a public meeting.

From: To: Subject: Date: Jeff Bishop Kate Collins; Alain Muise Facilitator for June 4th ADA Open House May 24, 2024 3:31:33 PM Hey Alain and Kate...some thoughts for a Friday afternoon. Just off the phone with Bruce Hancock, and we talked a bit about the June 4th ADA Open House there in Argyle. With some of the online commentary around the session - he wondered if having a professional facilitator there - just in case a mob showed up in an attempt to take over the session. Kate and I have talked about the introduction of the meeting by Kate and yourself as saying it's a networking event for suppliers, advisors, and folks interested in being a part of the ADA. If folks voice some kind of opposition - saying it's not a meeting to debate the policy behind the ADA itself - it's to network and make connections. What do you both think of the idea of having a facilitator in the room, that could - if needed - step in to communicate a message like that? Alain - Bruce mentioned you may have used facilitators for the initial public meetings for the ADA, that might be able to serve such a function again? We would cover the costs for something like this if you both felt it might be a good approach. The anti-people may never show up...but could be a good investment. Thoughts? Maybe we could jump on a call Monday afternoon to discuss...-Jeff--
 Jeff Bishop - Executive Director Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia

jeff.bishop@seafarmers.ca | 1.902.899.8890

From: To: Subject: Date: Jeff Bishop Hollett, Jason; Hancock, Bruce H; Alain Muisse ADA
 Open House proceeding May 29, 2024 9:39:34 AM Good morning, Deputy, Bruce and Alain...
 I want to thank each of you for input on the upcoming open house session for the ADA. After speaking with yourselves, members and the service providers that had agreed to be a part of the open house session, we have decided to move forward with them as planned. We have posted a reminder on our Facebook and shared with various emails lists that the sessions will be happening. And we have also been clear that these sessions are business networking opportunities for people interested in setting up business in the ADA. We also indicate they are NOT public consultation sessions to discuss opinions on the ADA or it's creation. Alain, if you have a name/ number for the local RCMP that I can discuss the meeting with so they are aware, that would be appreciated. And I will be in attendance at the sessions as well as Kate to stick handle things. -Jeff-- Jeff Bishop - Executive Director Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia jeff.bishop@seafarmers.ca | 1.902.899.8890

From: s. 480(1)
 Sent: March 12, 2025 10:57 AM
 To: s. 480(1)
 Cc: s. 480(1); Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>; Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>; Greg Foster <gfoster@munargyle.com>; Kathy Bourque <kbourque@munargyle.com>; Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>; Gordon Boudreau <gboudreau@munargyle.com>; Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>; Glenn Diggdon <gdiggdon@munargyle.com>; Racheal Surette <rsurette@munargyle.com>; s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

Subject: Re: March 20 council session

Good morning,

For ease of reading/reference, I have copied and pasted S. 480(1) letter to Council below.

Please note, as a constituent on Argyle, I fully agree with what S. 480(1) has included in this letter. What he states is factual (there is evidence to prove it all). Please read it. Ignorance is not acceptable - you are a representative of your constituents and NEED to know the truth about how the ADA was pushed forward with full bias (and without public engagement).

S. 480(1) letter:

I have read Nicole Albright's response to S. 480(1) regarding not allowing him to speak at the March 20th council meeting on a motion that is on the agenda for that meeting, I received the same response from my councillor Ted Saulnier. While Warden Albright gave a couple options, #1 to speak after the council meeting in question period after the vote on a motion, #2 To send the information to Malchom or her, as she will be chairing the meeting, and they will give this information to council members prior to the meeting. Apparently Warden Albright and Deputy Warden Saulnier are now sticklers of council policy on the issue of Aquaculture, as this appears to be the only time they want to apply policies. Even in their messages they can't seem to agree on how to block information, Ted's reply to me says 1 presenter per council session, yet Nicole's reply says they have presenters scheduled for that meeting, implying more than 1. Even more disturbing is the authoritarian attitude Warden Albright makes in her last statement **"They (councillors) have seen your emails and 5/9 councillors were at the July 2024 meeting when residents opposing the ADA had their opportunity to speak"**. This, to me anyways, seems to say Warden Albright has made the decision that discussion is closed to the public on this subject. What ever happened to Democracy in our Municipality?

First, let's start with a little background information. During a previous council meeting, councillor Guy Surette was looking to put a motion on the floor to send a letter to Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) that proper public consultation was not done on the ADA pilot project and that a redo on all 53 sites was needed. CAO Muise spoke up and said due to various councillors missing and staff on vacation perhaps they should wait until the June meeting to hear this motion (this is what a facilitator does, redirect the conversation), being the good councillor Guy was, he accepted this and the motion was moved to the agenda of the next meeting (note, no form had to be filled out, or at any previous meetings to put a motion on the next agenda as was required by councillor Madden, once again suggested by CAO Muise). Now come the June council session and the room is full of Oyster Fishers or those looking to get into business (coincidence, I think not, but who would have tipped them off?), so the motion is middle of the agenda yet someone in the audience asks if it can be dealt with first so they don't have to stick around, which is agreed by then Deputy Warden Albright, who was chairing the meeting, under direction of CAO

Muise (notice the pattern developing, agenda changes on the fly, numerous speakers lined up to present, prior to the vote, not scheduled presenters?) . Now, as I watched this meeting, s. 480(1) did present on behalf of the ARA and then various Oyster proponents including s. 480(1) who began with a remark directed at s. 480(1) in an attempt, to intimidate any further public discussion. Now here is where the rules of order should have come into effect, #1 at that point, Chairperson Albright should have directed s. 480(1) that his comments be directed to the chair and not other presenters, not done, why? #2 As Deputy Warden Albright has an immediate family member in the employ of s. 480(1) s. 480(1) she should have declared herself in "Conflict of Interest" at the beginning of council meetings as all councillors must do, she did not and should have recused herself from any discussion and votes on this issue, then and in the future. These are the rules of order that Warden Albright so eloquently presents to the constituents, but dose not want to follow herself. Now, to my councillor and Deputy Warden Saulnier, you have been stating lately to constituents in district #2, your riding (including an email to myself) , that all decisions on the ADA where made prior to you being elected and you therefore had no input on the Pilot project or decision making on it, yet you still vote on all motions going forward dismissing the concerns of your constituents and relying solely on your "high ranking official" (Member of the PC Party and chairperson of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Loans Board) perhaps you should also recuse yourself? While we appreciate your efforts, as you say, "you are working behind the scenes, negotiating with dignitaries, our MLA and the Premier to have the Tusket River sites removed" you must feel this is the direction your constituents want. I would think by now you realize this is the direction the majority of constituents in the Municipality want.

Now, to the rest of council, new and old, this is it in a nutshell. A motion has been passed by council that the remaining 47 sites of the ADA should have a redo as the public was not properly engaged and this has been sent to NSDFA, thus admitting that proper public consultation was not done on the ADA Pilot Project. To admit public consultation was not done on 47 sites and not the 53, as they were all done under the same umbrella, is completely unfathomable, how can you say 47 sites were not consulted on properly yet 6 were (now 48 and 5 as 1 of the 6 was not bid on). So, all the public is asking for is the letter to NSDFA that was previously sent to be amended to include all 53 sites. Pretty simple right, then as council has been telling us, this all falls in the hands of the Provincial Government where we can then take our fight. But first, MoDA oversaw public consultation, this is why we continue to have to push for this amendment. Councillors, as you saw at last council session, the letter looking for support from the provincial government to adopt their agenda of mining, fracking, oil exploration and aquaculture while also proposing to limit the ability of the Governor General, limit access to media, limit the requests to freedom of information requests all to bypass their responsibilities to the constituents of the province (remember this is

the tip of the iceberg and the next fight might be in your district). Is this the direction our Municipality is also taking? You have the ability to right a wrong, lets do the right thing, support the motion to amend the letter to NSDFA to include all 53 sites.

s. 480(1)

constituent of district #2

Duplicate email string - pp. 170-178

From: s. 480(1)
To: [Malcolm Madden](#); [Nicole Albright](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Diggdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#)
Cc: s. 480(1)
Subject: RE: Question on ADA stakeholders
Date: March 12, 2025 4:23:56 PM
Attachments: [Argyle FOIPOP Review 24-002 - emails between MoDA and Deons Oysters - Part 2.pptx](#)
[letter to minister smith.pdf](#)

Hi Ted,

We had received an acknowledgment from CAO Alain Muise on the email evidence provided to council for FOIPOP 24-001 (available on your website), but not for FOIPOP 24-002. This email below was sent on Feb 26. It has been included here again with attachments.

Can we respectfully ask that you please acknowledge receipt for the record to ensure council has received this evidence?

Thank you,

s. 480(1)

Ste Anne du Ruisseau, Nova Scotia

BOW s. 480(1)

From: s. 480(1)
Sent: February 26, 2025 1:15 PM
To: Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>; Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>; Greg Foster <gfooster@munargyle.com>; Kathy Bourque <kbouque@munargyle.com>; Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>; Gordon Boudreau <gboudreau@munargyle.com>; Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>; Glenn Diggdon <gdiggon@munargyle.com>; Racheal Surette <rsurette@munarevle.com>
Cc: s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)



Subject: RE: Question on ADA stakeholders

Importance: High

Dear Council,

As discussed in the previous email sent to Alain Muise, we have removed him from this string due to the emerging and compounding conflicts of interest. We have asked him to recuse himself from receiving and coordinating any further review. As such, we hereby request to deal directly with council. To that extent, if any other MoDA staff or councillors have familial or business linkages to any of the oyster farmers who have submitted an application, or with AANS, they would most likely have a conflict of interest. If that is the case, this is the chance for a councillor to make this declaration and recuse themselves.

We implore you to send a letter to DFA requesting 53 locations properly undergo public consultation (not 47 as offered in *Minister Smith's attached letter to MoDA, Aug 2024*). This is a simple request and an easy off ramp for everyone including yourselves. It will also demonstrate good faith in trying to resolve and head off these conflicts that are now exposed on this string.

We've also removed Bruce Hancock from DFA in this discussion because this is not a DFA issue at this stage. This is a MoDA issue because MoDA was responsible for stakeholder engagement under the MOU, and MoDA is responsible for these historical conflicts. These events reside in the timeline before DFA accepted MoDA's recommendations. MoDA failed here and this is a moment you can rise above and show your willingness to admit errors were made and show a desire to repair it. This is the right thing to do.

We highly recommend you do not continue to defend the biased manner that ADA was managed, because the evidence we now have on hand will be of great concern to the public and council.

Attached as the next example, is additional email evidence demonstrating more serious conflicts of interest that could potentially escalate to collusion following an investigation. We additionally would recommend you not share this content or look at this as a moment to

converse with DFA, AANS, and Deon's Oysters as it will only solidify the conflicts at hand and demonstrate *mens rea* (intent). Evidence will continue to be provided at various intervals over the coming weeks. We do not plan to release this material to the Public or media if a DFA letter is sent as requested. If not, we will reluctantly be forced to do so.

You will need to recognize the following risks:

If DFA proceeds with approving the 6 applications (based on the conflicts at hand) -before performing adequate public consultations, you separately and collectively violate your respective fairness provisions. Please review the letter sent to Minister Smith. In this letter, former Warden Muise stated, "*The Council has confidence that the process has sufficient opportunity for public comment. Council encourages the province to continue its efforts.*" The evidence we now have confirms this was not true. As your constituents (some cc'd), we now see you did not do your homework. You did not ask any questions/deliberate exposing the lack of *real* public consultations. This next part is critical. If you allow only some but not all of the ADA locations to undergo public consultation:

- MoDA will be in violation of their own ethics and code of conduct (Schedule A, section 14) on fairness, and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.
 - NS DFA will be in violation of the Provincial Conflict-of-Interest Policy, Civil Service Act, chapter 70 (1989); and the Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act., Ch 42.

As stated above, more email evidence and analysis will be provided soon that shows more serious allegations that will need to be investigated further. These violations compound upon the statutes mentioned above including new ones. The nature of the violations is overwhelming. This is a serious and a critical juncture and a moment of reflection.

To help resolve this, we simply ask you to redo the public consultations on all 53 locations. As Alain pointed out in his email below, "Council's position has and continues to be to promote the economic development of the region through working with industry". Here is what you missed, -your objective to promote economic development overlooked the very people that you represent. Just allow the public a real opportunity to be consulted and heard. Please stop minimizing and discouraging our reasonable request. Our goal is to ensure balance and work with MoDA and DFA to ensure aquaculture expands in a manner that is fair for all. No one on this string has said to stop aquaculture expansion. We advocate for economic growth balanced with the needs and desires of residents to make Argyle an ideal place to live and work.

We expect that this matter will be dealt with in a professional manner, not targeting any one constituent or employee of MoDA. Our intent is to not hold any one person accountable. We are only seeking a redo on public consultation. That's it.

Sincerely,

s. 480(1)

Ste Anne du Ruisseau, Nova Scotia

B0W s. 480(1)

From: Alain Muisse <admuisse@munargyle.com>

Sent: February 24, 2025 6:00 PM

To: s. 480(1)

Cc: Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>; Kathy Bourque <kbourque@munargyle.com>; Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>; Gordon Boudreau <gboudreau@munargyle.com>; Greg Foster <gfoster@munargyle.com>; Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>; Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>; Glenn Diggdon <gdiggdon@munargyle.com>; Racheal Surette <rsurette@munargyle.com>; s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

Subject: RE: Question on ADA stakeholders

Yes, thank you for clarifying my position. I am certainly intimately aware of it, but I'm happy to share with the rest of the email addresses provided. I am the sole employee of Council and operate under the pleasure of Council and have so for 18.5 years. I am a lifelong resident of the area, spending most of my childhood raised in Ste Anne Du Ruisseau. Many included in cc know me. I take instruction from Council, and I offer professional advisory services to Council in my position and through my professional accounting designation. It is a two-way street. I follow their motions, and I assist them in complex operational and governance issues when they arise. Sometimes I bring

issues to them to address, but always, I work for council, not councillors, but for council.

There are issues that come from residents, province, council and regional colleagues and my role is to respond to all of those. I describe my position as up, down, out. Up to Council, down to my staff, and out to outside requests. I work indirectly for the community as an appointed staff person, and the Councillors are elected by their people. As an unelected staff person, I do not represent the people directly. Our elected officials have been given that task and there's only one way that happens – election. I know my place.

Council's position has and continues to be to promote the economic development of the region through working with industry. Their strategic plan (which I will update with new council) cites three areas of focus: renewable energy, environmentally friendly aquaculture opportunities and support for our fishing industry, be it through advocacy or other means. These are my instructions, among others, from my Council. The short version of the strategy can be found on our website here

[Priorities and Strategies - Municipality of the District of Argyle](#)

Your concerns for conflict of interest and allegations of lack of fairness under the conflict-of-interest act will not be a part of the any agenda topic until such time as proper examination of your evidence is made. Client – solicitor conversations may or may not be subject to public meeting. These allegations towards all of council has been sent to our solicitor and to the province for further comment. I would like to clarify that our role in the aquaculture development was to assist the province in public comments, promotion and providing input to them (from various stakeholders) around the Aquaculture Development Area. This is a **provincial** initiative and legislative authority. The public engagement document was, as stated in our expired Memorandum of Understanding, to be submitted to the Province for their consideration and approval, and they did approve it after hard questions were asked of us. Since they have approved it, I have forwarded your concerns to the province for their review. As the body responsible for accepting our document, they should be made aware of your concerns.

We take your comments on violations seriously and will do our best to have independent review of such information you enclosed. Your evidence submitted, including your red marks, and circling of FOIPOP emails was all included in the submission.

Essentially, and I am repeating your words, what you are asking for is for council to

reconsider a request to ask the province to redo the public consultation for **all** locations. Council has already requested the 47 to which the province has agreed to, as they had not yet entered the provincial legislative process. So, in essence, you are asking for a redo for the remaining 5 (as one of the 6 locations did not have a suitable applicant.). It is essentially the same question as was asked of this council in the fall of 2024, except with new members around the council table. So, I interpret this as a motion to reconsider, which can certainly occur if there is new information.

A motion to reconsider a decision is slightly different under the Roberts Rules of Order, the rules of order that we (and most other municipalities) follow. I will advise my council as to the process. I shall push and research an answer expeditiously on procedure. I can say today it is NOT on the agenda, but as I stated, the agenda authority is not mine, but I encourage council to have appropriate information in advance of any agenda item.

I do not own the agenda, the majority of Council owns it. In practical terms we lead the administrative function to 'prepare' an agenda. At the end of the day, most of the council determines the agenda at each meeting, by way of motion.

I trust these clarifications are clear. If there are any additional questions or concerns from all cc's here, including councillors, please send them to me, privately (*reply), or not (*reply all). I will seek the information you desire.

Sincerely,

Alain D. Muise, CPA
 Chief Administrative Officer
 Municipality of the District of Argyle

From: s. 480(1)
 Sent: February 24, 2025 3:36 PM
 To: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>
 Cc: Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>; Kathy Bourque <kbourque@munargyle.com>; Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>; Gordon Boudreau <gboudreau@munargyle.com>; Greg Foster <gfooster@munargyle.com>; Nicole Albright <NAalbright@munargyle.com>; Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>; Glenn Diggdon <gdiggdon@munargyle.com>; Racheal Surette <rsurette@munargyle.com>; s. 480(1)
 s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

Subject: RE: Question on ADA stakeholders

Importance: High

Thank you. The relationship between you as CAO, Council and constituents is an important clarification. It's our understanding that Council is operating on Argyle constituent's behalf and represents our interests. The CAO reports to council and receives direction through council resolutions, policies, and bylaws. I'm going to respectfully interpret that makes you an employee of council and through extension Argyle constituents. Council holds office at the pleasure of the constituents. The CAO holds office at the pleasure of Council.

I will speak with my councillor Malcolm Madden (cc'd) to introduce some urgency into this agenda item and our request. I would anticipate that others on this string will do the same with their own councillors.

Please remember, our request to council is a simple one: Send a letter to DFA on our behalf seeking a redo on public consultation for all 53 locations vs 47 only. The current imbalance puts both MoDA and the province in violation of your respective fairness provisions. It's a reasonable request and an important one at this juncture. Delays only continue to add to the non transparency of MoDA and the ADA program.

As previously mentioned, this request offers a relief valve for all involved and we would encourage council to take it. If our request is delayed indefinitely or refused, Council should be made aware that the FOIPOP releases posted on your website contain compromising email evidence to implicate MoDA in several Conflicts of Interest.

Here is the link for reference: <https://munargyle.com/foipop-release.html>

Those on this string have read these emails and are very concerned with the level of bias and impropriety shown that clearly violates MoDA's Ethics and Code of Conduct, Schedule A, sections 8 and 14 on Fairness. It is our view that these emails clearly demonstrate that 1) MoDA owns the historical conflicts within, 2) MoDA made recommendations to NS DFA based on the same conflicts of interest who then 3) made policy and program decisions on this information and recommendations received from MoDA. It is the view of your constituents (some cc'd) that the ADA process is fundamentally flawed and cannot continue until these conflicts are resolved.

We attach our review of FOIPOP 24-001 to start. More reviews will follow underlining serious historical allegations of conflicts of interest.

It is MoDA's responsibility to take steps to resolve this issue. Council sending the DFA letter will show good faith on your part and a willingness to correct the historical errors made by MoDA. We intend to keep this information internal *for now* to encourage Council to send the requested letter to NS DFA.

Sincerely,

s. 480(1)

Ste Anne du Ruisseau, Nova Scotia

BOW s. 480(1)

From: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>

Sent: February 24, 2025 1:22 PM

To: s. 480(1)

Cc: Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>; Kathy Bourque <kbourque@munargyle.com>; Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>; Gordon Boudreau <gboudreau@munargyle.com>; Greg Foster <gfooster@munargyle.com>; Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>; Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>; Glenn Diggdon <gdiggdon@munargyle.com>; Racheal Surette <rsurette@munargyle.com>

s. 480(1)

Subject: Re: Question on ADA stakeholders

I'm operating on councils behalf. Information required is at least twofold.

The request is to reconsider a previous request that had provincial jurisdiction. I await

information in this area.

There are other comments included in the request that require advisory support

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 24, 2025, at 2:15 PM, s. 480(1) wrote:

Some people who received this message don't often get email from s. 480(1)
[Learn why this is important](#)

Ok, Thank you.

Since you are operating on our behalf, can you tell us what information you are waiting on or would be required before our council can deliberate?

Regards,

From: Alain Muise admuisse@munargyle.com

Sent: February 24, 2025 12:53 PM

To: s. 480(1)

Cc: Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>; Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>; Gordon Boudreau <gboudreau@munargyle.com>; Greg Foster <gfoster@munargyle.com>; Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>; Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>; kbouque@munargyle.com; Glenn Diggdon <gdiggdon@munargyle.com>; Racheal Surette <rsurette@munargyle.com>;

s. 480(1)

Subject: Re: Question on ADA stakeholders

It is not on the Agenda. I await information from third party at this time to further Inform council.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 24, 2025, at 1:50 PM, s. 480(1) wrote:

Some people who received this message don't often get email from s. 480(1) [learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon Alain and council,

On behalf of those cc'd, checking back to understand if our request will be deliberated and added to the agenda for the council session this Thursday Feb 27?

<https://munargyle.com/council-agendas/>

Sincerely,

s. 480(1)

Ste Anne du Ruisseau, Nova Scotia

B0W s. 480(1)

From: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>

Sent: February 7, 2025 6:01 PM

To: s. 480(1)

Cc: Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>; Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>; Gordon Boudreau <gboudreau@munargyle.com>; Greg Foster <gfooster@munargyle.com>; Nicole Albright <NAlbright@munargyle.com>; Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>; kbouque@munargyle.com; Glenn Diggdon <gdiggdon@munargyle.com>; Racheal Surette <rsurette@munargyle.com>; Lorelei Murphy

s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

Subject: Re: Question on ADA stakeholders

It has not. The questions you pose require appropriate assessment. Council has the right to add any item to the agenda at the will of its majority with or without background information. That is not my decision to make. We typically provide information in advance and the deadline to do so for this week has elapsed.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 7, 2025, at 6:27 PM, s. 480(1) wrote:

Some people who received this message don't often get email from s. 480(1) [learn why this is important](#)

Hi again,

On behalf of those cc'd were seeking confirmation. Has it been added to the next sessions agenda? If so which number on the agenda?

Latest Council Agenda -
Municipality of the District of Argyle [<favicon.ico>](#)
munargyle.com

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 6, 2025, at 9:44 AM, Alain Muise
<admuisse@munargyle.com> wrote:

Your email was received and council will

review and deliberate.
Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 5, 2025, at 3:22 PM,

Chris Thibedeau

s. 480(1)

wrote:

Some people who received this message don't often get email from s. 480(1) [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Alain and council,

Thank you for confirming that the public was a named stakeholder in the ADA framework.

Respectfully, this answer unfortunately introduces more concern from myself and fellow Argyle residents (some cc'd) and the 200+ members of the Association for Responsible Aquaculture (ARA).

While your answer confirms that MODA feels the public was a named stakeholder in the ADA process, we don't believe or see proof the public was ever fully or fairly engaged. Conversely, we now have the evidence to confirm that the public was never consulted on the areas identified for expansion.

I would encourage council to review the slides attached so all can openly see the emails that demonstrate the public was

never treated as a stakeholder in the identification, and selection of ADA areas in Lobster Bay and Pubnico Harbour.

The good news is we believe there is an off ramp for MoDA. It would require council to review this history and admit a mistake was made by not consulting with the public properly before ADA locations were preapproved. If council agrees with our assessment, we encourage this be added to the agenda and discussed at the next council session; and a letter be written to the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA) minister, Kent Smith with a recommendation to reopen consultations for the public on all 53 locations (vs 47 only as planned now). This would be a fair outcome for all and allow the public to be introduced as an equal stakeholder in the ADA process for the very first time. Please consider this a formal request.

Otherwise, if the province continues to approve the 6 planned locations with a public engagement period only in the final 60 days, then there is a discrepancy on how some (but not all) of the locations were selected for pre-approval. This creates an unfair dynamic where 6 applicants receive

special treatment and an advantage over the next 47. As you review this email evidence, we believe council will also see that there is a select group of farmers who were given privileged access, special treatment, and an advantage. Conversely, you'll see supporting evidence to show the public (Argyle residents and your constituents) were never really treated or fairly consulted as a stakeholder. This imbalance unfortunately violates council's ethics and code of conduct (Schedule A, section 14) on fairness, and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act:

https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/codeofconductmunicipal.htm#TOC1_1

Some will present that this is a provincial issue for decision now and it is. However, the historical conflict resides with MoDA because MoDA completed the stakeholder engagement. Please refer below to the signed MOU signature page section 4 which confirms MoDA will lead the engagement with stakeholders. As confirmed in your previous email, stakeholders include the public.

It's MoDA's historical error but it can be fixed with a request to the province who are continuing the ADA approval process under

false pretence. This pretence was created by your office. We're not interested in debating whether this was done advertently or inadvertently. We're simply seeking a resolution. The fact is, the public was not appropriately consulted on the selection of these locations, and we are now asking council to admit fault to the province and fix it. This is not an unreasonable request. Redoing consultations properly on all 53 locations is the right thing to do.

We understand there is pressure increasing on this issue, but this is an opportunity presenting a relief valve. We encourage council to take it and send a letter to the province seeking a reopening of public consultations on all pre-approved ADA locations.

Sincerely,

s. 480(1)

Ste Anne du Ruisseau, Nova
Scotia

BOW s. 480(1)

From: Alain Muise
<admuisse@munargyle.com>
Sent: February 2, 2025 12:21 PM
To: Chris Thibedeau
s. 480(1)
Cc: Argyle-Council <Argyle-Council@munargyle.com>
Subject: Re: Question on ADA stakeholders

s. 480(1)

We followed the provincial regulatory framework on what they required and requested for consultations. The public was a named stakeholder in that framework.

The selection of the 6 reassessed locations issued for tender was entirely a provincial decision. That question would be better asked to the province.

The ada is a provincial plan. There is no separate municipal Ada plan nor is there a definition of that term separate from the province

This municipality addresses public consultation requirements for its own projects in its land use bylaw.

Alain
Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2025, at 11:45 AM, s. 480(1)
s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

wrote:

Hi Alain,

Another question.

In line with our concerns on ADA, can you confirm if the public was ever a stakeholder? Or intended to be consulted as a stakeholder to review the preapproved locations announced in spring 2024?

Does MODA have a definition for stakeholders as part of your ADA project plan?

Thank you,

s. 480(1)

Ste Anne du
Ruisseau, Nova
Scotia
BOW s. 480(1)

<Emails to support no public
consultation on ADA.pptx>
<OUR STORY.docx>

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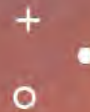
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Argyle FOIPOP Review

24-002 Release



“Any records, emails, or related documents that support how the 6 sites on Salt Bay location was identified and any supporting information for water testing”. In addition, I request access to any emails to/from/cc MoDA and Deon's Oysters, Nolan D'eon, or Colton D'eon regarding selection of the location and why it was selected, who proposed the location, who approved, water testing dates and results, and preapproval of this location as one of 53 ADA locations.”

Reference:

<https://munargyle.com/foipop/802-24-002.html>

What does this release show the public?

Emails will show:

- Colton and Nolan Deon (from Deon's Oysters) were included on the ADA stakeholder committee at inception. No one from the public was included. No affected residents were included.
- The Deon's had special access and insider knowledge and data to influence MoDA and DFA via fellow industry colleague and partner Charlene Leblanc as she acted in the role of a development officer for the ADA program. (She is now an Aquaculture farmer and on the AANS board of directors with Colton Deon. These emails show she was in conflict representing industry and government at the same time.) -She offered Deon's privileged access, shared data, facilitated their desired locations to NS DFA and then tested the water in full confirmation bias to support their desired location, -all in full conflict.
 - The Deon's are now applying for the very same location. This is a conflict of interest.
- Concerned residents prompted MoDA for answers and an ability to provide feedback and recommendations but were ignored and cancelled by both MoDA and DFA staff as the data presented was not convenient for their desired ADA outcome.
- No real industry standard public consultation has ever been performed.
- MoDA and NS DFA continue to ignore the allegations/evidence and operate as if no conflicts of interest exist.

Example of a local resident reaching out to MoDA and DFA with concerns

- No adequate public consultations had been held resulting in a local resident prompting MoDA and DFA with questions on ADA.
- Concerns on the Salt Bay location were presented by this resident but were countered and ignored.
- Example of a concerned resident prompting public consultation that was never held. It demonstrates that the public was required to assert itself into the process.
 - One way communication
- This resident expresses that the MoDA response made them feel like, “A hurdle to outmaneuver”.

From: [REDACTED]
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: PW: Aquaculture Development Area Pilot Project
 Date: February 15, 2023 1:21:10 PM
 Attachments: [REDACTED]
 Sensitivity: Confidential

[REDACTED]

Sorry for my late response to your latest email. I was awaiting further details from the NS Departments of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) and to speak with Alain Mulise (SC 6) the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality of Argyle before replying.

Firstly, I'd like to apologize that you feel that your concerns aren't being considered. That was not my intention. I just wanted to share with you some of the things that we had considered in relation to your comments. While the decision support tool has been used to help guide our analysis of suitable areas for the expansion of the aquaculture sector, it is not the only thing that has been or will be used. All feedback from you that has been received by the Municipality has been shared (anonymously) with the NSDFA and will be included in the report to the NS Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

In your response, you ask what is an "ADA polygon". Sorry for not clarifying this. It is a specific area under consideration for the ADA project. The Municipality can inform the Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC, the assessors) of the ADA if and when it is moved forward by Government in Council.

If other engagement opportunities arise, I will let you know. If you want to meet in person, let us know when you are back in NS.

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 1:00 PM
 To: Alex d'Entremont <g.alex@mun.ca>
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: RE: Aquaculture Development Area Pilot Project
 Sensitivity: Confidential

Thanks Alex – sorry for the late response due to the holidays. Please comments from [REDACTED] and me below in red font for file and future reference.

Here is some summary feedback: The ADA program seems to be including a lot of data into your decision support tool but I'm not hearing that there is a capability to factor in the concerns of residents like myself. I've presented my issues and concerns, and frankly this email response feels like an exercise to counter my concerns one by one (using the decision support tool!) in order to

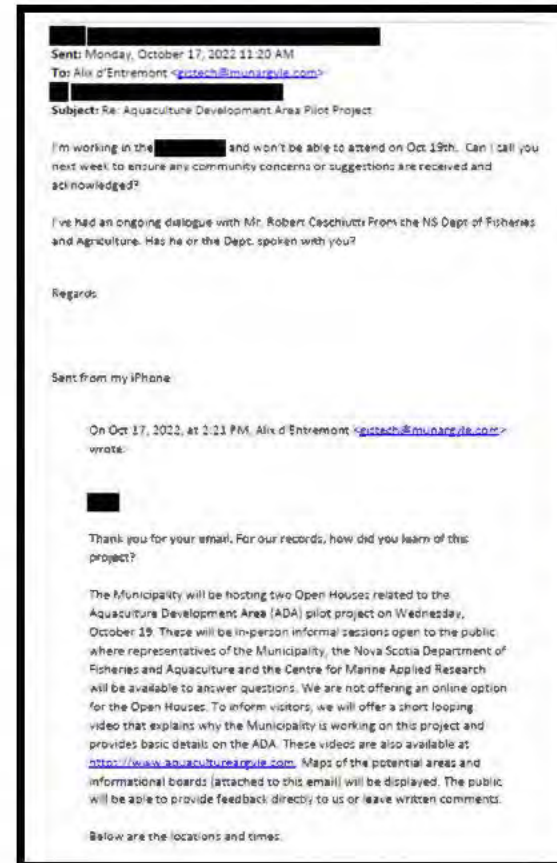
Page 1 of 216

proceed with the program as originally planned. Respectfully, I'm a bit disappointed because it feels like I'm being interpreted as a hurdle to outmaneuver. I hope that's not the case.

Regards,
 [REDACTED]

Concerned resident attempts to provide feedback

- Open houses offered but concerned resident advises they will be travelling for work and seeking an option to provide feedback.
- Resident requested a zoom call (during Pandemic) but this was denied by the MoDA development officer.
 - This was a first real opportunity to hear from a concerned resident who would provide critical data and feedback. (refer to several pages of feedback in this FOIPOP release.)
 - As this online feedback was not convenient to the desired outcome of ADA, this feedback was countered, cancelled, and ignored.
- Instead, MoDA development officer suggested this person view ADA marketing videos but once again this is not public consultation. These are promotional videos that only push the AANS agenda one way. Online dialogue is consistently not offered and discouraged. (also suggested the resident use the munargyle feedback page.)
- The open house was not attended by this affected resident or others. The 2 sessions were attended by the oyster farmers and their families, MoDA staff, and some councilors.
- Development officer suggests reviewing ADA locations online but none of the 53 ADA locations were available for review. This was insider information only offered to special access privileged persons including AANS, Nolan Deon, and Colton Deon. This data and information was never offered to the public until April 2024....nearly 18 months after these emails.



Glenwood Hall
 5632 Highway 3, Glenwood
 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 October 19, 2022

Argyle Municipal Office
 5 J.E. Hatfield Crt, Tusket
 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 October 19, 2022

If you can't make the October 19 Open Houses, details and videos related to the project are available at <https://www.aquacultureargyle.com>. We are also offering public maps of the potential ADA locations and an online feedback form through our website at www.munargyle.com/feedback.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Alix d'Entremont
 GIS Technician
 Municipality of
 Argyle and Yarmouth

5 Rue J.E. Hatfield Court
 Tusket, Nova Scotia
 B0W 3M0, P.O. Box 10

Office [Redacted]
gustech@munargyle.com

[Redacted]
 Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 8:51 AM
 To: Alix d'Entremont <gustech@munargyle.com>

Subject: Inquiry

Good day,

I'm learning that Argyle is looking into speeding up the development of oyster expansion.

I live on Lobster Bay as a resident and would appreciate if I could be represented in a community forum when appropriate or the opportunity presents itself.

I'm generally [Redacted] and may not be able to attend meetings in person. Will I be able to attend virtually?

Thank you

[Redacted]

Charlene Leblanc Briefing Note/Report June 5, 2018

Demonstrates an ongoing effort to promote the Salt Bay location per back-channel prompts from Deon's Oysters to influence their desired outcome.

- There is evidence on file to show Charlene repeated the Deon's prompts time and again:
 - *"Eel Lake Oysters (Deon's) shared stats on the fast growth on Salt Bay and those oysters"*
- She then added this site for the Deon's.

Aquaculture in the MODA Creating a Business Park on the Sea

ce of water to increase aquaculture in the MODA
g skills, and the financial means, but many continue to re-invest in the lobster fishery
has a 6 month break perfect for working with shellfish
rm and much of it is sheltered due the numerous islands, perfect for shellfish growth
wareness and entice investors
ss park on and, with initial work done and lots ready for purchase, I hope to recreate
ater

I funding to do water testing and develop an online tool for potential investors

I have a map with layers highlighting potential sites, restricted sites, existing sites,
f and long coordinates, water current and temperature, water quality, water depth,
es, three phase power, names of the bodies of water, available buildings, proximity
r shops, community names, access and highways, video, photos, drone footage of
and an ROI template (password protected)

ased on water depth, shelter, lock off houses and cottages, and avoided navigation

near Wedgeport, below the Tusket River

near the Indian sluice
off Roberts Island, near the milk farm
west of Calf Island
off Central Argyll

arch and Innovation Lab at University St. Anne to come with us to take samples, and
ing the results as I received them. We took samples at high tide going down and low

4G

following: pH, salinity, ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, phosphorous, silicon, and
ese were chosen through research by myself and conversations with both the Dept of
re Research and Innovation Lab at University St. Anne

It appears that warmth and phytoplankton aid in the growth, and the salinity is
taste. The samples taken in the warm summer weather had a tremendous yield
compared to colder weather

Recently, Eel Lake oysters shared with stats on the fast growth on Salt Bay and
those oysters.

Therefore, we recently added two more sites on May 9th

- Additional site 1 is in Salt Bay
- Additional site 2 is off the Wedgeport islands, opposite Salt Bay

On that trip we took the time to mark on the map all nearby placement of lobster
SITE SELECTION

The results came in May 25th and after entering the data, it was decided that 5
to its poor salinity. It appears that the Tusket River has a consistent effect on the
growth there would not meet the consumer's preference

Also omitted was site #5 as there was much lobster gear in the water

FINDINGS

Data shows that Salt Bay had the second most phytoplankton result of all sites
that may explain the fast growth

The waters surrounding Calf Is and have more salinity on average, and also more
oysters. Salt Bay and the site off the Wedgeport islands have slightly less than 1
however, these two sites were only tested once. The next samples will be taken
June 19th.

CURRENTLY

In the meantime, I have been working with a potential investor and he has submitted
application

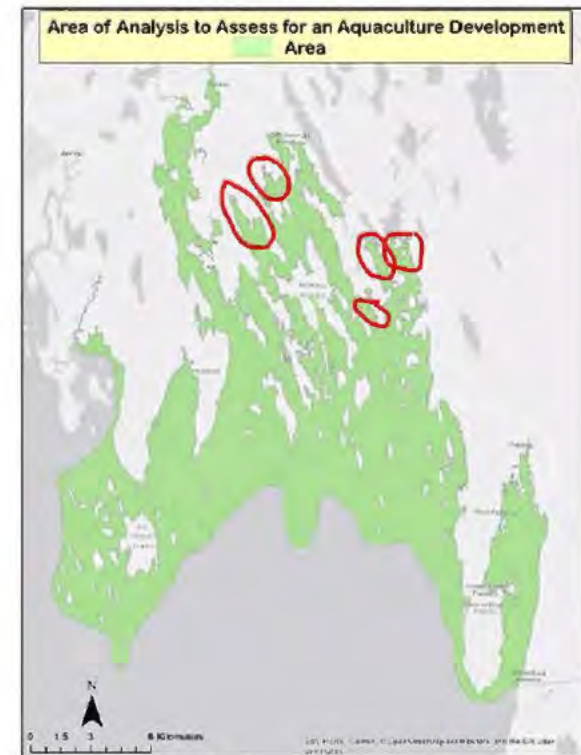
Another fish processor has asked for a water sample off Lower Wedgeport, re-
suspect it may be for marine plants. We will do that as well on June 19th

The data for the map is mostly collected, and we will have video footage done
drone footage will be done by July 31st

We will be meeting with the Minister in late June regarding the creation of a
would allow a faster lease process

Public Recommended locations ignored by MoDA and DFA. Why?

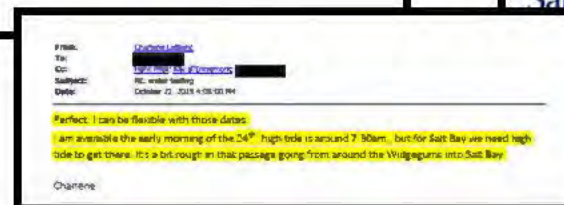
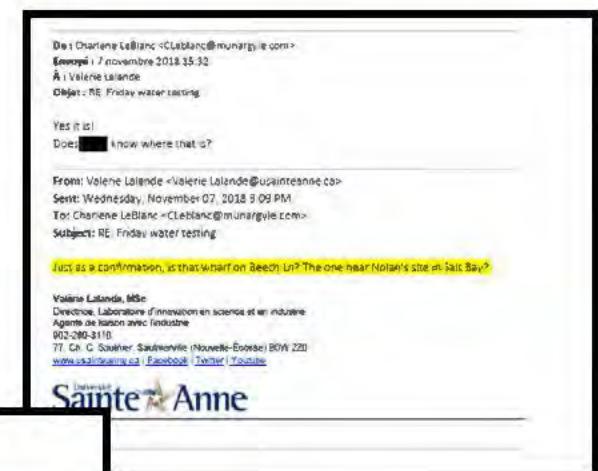
- Why are the recommendations of a local resident who lives on Lobster Bay ignored?
 - It wasn't convenient to the desired outcome.
- Conversely, Deon's Oysters can make recommendations and pick the location they desire, receive biased water testing from MoDA staff for the same location, and then apply for the lease as a bidder later in the process. All in full conflict.
- It demonstrates again that Deon's had privileged access to the ADA program with data and key insights provided as an insider. This advantage allowed Deon's to secure their desired location which they are now bidding on.
- Further, Deon's (and AANS) insider lobbying and ability to influence, minimized or marginalized any real effort to engage the public. This trend continues in this presentation with supporting email evidence.



I've raised similar concerns with Mr. Robert Geschiutti from the NS Dept of Fisheries and Agriculture and will likely forward this email to our MPP Colton Leblanc for info. Thank you for taking in our concerns and recommendations. We'd be happy to continue to be a community representative to consult - in order to realize a balance of Aquaculture development with residents. Could I request that this correspondence remain confidential. The views, concerns, suggestions, and recommendations can be shared with internal and external stakeholders but would ask that you/the municipality do not divulge me as the source. I'm not interested in being labelled an adversary of Aquaculture development as that is not accurate or true. We're just seeking "the right" balance.

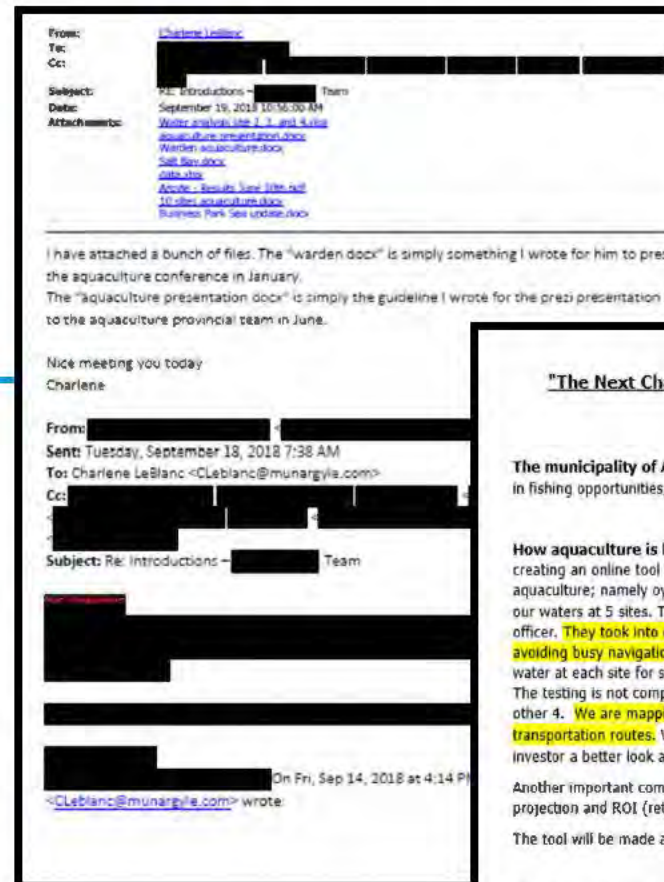
Biased Water testing to support Deon's location choices

- The following emails demonstrate that the water testers and Charlene Leblanc were in conflict by testing the water for an applicant's desired location in full bias.
- "I have to confirm with Colton" (Valerie Lalonde, lab director, USA)*
- "I called Colton", "I will go to Salt Bay and do a reading there...and check it before I leave. Lol" (Charlene Leblanc)*
- Water tester is familiar with Nolan Deon's specific address which establishes intent (mens rea?) to support Deon's desired location.
 - Confirmation bias counters the scientific method in favor of a self-fulfilling prophecy.
- Conflict of interest and collusion**



Briefing Note Prepared for the Warden contradicts future decisions

- Prepared by Charlene LeBlanc Jan 19, 2018. Note included:
- Proposed ADA locations *“being away from existing housing.”* (In reality the ADA polygons are alongside residential homes).
- Recommended more consistent contact with the applicant (i.e. Deon’s).
 - Yet this is what creates the conflict. If the applicant can pick and influence their desired location and then apply for it later, they are in a conflict of interest. (This did happen with Deon’s Oyster Company).
- Recommended more public engagement (didn’t happen).



"The Next Chapter" for aquaculture development and your communities

The municipality of Argyle: is a small in population (just under 8000) but abundant in fishing opportunities, shorelines and water

How aquaculture is being developed: With funding from the province, we are creating an online tool to attract and provide information to potential investors for aquaculture; namely oyster farming. We have begun gathering information by testing our waters at 5 sites. These sites were chosen by our GIS and community development officer. **They took into consideration factors such as being away from existing housing, avoiding busy navigation routes, shelter, and water depth.** We have been testing the water at each site for salinity, phosphorus, silicon, ammonia, nitrate and phytoplankton. The testing is not complete, but one of the sites is proving to be slightly better than the other 4. **We are mapping these possible sites, along with wharves, infrastructure, and transportation routes.** We will be adding drone footage to the online tool to give the investor a better look at the area.

Another important component to the online tool will be a template for business projection and ROI (return on investment).

The tool will be made available in both French and English.

The things that industry can do to help the community in the aquaculture discussions around:

In our experience, the process to get a site approved continues to be along one, despite the new and better process. **More consistent contact with the applicant would help keep their interest in aquaculture.**

Furthermore, there needs to be more public engagement. **The region of Argyle has manpower, the funding, the boats, and the knowledge around the waterways.** Fishermen need to be encouraged into developing aquaculture.

Conflicted Relationships with Deon's as Lease Applicant

- Continued focus (shepherding) on Salt bay as a potential lease location for and on behalf of Deon's.
- Email underlines Charlene Leblanc's concerns of new obstacles found in the water possibly hindering Deon's desired Salt Bay expansion. "Are they in Salt Bay?" (Why was only one ADA location of concern for CL?).
- This is one of many ongoing examples demonstrating a concerted effort to support and protect Deon's desired location by Charlene with regular testing to get desired results at the right time and to defend any challenges that emerged.
- Charlene appeared to be helping Deon's at every turn in her role as a development officer for ADA and MoDA. In full bias.
- This is a conflict of interest**

From: [Charlene Leblanc](#)
 To: [Alix d'Entremont](#)
 Subject: Water testing
 Date: November 28, 2019 11:53:44 AM

Wanted to tell you, (although I was tempted to keep it from you), that next week I will be going in a boat, 2 boats actually, one in Eel lake and one in Salt Bay, with Colton d'Éon to take the water temperature at the bottom of their 3 sites before they sink their oysters. Temp is crucial and if you frig up, you can kill them.

I will be wearing my pfd as usual and will be out for less than an hour.
 I was thinking that I will sign a little waiver of some kind to say that I take full responsibility and won't sue anyone if I get hurt or killed.

I am not planning to tell [REDACTED] as he thinks I am done for the year (and I did too) and now that I am downstairs I can likely just slip out unnoticed.

Have a great day and enjoy domain as well :)

Charlene

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Charlene Leblanc](#)
 To: [Alix d'Entremont](#)
 Subject: FW: Revised Meeting date
 Date: July 20, 2019 12:56:28 PM

Can you tell me the high tide times of the following proposed dates? We are looking to go to visit the barge at Salt Bay and I am wondering the best time to arrange the visit there?

Charlene

From: [Charlene Leblanc](#)
 To: [John Sullivan](#); [Deon's Outlay](#); [Christine Sewell](#); [Alix d'Entremont](#); [Edith Carney](#)
 Subject: This morning
 Date: November 5, 2021 7:55:26 AM

I am testing water in a few minutes at salt bay and eel lake.
 I will message someone when I am done.

Sent from my iPhone



From: [Charlene Leblanc](#)
 To: [Alix d'Entremont](#)
 Subject: Re: Planning Hardware District Aquaculture Gear
 Date: August 14, 2020 2:44:27 PM
 Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Yeah, I see
 So we know the coordinates and will have to avoid those areas in the ADA.
 What were those things? Are they in salt bay? Will they do anything to oysters / gear?
 Charlene

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 14, 2020, at 2:10 PM, Alix d'Entremont <axetac@munimaryle.com> wrote:

You don't see much in the videos. Here is a photo from the 3rd yellow Buoy (the one that is submerged most of the time). There is certainly lots of stuff on the line. There are also many things in the water, maybe like the skinny animals that were on the boat. The water is not as clear as the other places that we've done underwater video. There is light at the bottom, but there are so many things in the water that you can't see very far.

-image001.png-

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 Mobile [REDACTED]
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Resident frustrated for their concerns not being heard / addressed

- Public Consultation suggestions offered by CAO but not honored.
- Local resident told they would have an opportunity to voice their concerns in the final 30 days of the application process.
 - That's too late. Preapprovals and next stage decisions were made on locations without engaging the public. Public consultation needed to happen before, during, and after the ADA process.
 - If the public perception in April 2024 presents ADA was an unfair and biased process, does the evidence conclude this? It appears so.
- CAO facilitated a meeting between resident and Deon's, and a separate meeting with the Warden and Deputy Warden. The resident was met with hostility in both meetings while CAO, Warden, and Deputy Warden continued to protect Deon's and AANS agenda, countering any negative feedback that could delay or derail their agenda.

From: [redacted]
 Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:46 PM
 To: Alan & Estremans
 Cc: info@colombiobay.ca; info@colombiobay.ca; Danny Maise
 D'Maise@managyle.com; info@colombiobay.ca; Alan Maise
 Nicole Albright
 Subject: FW: Aquaculture Development Area Pilot Project
 Sensitivity: Confidential

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Why this is important: [redacted]
 Re: Alan

Thank you for the call today

As discussed, [redacted] and I are very surprised and displeased with today's announcement: <https://www.gls.com/2024/04/14/7137/>

Please have Alan Maise call me when he can on [redacted]

As discussed, I really feel like our concerns were not taken into account. As a constituent of Argyll, I feel like we were ignored, especially when I made a real effort to put residential concerns on your radar. I was anticipating that you and the municipality would be advocating for the residents. Instead, it seems the municipality of Argyll was advocating for commercial interests alone. This outcome is completely substantiated and one-sided.

Please review one of our many email discussions below from the past. The overall sentiment was more than fair. We only ever sought to encourage the municipality and province to seek a "balance" between those living in the Leveson Bay, and the needs of expanding a commercial fishery. Unfortunately, that balance has not been realized. Many of the proposed locations chosen are in I feel, being along residential areas, and places used for recreation, boating, swimming, tourism, etc. For comparison, is the province focused on a place like Robson Bay in the same manner for Aquaculture development? I don't see. And we know why.

As previously expressed to you, I currently look at an Oyster Fishery and processing plant from my backyard (yellow area on map). To make things worse, one of the first 6 locations to be approved for expansion will now encroach up on my house at [redacted] by only an inch launched feet (purple on the map) - just to [redacted] Who is seriously making these decisions and why am I (or local constituents) not being consulted? When I provide data and express concerns, why am I being ignored? Why was I - the community not notified of any updates or communication on this expansion to date? Why is your office and the province appearing to be operating quietly in isolation? Was this done intentionally or substantiously?

Adding credit to inquiry [redacted] are about to significantly invest in our property [redacted] Permit applications have been submitted for approval at the Argyll municipal office. Further, we have

From: Alan Maise
 Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 7:08 PM
 To: [redacted]
 Cc: info@colombiobay.ca; info@colombiobay.ca; Danny Maise
 D'Maise@managyle.com; info@colombiobay.ca; Alan Maise
 Nicole Albright
 Subject: RE: Aquaculture Development Area Pilot Project
 Sensitivity: Confidential

Mr [redacted]

I have received your email and will be making inquiries based on it. You may not get a return call today, but rest assured that it because I am actively collecting data to be sure my response is as accurate as possible. The municipality's role is not in the decision on the location of these leases, but we were actively involved in that project, especially in the public engagement process that went on for about 1 year, some to general public and some specific to known ocean users. Forgive what I expect to be a day delay in responding via call. In the meantime, I can share what I have available now.

I can confirm that one of the 6 sites issued for lease is closer to your home than the existing development as run by a Don's Oyster farm.

I can confirm that every site investigated was done taking into consideration the archeological, cultural, indigenous, transportation and fishing issues of the sea in these areas, and I can likely obtain specific details around the site closer to your home if you wish it. This detail would come from the Province of NS as they hold it. I shall seek and obtain the distance and updates from to the proposed new lease area.

I will confirm the public consultation dates and times etc that were made available to the public during the course of this exercise.

I can confirm there is another public consultation availability on this particular lease which I will be sure to include dates to you or any other resident near that location. The lease generally did have public consultation, however, another is required by law when a specific lease area is up for application.

Please be patient as I collect the remaining data. I can understand your concern and I hear frustration on your part. We want to get as much info to you as possible in the hopes of alleviating, understanding and addressing some of your concerns.

Finally, I can confirm that your concerns were noted, and part of the report delivered to the Minister. I will seek information on how your concerns were discussed and part of a final decision on lease locations.

hired local industry and small (business) to take on this large project. These decisions taken today make my property worth less.

[redacted]

I feel that I've not only been ignored but poked in the eye. This has been most frustrating as a taxpayer.

What are the options at a consultation at this stage? Establishing a community consultative group to provide input is simply too late in my opinion. This should have been done from the onset via post decision making and consultation. You needed to establish a communication plan and consultative group representing all sides, each involved in the process. It's too late now as it only offers the perception that you're being fair. (Ignoring one concern and reaching that stage of decision making is not transparent or fair).

We're at a loss as to why these decisions were taken when you knowingly realized we had a vested interest and brought this to your attention over 7 years ago. I think I'm thinking my own question gives away this but give me one. I'm concerned that was all done based on an agenda of those on the side of expanding Aquaculture development and so on one side. Before I go to the media, perhaps the Warden and MLA can contact me otherwise!

Sincerely,
 [redacted]
 Steve Anne de Estremans
 Nova Scotia
 Phone [redacted]

Attendees of Public Open Houses

39 attendees reported across 2 sessions

- Oyster Farmers and their Families
- MoDA Staff and Councilors
- Media
- No affected residents (public wasn't fully aware.)
- Charlene Leblanc representing Leblanc Seeded Lines (?) while employed as a MoDA Development officer for ADA?
 - She can't represent government and industry at the same time.
- Conflict of Interest

OCTOBER 19, 2022
OPEN HOUSE NOTES

Aquaculture Development Area Stakeholder
Municipality of the District of Argyle

Glenwood Hall
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Attendees:

1. Alix d'Entremont (MoDA Staff)
2. Alan Muse (MoDA Staff)
3. Gregor Reid (CMAR)
4. Margo Coughlin (CMAR)
5. Matthew King (NSDFA)
6. Nathaniel Fawcett (NSDFA)
7. Anne Waters (NSP)
8. Scott Sumner (MoDA Staff)
9. [Redacted] (Leblanc Seeded Lines)
10. Green Digdon (MoDA Councilor)
11. Kathy Bourque (MoDA Councilor)
12. Danny Muse (MoDA Councilor)
13. [Redacted] (Dette Waterford)
14. [Redacted] (Dette's Island Resident)
15. [Redacted] (Dette's Island Resident)
16. [Redacted] (Dette's Island Resident)
17. [Redacted] (Dette's Island Resident)
18. [Redacted] (Dette's Island Resident)
19. [Redacted] (Bouctouche Bay Industries, Oyster Grow)
20. [Redacted] (Bouctouche Bay Industries, Oyster Grow)
21. [Redacted] (Independent)
22. [Redacted] (Public lobster fisher)
23. [Redacted] (Grande Passe Oysters Ltd.)
24. [Redacted] (The Maritime Oyster Company Ltd.)
25. [Redacted] (The Son Oyster Company Ltd.)
26. [Redacted] (Isabel's Island Resident)
27. [Redacted] (Public lobster fisher)
28. [Redacted] (Public lobster fisher)
29. Giles Sumner (CIFA journalist)

Feedback Received During Conversations:

- Councilors that attended were very impressed with setup and...

Attendees:

- Three Sumner's Island residents [Redacted] were concerned about the proposed ADA polygons near their homes in lower Surbiton Island.
- [Redacted] were promoting the OysterGrow system by speaking with attendees and by having the equipment behind their truck in the parking lot for people to look at.
- [Redacted] presenting Dette Waterford was interested in joining the Stakeholder Committee.
- [Redacted] were present because they had an interest in the marine grain industry (sugar kelp) once they already have the equipment and time.
- [Redacted] asking American Oyster farmers in the Municipality were speaking with the hosts, OysterGrow representatives and those interested in the aquaculture industry.
- Giles Sumner (CIFA journalist) asked some questions regarding the general feedback that the Municipality has received.
- [Redacted] (TREPFA) was concerned about the unsightly premises at the Maritime Oyster Company's land on Earl Lake.
- [Redacted] was concerned that there would be issues if multiple people applied for the same ADA areas. How do you ensure that the most people are successful in their application.

Argyle Municipal Building
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Attendees:

1. Alix d'Entremont (MoDA Staff)
2. Alan Muse (MoDA Staff)
3. Gregor Reid (CMAR)
4. Margo Coughlin (CMAR)
5. Matthew King (NSDFA)
6. Nathaniel Fawcett (NSDFA)
7. Anne Waters (NSP)
8. [Redacted] (Leblanc Seeded Lines)
9. [Redacted] (Argyle Lobster Fisher)
10. [Redacted] (Son of [Redacted])
11. Danny Muse (MoDA Councilor)
12. Nicole Wright (MoDA Councilor)
13. Guy Sumner (MoDA Councilor)
14. Ted Sumner (MoDA Councilor)
15. [Redacted] (Bouctouche Bay Industries, Oyster Grow)
16. [Redacted] (Bouctouche Bay Industries, Oyster Grow)



17. Daniel Mombourquette (NSDFA)
18. [Redacted] (Public lobster fisher)
19. [Redacted] (Public accountant)
20. [Redacted] (Public lobster fisher)
21. [Redacted] (Public lobster fisher)
22. [Redacted] (Public lobster fisher)
23. [Redacted] (Local retired fisher)
24. [Redacted] (Leblanc Seeded Lines)
25. [Redacted] (Grande Passe Oysters Ltd.)
26. [Redacted] (Public lobster fisher)
27. [Redacted] (Public lobster fisher)
28. [Redacted] (Earl Lake Resident)
29. [Redacted] (Earl Lake Resident, likely [Redacted] partner)
30. [Redacted] (Abram's River Resident)
31. [Redacted] (Morris Island lobster fisher)
32. Giles Sumner (CIFA journalist)
33. [Redacted] (Sheilbaine County Resident)

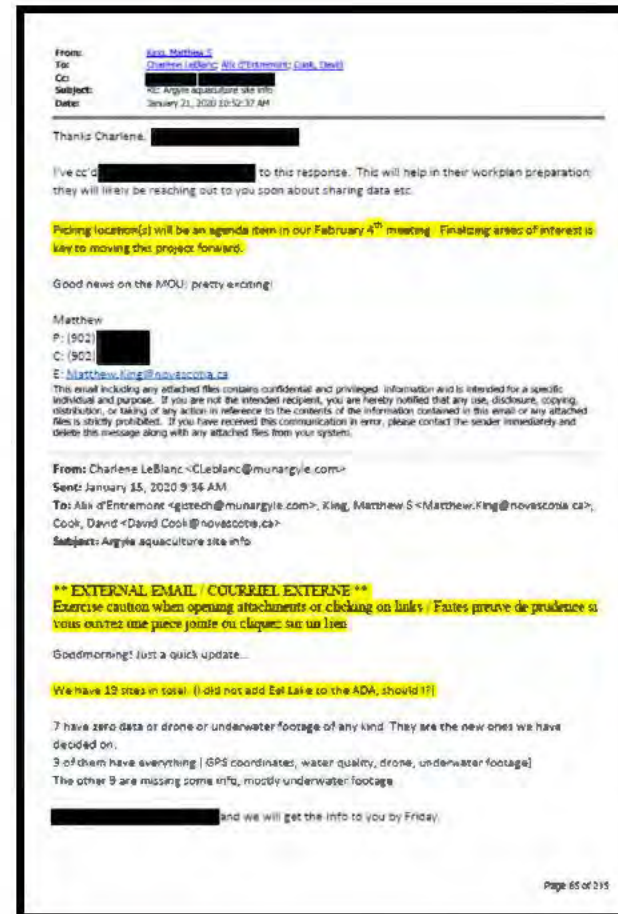
Feedback Received During Conversations:

- Councilors happy with attendance and setup.
- Councilor Ted Sumner asked general questions about the ADA related to area chosen and next steps.
- Daniel Mombourquette spoke to Alix about possible research opportunities within AFF related to the ADA project.
- [Redacted] were all interested in investing in aquaculture, especially marine plants.
- [Redacted] suggested that experimental leases should be setup to lower the risk to investors. [Redacted] had some sites in the past that fail (e.g., Glenwood Bay).
- [Redacted] residents of Earl Lake, had concerns about the proposed ADA polygon in the southern part of Salt Bay. They also raised concerns about the unsightly property owned by [Redacted] on Earl Lake.
- [Redacted] fisherman from Morris Island, had concerns about the proposed ADA polygon near the Morris Island wharf. People use that cove to pull up their boats and to store lobster carts.
- [Redacted] said that only lobster fishers from District 34 should be permitted to apply for leases within the ADA. [Redacted] also sent an email to Alix that night expanding on his thoughts.
- [Redacted] with an audience of young guys from Publico, spoke about the sugar kelp growing on his cages, lines and buoys in Salt Bay. He also said that he will be applying for a site in northern Salt Bay.

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Email Evidence shows MoDA picked the ADA locations – not DFA

- Charlene Leblanc reports to DFA she has 19 sites as candidates. Salt bay is listed as #1.
- Matt King at DFA acknowledges and advises “finalizing areas of interest is key to moving the project forward”.
 - Deon’s was given insider access and picked their location.
 - Facilitated by Charlene Leblanc and included as a candidate location for NS DFA.
 - NS DFA pre-approved the location.
 - No adequate public consultation held.
- Who is on CC in this email? Is it Colton and Nolan D’eon?, or AANS president/executives?
 - If so, it would confirm improper influence and collusion.



Email evidence shows Undesirable data/results were corrected with data bias or ignored

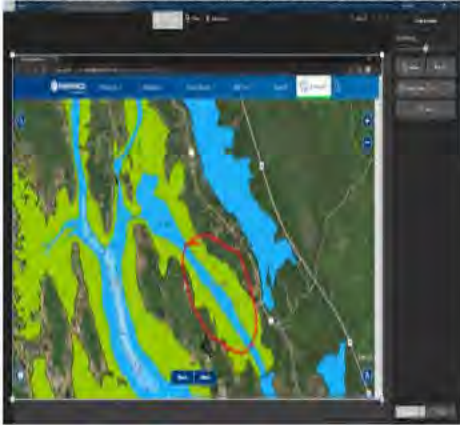
- Matt King from DFA wrote, *“I’d like to verify this data set before sending out alarms.”*
- *“In summary, the tool was performing inaccurate calculations in this region. stated, I removed the inaccurate region from the calculation.” (Dalhousie University Representative)*
- This email shows the analysis did not present the desired data required to support Deon’s preferred Salt Bay location. This email shows NS DFA employed data bias to achieve desired outcome, and MoDA followed suit.
 - *“Note that the depth indicated for this area is 1 foot (not 1 metre) with green being represented as land at low tide. We’ve all been to this site and there is more water here than 1 foot.” (Matthew King, DFA)*
- This demonstrates once again there was a desired outcome and the ongoing effort to manufacture an outcome with supporting data and consensus. (fixing the outcome).
- Matt King stated, *“The decision support tool is not the be all end all and the results of the analysis merely start more conversation with stakeholders”*, conditioning this audience.



From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
CC: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Checking in
Date: November 18, 2020 11:03 AM
Attachments: [redacted].xlsx
 [redacted].xlsx
 [redacted].xlsx
 [redacted].xlsx

Hi Alex

Thanks for the further clarifications. We simply can't discount the datasets we're using. Just because one site is deemed not reliable, doesn't mean the entire dataset is unreliable. Navionics isn't completely reliable either. Have a look at the images below from Navionics. This is Salt Bay and the red circle indicates the suspended lease within Salt Bay. Note that the depth indicated for this area is 1 foot (not 1 metre) with green being represented as land at low tide. We've all been to this site and think it more water here than 1 foot.



Disclaimer: This map is not defining suitable areas, more so suggesting them based on the datasets we have included, weighted, and scaled.

In summary, the tool was performing inaccurate calculations in the region, so I removed the inaccurate region from the calculation. Seem reasonable for now?

Best Regards,
 [redacted]
 Dalhousie University
 Phone: [redacted]
 Email: [redacted]@dal.ca

From: King, Matthew S <Matthew.King@novascotia.ca>
 Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:08 AM
 To: Alex d'Entremont <igotech@munargile.com> [redacted]@dal.ca>
 Co: Charlene LeBlanc <CLeBlanc@munargile.com> [redacted]@perennia.ca> [redacted]@perennia.ca>
 Subject: RE: Checking in

Also, in the example you've both raised, I actually don't think the data we have is that far off. From what I can tell the contour that's selected from the data we have is a 1 metre contour and a zero metre contour. The 1 metre contour closely aligns with the Navionics, which suggests the area is 0 feet deep, roughly. That's 2.4 metres. That's not far off. The other reality is, the area of concern looks like a nice corridor for recreational boaters (into the commercial fisheries too) and based on my experience, if we bring an area like this to Transport Canada, they likely won't support it.

There are also many variables to consider here. Some I've explained in my previous email but here are others. The thing is there are other datasets like archaeological sites, marine by no means it conveys information but they can be included in the decision support tool. The tool isn't the be all end all and the results of the analysis merely start more conversation to verify with stakeholder, non-stakeholders, first Nations along with further analysis using tools like Navionics, taking video perhaps etc. which will narrow down our potential ADA(s).

This is marine spatial planning at it's finest folks. We're going to be discovering errors, obstacles etc. through engagements and analysis and we will deal with them accordingly. The important thing here is that we take precaution and you're already doing that by verifying results (VERY preliminary results I'll add) by comparing with sources like Navionics. Though the example I've given above questions the accuracy of the data on Navionics as well. You're proving that the process a working and NCDFA puts trust in, engagements with our regulatory partners, consultations with MIRA and MoDA's engagements at the local level that we're putting an ADA somewhere logical.

Rather than the back and forth on this topic via email, perhaps [redacted] and Alex we can further discuss this local today.

Perhaps hold off connecting with [redacted] I'd like to verify this dataset before sending out alarms.

I'm available for the rest of the morning until 11pm and after 2:00pm.

Thank you

MoDA and NS DFA ignored other optimal candidate sites

- The site referenced in this email is called “Cats Pass.”
- The decision support tool and data collection by MoDA determined it as an “optimal” location with same water depths as Salt Bay.
 - Of note, this is a non-residential area.
 - Site not desired by Deon’s Oysters who’s objective is to find the supporting data to expand from their current location in Salt Bay.
 - Conveniently this site was removed by MoDA and DFA. Why? When this would be a site the public could support?
 - *“There will be further verification required when the scope gets more narrowed and a potential ADA(s) determined”. (Matt King, DFA)*
 - Emails demonstrate Deon’s selected their desired ADA location and then applied as the applicant. There is a reason it’s #1 on the list and in the first 6 to be approved.
 - Demonstrates once again there was a desired objective to seek an outcome with supporting data and consensus. (a fix)?



Fabricating the desired outcome with prompts to DFA

In another example, MoDA Development Officer Alix D'entremont telegraphs/steers DFA to the Deon's desired site to ensure it stays as top ADA site to be approved:

- *"I think either Eel Lake or Salt Bay may be your best bets for finding the largest beds of oysters within Lobster Bay". (Alix D'entremont)*
- Why the redaction?



Privileged and Special Access to Insider information and Data was offered to Deon's

Emails show MoDA Development officer sharing data with Colton and Nolan Deon.

- This was not offered to the public or other farmers
- It provided Deon's with special treatment and an advantage to influence the location they desired.

They would ultimately emerge as the applicant in full conflict of interest.

- This violates the municipality's ethics and code of conduct Annex A section 14 on fairness.

From: Colton D'Elor
To: Charlene LeBlanc
Subject: Re: water testing
Date: October 1, 2019 1:41:42 PM

Thank you!

On Oct 1, 2019, at 1:40 PM, Charlene LeBlanc <CLeblanc@munmargyle.com> wrote

Last week the salt bay test was
 17.5 degrees
 pH 7.26
 salinity 25.6

CHARLENE LEBLANC
 Community Development Officer
 21 Courthouse Road / PO Box 10
 Tisbury Nova Scotia B0V 1M0

From: Colton D'Elor
To: Charlene LeBlanc
Subject: Seawater analysis salt bay & surrounding
Date: December 14, 2018 11:07:00 AM
Attachments: PHOTOS2.jpg

	meter				Unit: Ave	
	Aug 17	Nov 17	May 18	June 20/18	Nov 9/18	Average
pH	7.71	7.85	7.55	7.81	7.76	
Salinity	17.29	20.1	24.43	26.53	22.09	
Ammonia	0.04	0.09		0.02	0.04	
Nitrate	0.47	0.47		0.42	0.47	
Nitrite	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.06	
Phosphorous	0.04	0.022		0.03	0.03	
				0.01	0.06	
				10	5.33	
				10	183.33	

From: Colton D'Elor
To: Charlene LeBlanc
Subject: SALT BAY Oct 28 2019

Temp 11.45
 OR -0058.1 mV
 pH 7.23
 DO 107.1 %Sat
 DO 10.75 mg/L
 EC 40.01 mS/cm
 TDS 28.04 g/L
 SAL 20.97 ppt
 SSG 19.5
 CPH 0013 18 ug
 BAPD 1092mg

From: Colton D'Elor
To: Charlene LeBlanc
Subject: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 9:40 AM
To: Charlene LeBlanc <CLeblanc@munmargyle.com>
Subject: Re: water testing

Has Charlene
 Do you have a few mins to send over those readings?
Thanks
Colton

On Nov 9 2019 at 10:59 AM, Charlene LeBlanc <CLeblanc@munmargyle.com> wrote

I am home but will give you all my readings from next time when I get back in

Sent from my phone

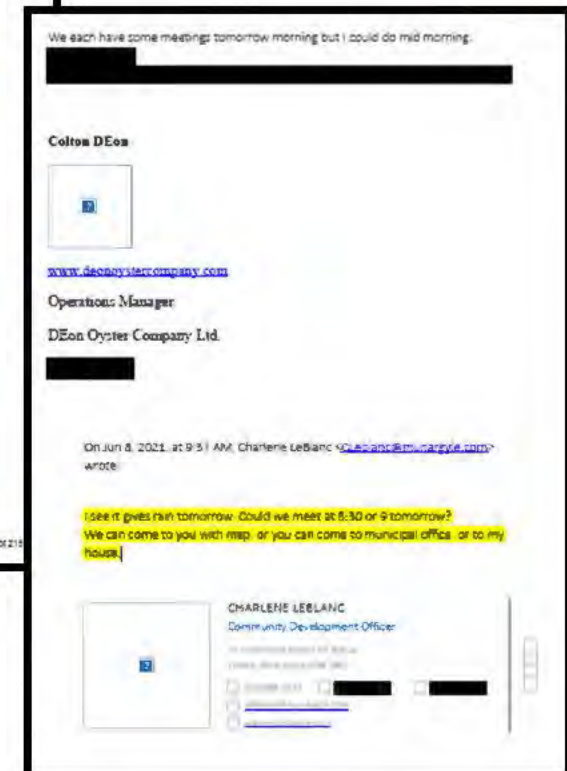
On Nov 5 2019 at 10:56 AM, Colton D'Elor <[redacted]> wrote

[redacted]

Page 125 of 215

How Deon's influenced their desired location with privileged access

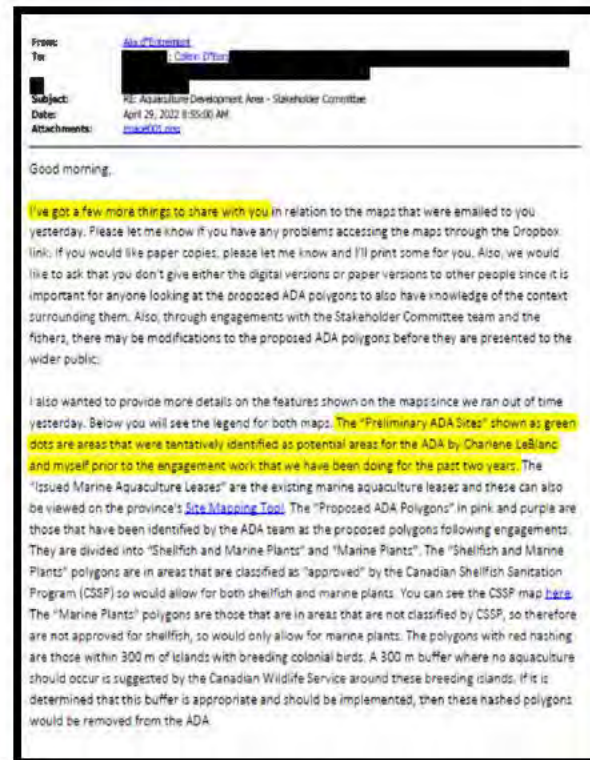
- *"Are you able to send a pic via email and me and dad could discuss before we see you on Thursday? Might give us some time to see some potential other areas too". (Colton Deon)*
 - The public was never offered the opportunity to provide feedback on these locations.
- *"We can come to you with map, or you can come to municipal office, or to my house." (Charlene Deon)*
- This is a conflict of interest



Alix D'entremont sharing insider information with Deons

"The Preliminary ADA Sites shown as green dots are areas that were tentatively identified as potential areas for the ADA by Charlene LeBlanc and myself prior to the engagement work that we have been doing for the past two years". (Alix D'entremont)

Deon's cannot receive privileged information and data and then propose and influence locations to then apply for the same location without being in a conflict of interest.

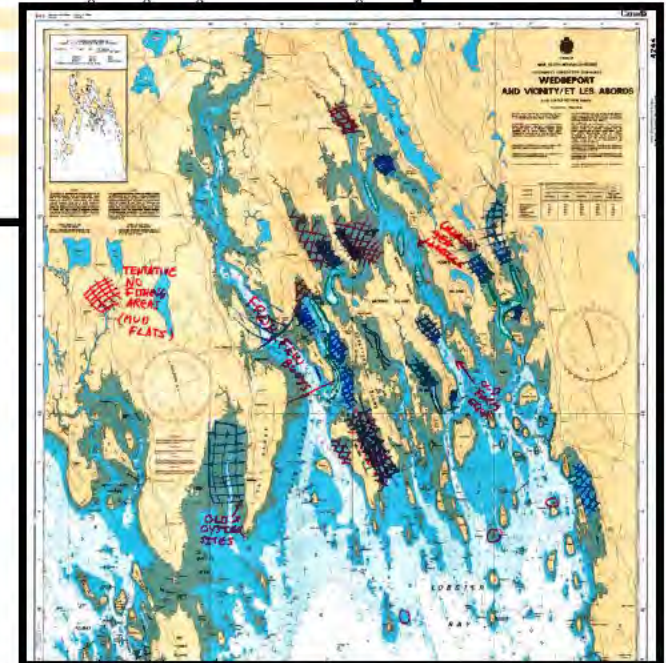


ARA Polygons and location factors considered for tentative sites

- Where is Salt Bay in this table? Not convenient to add this location here as homes are a factor.
 - There are homes on Salt Bay.
- Early decision map shows “TENTATIVE NO FISHING AREAS (Mud Flats) yet many of these areas contain proposed ADA locations.
- Councillors were never shown any of these maps prior to the April/2024 announcement. Councilors asked Alain Muise, Nicole Albright, and Danny Muise after that announcement if they had seen any maps, and they all said NO.

Factors considered for tentative sites

Rank	Name	Location	Shelter	Depth	Homes	Data	History	Wharf
	Argyle River	43.7716, -65.851866	X	X		X		X
X	Bar River	43.780978, -65.898401	X	X	X	X		X
X	Calf Island	43.25283, -65.883794	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	Free Island	43.787545, -65.9092466666667	X	X	X	X		X
	Glenwood Bay	43.77531, -65.867771	X	X	X	X	X	X
1	Indian Bay	43.783971, -65.939188	X	X	X	X		X
2	Indian Struce Bay-Upper	43.771502, -65.955973	X	X		X		X
3	Indian Struce Bay-Midd	43.7620733333333, -65.9441916666667	X	X		X		X
4	Indian Struce Bay-Lower	43.741634, -65.935242	X	X		X		X
6	Miley Island	43.7458316666667, -65.949565	X	X		X		X
	Squires Island	43.779804, -65.884733	X	X	X	X		X
	The Basin	43.7401516666667, -65.8937566666667	X	X	X	X		X
5	Widgeons	43.809647, -65.928016	X	X	X	X		X
12	Bog's Island	43.733677, -65.877146	X	X	X			X
7	Pubnico Harbour-Grand	43.649121, -65.784838						
8	Pubnico Harbour-Double	43.671713, -65.784643						
9	Pubnico Harbour-Nipso	43.666466, -65.766400						
	Argyle Sound	43.711847, -65.826218						
	Crazy Island	43.711853, -65.900527						
	Bar Island	43.711262, -65.911208						
	Isle Island	43.707320, -65.897316						



Stakeholder Committee never included Public or Affected Residents. Ever.

- *“MoDA continues with the local engagement and has now met one-on-one with 13 lobster fishers and 3 oyster farmers to get feedback on the ADA polygons”*
- No Public consultation. Public listed as a stakeholder but not included on Stakeholder committee.

MEETING PRESENTATION NOTES

Aquaculture Development Area Stakeholder (ADA) Committee Meeting
Municipality of the District of Argyle
Thursday, June 23, 2022
Via Zoom at 2:00 pm

While this zoom meeting is set for 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, I foresee it finishing earlier than that.

I'd like to let everyone know that we will be recording this session to allow for accurate minute taking.

1. Local stakeholder engagement update
 - a. MoDA continues with the local engagement and has now met one-on-one with 13 lobster fishers and 3 oyster farmers to get feedback on the ADA polygons. These meetings make use of the ADA polygon maps and are extremely effective at getting very detailed information on which areas that may be problematic for the fishers and farmers. Concerns are mainly related to lobster fishing areas and navigation routes. The maps are marked on by me to represent the feed back that we've received. Fishers and farmers would often recommend other lobster fishers that should be contacted, most of which we had already spoken to. Several lobster fishers showed interest in marine plants because the work could be done by them without disrupting their lobster fishing work. One of the questions by interested fishers is: where could we sell our harvest? I know that there is a market for sugar kelp on the US east coast. Would either [REDACTED] have any comments regarding their company's interest in marine plants like sugar kelp?
 - b. A one-pager update on the ADA was emailed to the following organizations:
 - i. Roseate Tern Working Group
 - ii. Bramble Rock Lobster Association
 - iii. Coldwater Lobster Association
 - iv. Southwest Nova Scotia Biosphere Reserve
 - v. Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia
 - vi. Sea Kayaking Symposium
 - vii. Nova Scotia Community College
 - viii. Nova Scotia Bird Society
 - ix. Delta Waterfowl
 - x. Yarmouth and Acadia Shore Tourism Association
 - xi. Yarmouth-Shelburne Gaspereau Advisory Group
 - xii. Atlantic Coastal Plains Flora Provincial Recovery Team
 - c. The one-pager was not sent to the Tusket River Environmental Protection Agency or the Southwest Nova Scotia Paddlers Association because we have members of these groups in the Stakeholder Committee.
2. NSDFA federal/provincial engagement update
3. Concerns/Questions and Responses from last meeting
4. Next steps for ADA pilot project
 - a. Continued fisher engagement

ADA Presentation not accurate of reality

Consider:

- Community awareness and support was never achieved. It was fabricated.
- No real or adequate public consultation performed.
 - A perception of public consultation was simulated. (fake)
- Stakeholder engagements did not include the public. Public not on ADA stakeholder/steering committee, and Community Liaison Committee not created; yet Nolan and Colton Deon were included and able to influence their expansion in Salt Bay by getting a location preapproved and positioning themselves to be the awarded applicant.
 - **This is a Conflict of Interest**
- Science based decisions were negated with biased water testing to only support the desired findings of Deons, which was then fully embraced and supported by MoDA and DFA staff.
 - Confirmation bias counters the “Scientific Method.”

OUR FOCUS FOR SUCCESS AND TRANSPARENCY

- Community awareness and support
- Stakeholder engagements
- Science based decisions

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

- Open House to showcase d'Eons Oyster Company solar powered oyster grader
- Launched a Video on aquaculture and the suspended culture system
- www.aquacultureargyle.com
- Newsletter
- Newspaper
- Facebook live re. ADA
- Brochures
- One pager sent out
- One on one with locals
- Participated and promoted the Economic Dev video created for the NSDFA



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

- We compiled a stakeholder list of 41 businesses and organizations
- We further divided them into categories to ensure this work is done efficiently and thoroughly.
 - Dialogue
 - Information
 - Communication
 - Consultations (with regulators and First Nations which is led by the NSDFA)

Conclusion

- Why is the cultural behavior (of MoDA, DFA, AANS, and Local farmers Deon's Oysters) intent on minimizing public involvement on ADA?
- The message comes from the top down. It starts here:
 - *"We must take the 'no' out of Nova Scotia. Special interests have captured too many parts of our economy and have had an outsized voice in policy creation. That must end." (Tim Houston).*
 - This biased (industry over public) posture creates an imbalance and gave NS DFA tacit permission (a greenlight) to work more closely with industry to influence an outcome that was self serving for local farmers like Deon's Oysters (who are conveniently ex-president and on the current board of directors for AANS) –at the expense of residents and and the environment.
 - Email evidence shows this open door of influence was fostered by Bruce Hancock and Matthew King at NS DFA, in tandem with MoDA staff Charlene Leblanc, Alain Muise, Alix D'Entremont, and councillors Nicole Albright and Danny Muise.
 - The Deon's were given privileged access, special treatment, insider knowledge, data, and an advantage over the public and other farmers.
 - By including Deon's on the Stakeholder/Steering Committee and allowing AANS and the Deon's to influence the method of public engagement to be performed (little to none), and an ability to influence ADA polygons, water testing, and desired locations; this allowed Deon's to position themselves as the bidder for the Salt Bay Expansion under the ADA program. This evidence supports an allegation of a direct and real conflict of interest and collusion.
 - The conflict was not managed or resolved by MoDA or NS DFA.

Exposure



- MoDA staff and certain councillors are in violation of their Ethics/Code of Conduct Annex A, Section 14 on fairness.
- NS DFA staff are in violation of the provincial Conflict-of-Interest Policy, Civil Service Act, chapter 70 (1989); and the Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act., Ch 42



August 9, 2024

Minister Kent Smith, E.C.N.S
Office of the Minister
Fisheries and Aquaculture
PO Box 2223, Halifax NS, B3J 3C4

Dear Minister Smith,

Thank you for your correspondence dated August 8th, 2024, it was timely and gracious. At our most recent Council meeting, the following motion was passed unanimously.

...To ask the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to work closer with residents that may be affected by the other 47 potential sites and prior to issuing these leases and achieve a balance between economic growth and protecting the stakeholders involved.

A motion to pause the 6 that are already in the provincial application process was considered and defeated. The combination of these two decisions is a strong indication that Argyle supports the existing process of the 6 sites currently being considered for a lease. The Council has confidence that the process has sufficient opportunity for public comment. Council encourages the province to continue its efforts to ensure that residents can contact the province directly on their concerns anytime, and we certainly promote this where we can.

The approved motion is an understanding that we have time to re-assess stakeholder engagement on the remaining sites and should do so. Council sees an opportunity to re-engage with residents more thoughtfully.

Our public engagement approach prior to the April announcement was based on the provincial 8 factors in considering a lease. Reopening conversations with residents is likely to uncover local insight on existing recreational, navigation or other uses that would only aid the province in its decision when a second round of applications opens.

We are thankful that the province chose Argyle for this pilot project. Our objective was to provide another opportunity for our residents to make a living on the sea, and this program is a giant positive step in that direction. In approaching the remaining 47 sites, we believe that a provincially led engagement, supported by the municipality, may be more suitable to address residential concerns. This approach would lead to less confusion as to who has the legislative authority to consider next steps on the remaining sites.



We heard from many residents that were deep supporters of this initiative, and those with lingering concerns around the conflict it may cause with fishers or residents. A well-known fisher said it well, don't put the sea farmers and fishers at odds with each other. This sparked many internal ideas as to how to engage our community for future sites. We are a willing contributor in this work.

We request a meeting with you and/or your staff to openly discuss the possibilities to ensure that our residents and fishers are heard and considered in future site considerations.

Sincerely,

Warden Danny Muise
Municipality of Argyle

From: [Glenn Digdon](#)
To: [Glenn Digdon](#)
Subject: FW: Question on ADA stakeholders
Date: March 12, 2025 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: [Argyle FOIPOP Review 24-002 - emails between MoDA and Deons Oysters - Part 2.pptx](#)
[letter to minister smith.pdf](#)

Duplicate email string - pp. 194-241



From: [Glenn Diggdon](#)
To: diggdon@ns.sympatico.ca
Subject: FW: Question on ADA stakeholders
Date: March 12, 2025 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: [Argyle FOIPOP Review 24-002 - emails between MoDA and Deons Oysters - Part 2.pptx](#)
[letter to minister smith.pdf](#)

From: Glenn Diggdon <gdiggdon@munargyle.com>
Sent: March 12, 2025 4:59 PM
To: Glenn Diggdon <gdiggdon@munargyle.com>
Subject: FW: Question on ADA stakeholders
Importance: High

Duplicate email string - pp. 194-241



From: s. 480(1)
To: [Malcolm Madden](#); [Nicole Albright](#); [Greg Foster](#); [Kathy Bourque](#); [Ted Saulnier](#); [Gordon Boudreau](#); [Darryl LeBlanc](#); [Glenn Digdon](#); [Racheal Surette](#)
Cc: s. 480(1)
Subject: Argyle FOIPOP Review 24-003 - emails between Charlene Leblanc and Colton Deon- Part 3
Date: March 13, 2025 6:30:16 PM
Attachments: [Argyle FOIPOP Review 24-003 - emails between Charlene L eblanc and Colton Deon- Part 3.pptx](#)

Dear council,

We formally request your acknowledgement of this email.

Please find attached another series of email evidence (Part 3) that's shows that you are inflicted with several ongoing conflicts of interest that were not resolved during MoDA's involvement with ADA. The emails reviewed are available on your website at this link: <https://munargyle.com/foipop/803-24-003.html>

We have left CAO Muise off this email as he recused himself on Feb 26th. (Please refer to that email).

As you can see, the conflicts continue to accumulate as more supporting evidence is provided. It's most disconcerting to those cc'd and to the wider Argyle community.

After watching your last council session, we note 3 nuances that appear to indicate a retreat into an aggressive defensive position vs admitting fault and attempting to repair the situation. Here are the 3:

1. Deputy Warden (DW) Saulnier feigning surprise (when Councillor Madden stated that given the current emails that council had received asking for ADA to be placed on the council's agenda) and asking "why" ADA needed to be included. A) Councillor Madden had prefaced this request with his reasoning; and B) there was a meeting organised by the community in District 2 to discuss aquaculture expansion. It was advertised and council was made aware directly by constituents, yet no one from council attended. Why? Respectfully, It's important you understand the information (evidence) that we are providing to you. It is NOT misinformation. We have analysed historical data collected from various sources and corroborated the information to

confirm outcomes. Please read the evidence attached which prove the many of conflicts of interest.

2. CAO Muise informed Councillor Madden that he was to complete a notice of motion form to put ADA on the next session agenda. It's the opinion of many who watch council that this has never been sought - a verbal notice has always been accepted for any other topic. While the formality can certainly be followed, it's another obvious piece of friction introduced to discourage a public request. Unfortunately, It's typical and expected at this stage, and simply contributes to the bias shown to date.

3. Former MoDA development officer Charlene Leblanc was in the audience at the council meeting. Many of us do not believe this was a random occurrence. It suggests that someone in council or staff notified her of our email sent to council that included a public request (for Council to send a letter to DFA requesting a redo on public consultation for ALL 53 lease sites). Her collusion with the Deon's forms the core of many of the conflicts you now have to resolve. It also suggests someone on council or MoDA had forwarded her our allegations, email evidence, and request. It's suspicious, yet in combination with the other indicators above, it shows us that some council and staff continue to have bias and are positioning to defend these conflicts of interest vs admitting errors were made. You will find evidence of this attached.

I next draw your attention to CAO Alain Muise's defiant statement in his email response from Feb 26:

- "There is zero credible evidence of your accusations of conflict from municipal staff on a provincially led initiative. That you say this doesn't make it so. However, even if there is zero evidence of this and I deny this allegation as entirely fabricated, I am happy to recuse myself from further conversations, as our communication is nowhere on the same page, which is totally ok."

Read the attached email evidence provided to date which shows exactly the opposite of what he denies. These emails in fact show real and credible evidence to support the conflicts of interest involving MoDA staff (who reported to Alain), AANS, Colton Deon, and Nolan Deon. I present to you that "denial" is not a good defence for MoDA or council particularly when there is overwhelming evidence to confirm actions and intent. We will continue to present you with additional evidence to encourage you to diffuse the situation by writing the requested letter to DFA to redo public consultations on all 53 locations.

If you refuse to send a letter to DFA at the next session, it will solidify your violation of your Ethics and Code of Conduct, Schedule A, section 14 and it will escalate an already

hostile audience, the very people you represent.

Please remember there is still an off ramp, a letter to DFA admitting that public consultations had not been conducted appropriately and should be redone on all 53 site locations.

Here are 2 important acknowledgments:

1. You already admitted at your June 2024 session that inadequate public consultation was performed on the ADA locations. This is on record! You can't change your mind now.

2. You already admitted receipt of the email evidence via CAO Muise who acknowledged it on your behalf. You cannot plead ignorance or pretend to not know or not received email evidence confirming your conflicts of interest.

For any councillor that does not want a letter sent to DFA seeking a redo on public consultations, the rest of you should ask said councillor(s) to defend why a violation of your Ethics and Code of Conduct is preferred (or is even an option to consider). It's because it doesn't make sense. **When you admit to a mistake, it shows that you are accountable for your actions and willing to take responsibility. It demonstrates integrity and professionalism and helps rebuild trust. Admitting when you are wrong allows you to move forward and mutually find a solution rather than hiding or ignoring it.**

With much more email evidence coming, we implore you to think long and hard about this and recognize that decisions have outcomes for all involved.

Sending a letter is the easiest decision and easiest outcome. We are completely confused with your defensive and duelling nature. We can collectively seek a balance for aquaculture growth in a manner that meets the needs of the residents of Argyle and other industries. ADA can continue, and Council can introduce some long-needed fairness and transparency by making the public a stakeholder for the very first time.

Sincerely,

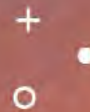
s. 480(1)

Ste Anne du Ruisseau, Nova Scotia

BOW s. 480(1)

Argyle FOIPOP Review

24-003 Release



Emails exchanged (including To:, From: Cc: and Bcc:) between Charlene LeBlanc and Colton Deon between 2018 and present - this includes all email attachments.
(Total of 66 pages + attachments)

Reference:

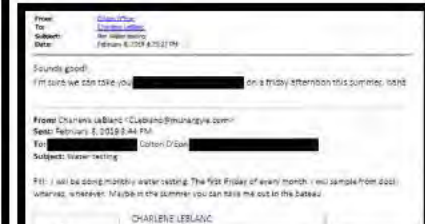
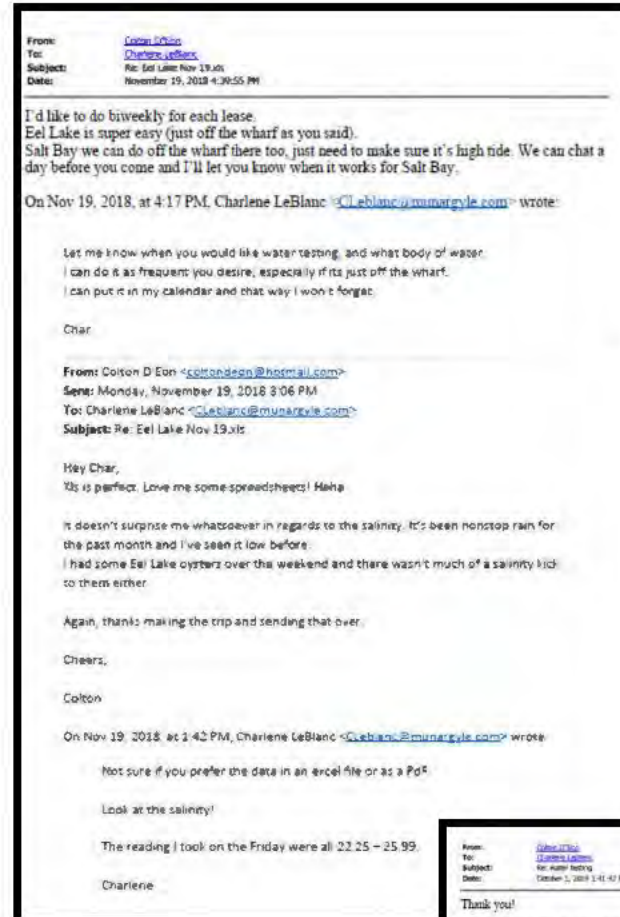
<https://munargyle.com/foipop/803-24-003.html>

What does this release show the public?

- The emails in this FOIPOP release show a comfortable relationship between Colton Deon and Charlene Leblanc as she facilitated all Deon's requests through MoDA and NS DFA to position Salt Bay as a desired ADA location Deon's would later apply for.
 - This included the provision of supporting data in full confirmation bias, and;
 - Building a history of water testing data to ensure the location (Salt Bay) would become part of the ADA map.
 - Why? Deon's is currently operating in Salt Bay and seeks to expand its operation considerably. The farm is near their homestead, and they seek the convenience of an approved location next to their home and next to their current equipment and operation.
 - This is all for Deon's convenience at the expense of the residents and homes adjacent to this location.
 - Both MoDA and DFA supported and fostered this outcome.
 - Nolan Deon is ex president of AANS/Seafarmers.ca
 - Charlene Leblanc and Colton Deon are on the AANS Board of Directors together.
 - These emails demonstrate their intent to push the aquaculture expansion agenda and lobby government for a new quick administrative approval process that replaces the friction of the legacy Aquaculture Review Board (ARB). Emails, media articles, and other documents show CL was unable to properly inoculate herself and manage her conflicts by operating as an aquaculture farmer, Municipal government officer developing the ADA program, and lobbyist for AANS...all at once.

MoDA Development Officer Facilitated Deon's ADA requests

- Emails show Charlene LeBlanc offers Colton Deon full bias and support to pick the location they desire with data to underpin. This “fixes” the outcome for Deon’s. In an email to Colton, she says:
 - *“Let me know when you would like water testing, and what body of water. I can do it as frequent you desire; especially if its just off the wharf. I can put it in my calendar and that way I won't forget”.* (Charlene Leblanc)
- Charlene offered full insider access to ADA as it developed allowing Deon's to influence the outcomes as they desired.
- The data created was in full confirmation bias. Instead of testing water all over the bay, CL allowed the Deon's to pick their desired location and then keep testing the same location to build a history of supporting data.
- **This is a conflict of interest and a violation of MoDA ethics and code of conduct, Schedule A, section 14 on fairness.**
 - Were other farmers offered this advantage?
 - Was the public consulted or offered to review the location and data to support this location? No.



Emails show Colton Deon regularly prompted Charlene Leblanc for water testing data

- Many emails show Colton Deon seeking data to support their location pick.
 - “Do you have a few mins to send over those readings?”
 - Do you have the readings for all year long? (Colton Deon)
- Charlene Leblanc in her role as a municipal development officer consistently provided data and readings that would be used to justify the selection of the Salt Bay location for the Deon’s.
- This data was never offered to the public in any form or forum.
 - Was it provided to other oyster farmers? Or was Deon’s alone provided an advantage?
- This is a conflict of interest and a violation of MoDA ethics and code of conduct, schedule A, section 14 on fairness.

The screenshots show the following content:

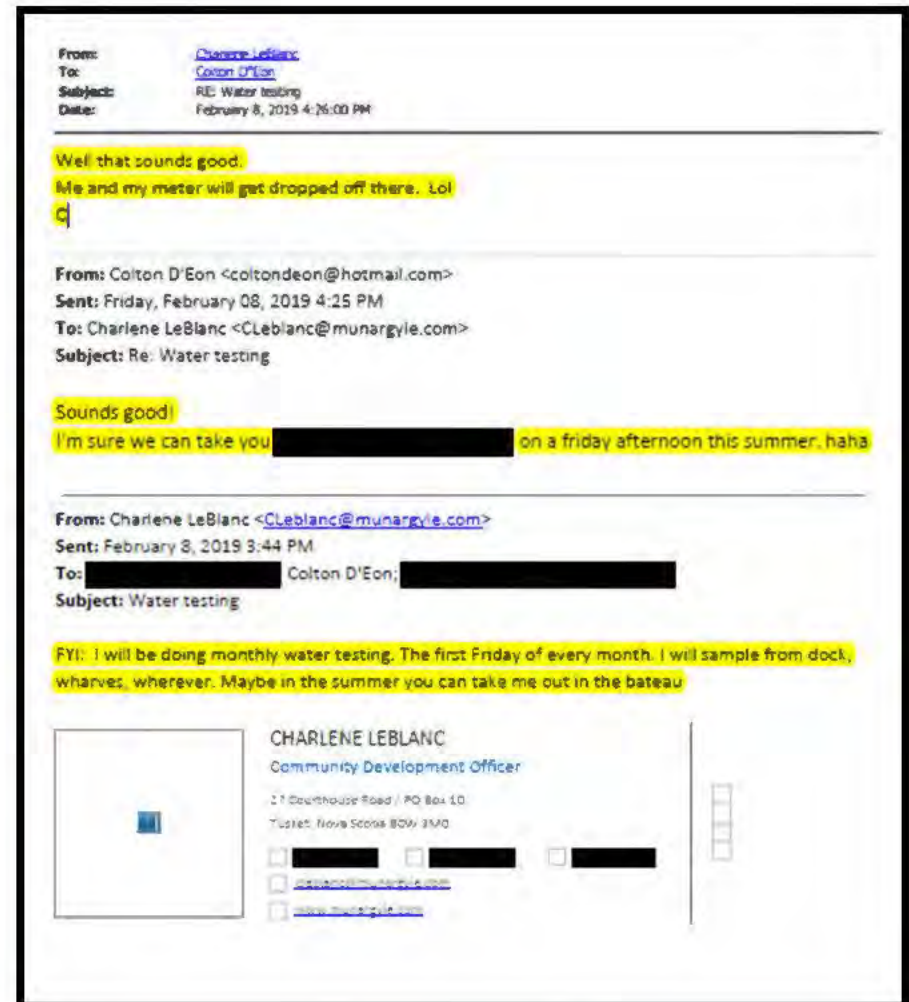
- Top Screenshot:** Email from Colton Deon to Charlene Leblanc dated November 6, 2019. Subject: "Do you have the readings for all year long?".
- Middle Screenshot:** Email from Colton Deon to Charlene Leblanc dated November 5, 2019. Subject: "Do you have a few mins to send over those readings?". Includes a business card for DEon Oyster Company Ltd.
- Bottom Screenshot:** Email from Charlene Leblanc to Colton Deon dated October 1, 2019. Subject: "water testing".

Tag	Date & Time	Temp (C)	Baro (mb)	Depth (m)	pH	pHmV	ORP (REDOXDO (% Sat))	DO (mg/L)	EC (uS/cm @25C)	RES (Ohms/cm)	TDS (mg/L)	SAL (ppt)	SSG (st)	Chloro phyll (ug/L)	Nitrate (mg/L)	Lat	Lon	Alt (m)
	11/19/2018																	
	9:14:11	4	1020	0.13	7.52	-40.1	96.1	103.7	13.19	17320	96	11258	10.18	7.9	0			

Excel File Provided

Improper Gifts for Preferential Treatment

- The Municipal and provincial government have gift and hospitality policies to guard against the risk of allegations of bribes or impropriety.
 - Yet in this email we have Charlene Leblanc prompting Colton D'eon for a boat ride in the summer.
 - "I will be doing monthly water testing. The first Friday of every month. I will sample from dock, wharves, wherever. Maybe in the summer you can take me out in the bateau" (Charlene Leblanc)
 - Colton responds to the prompt and offers the gift.
 - "Sounds good! I'm sure we can take you on a friday afternoon this summer. Haha" (Colton Leblanc)
 - In exchange, Charlene Leblanc responds positively and offers to bring her meter for testing -demonstrating that she is willing to fix the location desired by the Deon's.
 - "Well that sounds good. Me and my meter will get dropped off there. Lol" (Charlene Leblanc)
- While not attaining the level of a money bribe, this is certainly inappropriate and shows once again the compounding behaviors of these individuals to fix the Salt Bay location for Deon's. By including this location in the ADA program, NS DFA is basing its decision making upon this obvious conflict.
- QUESTION: Was the gift given with the expectation of receiving something in return?
- While likely not a bribe, this is an example of an Improper Gift.
 - This violates MoDA's Ethics and Code of Conduct Schedule A, Section 8.1 on Gifts and Benefits (must not accept a fee, advance, cash, gift, gift certificate or personal benefit that is connected directly or indirectly with the performance of their duties).



Event organized but not for public

• An ongoing trend in the emails is an effort to consistently market and promote ADA with tours, luncheons, and other events with plans to include the public that never materialized.

- Charlene always included the Deon's but never made the same offer to the public.
- The public was never included or involved.
- In their defense, MoDA will often define oyster farmers and staff as “public”.
- Its not really an “Open house” if the doors are closed to residents. It was an open house for industry.

From: Charlene LeBlanc
To: [Redacted]
Subject: event in July
Date: July 3, 2019 9:56:00 AM

Good morning gentlemen.

Here's the plan.

The Argyle aquaculture website is completed and I would like to organize an event.

Here is what I have planned so far

- 12:15 Start with a luncheon in council chambers
- 1pm aquaculture website reveal
- 1:15 BBI group presentation
- 2pm end with a visit to Salt Bay

Invites to include us & council with RSVP for luncheon and mungie, then public invited at 1 for reveal, also local media such as CILS, Vanguard.

I need your feedback AND a July date that could work.

From: Charlene LeBlanc
To: [Redacted] [Redacted]
Subject: [Redacted]
Date: Scouting & stakeholder meeting
 September 23, 2020 9:07:00 AM

[Redacted] and two colleagues will be in our region tonight and tomorrow. They, General Public media company, are producing a video series for Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture about creating the conditions for the development of the aquaculture industry in Nova Scotia. He would like to schedule a meeting to discuss how we can best tell the story of the Argyle ADA as part of the video series. (There will be no videorecording or picture taking of us tomorrow).

Their approach will be in two phases - a location scout to meet with key players involved in this initiative and get a sense of the visual elements that we can capture, then we will return for a full shoot. They aim to schedule the shoot before the end of September/early Oct. latest.

I am wondering if you can attend a group luncheon/meeting with [Redacted] and myself tomorrow, Thursday at 11am in council chambers.

Thanks for your interest to support this project and I look forward to hearing from you

CHARLENE LEBLANC
 Community Development Officer
 27 Seawall Road PO Box 10
 Tupper Nova Scotia B0N 1Y0

[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]

OPEN HOUSE
 Aquaculture in the Municipality

Argyle

SB / 07 / 19

10:30 Visit Solar Powered Oyster Grader +
 12:00 Website launch in Council Chambers +
 OysterGro presentation +
 12:30 Luncheon

Sharing of insider data for other possible locations for Deon's to consider

- Emails show Charlene Leblanc provided the Deon's with data and testing from all over the bay so Deon's could survey and consider other potential locations for expansion.
 - Was the Public offered the same data? No.
 - Were other oyster farmers offer the same data?
 - Does this provide an advantage for Deon's? Yes.
- This is a conflict of interest and a violation of MoDA ethics and code of conduct, schedule A, section 14 on fairness.

From: Charlene Leblanc
 To: Colton D'Eon
 Subject: RE: water testing
 Date: November 6, 2019 9:00 AM

Yes, so you want all reading that I recorded that day?

From: Colton D'Eon <coltondeon@hotmail.com>
 Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 8:40 AM
 To: Charlene Leblanc <Cleblanc@munargyle.com>
 Subject: Re: water testing

Hey Charlene,
 Do you have a few mins to send over those readings?
 Thanks,
 Colton

On Nov 5, 2019, at 10:59 AM, Charlene Leblanc <Cleblanc@munargyle.com> wrote:

I am home but will give you all my readings from that day when I get back in.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 5, 2019, at 10:56 AM, Colton D'Eon <coltondeon@hotmail.com> wrote:

Hey Char,

[REDACTED]

I was hoping you had a couple extra measurements from when you did the water testing on Oct 1 (the same figures as you just sent last week).
 I'm thinking the more the merrier for parameters.

Thanks

Colton

From: Charlene Leblanc <Cleblanc@munargyle.com>
 Sent: October 1, 2019 1:40 PM
 To: Colton D'Eon <coltondeon@hotmail.com>
 Subject: water testing

Last week the salt bay test was
 17.3 degrees
 pH 7.26
 salinity 25.6

EE lake was 18.50 degrees

From: Charlene Leblanc
 To: Colton D'Eon
 Subject: RE: water testing
 Date: November 6, 2019 9:00 AM

EEL LAKE Oct 29, 2019

Temp 12
 Dtp +0083.1 mv
 pH 7.27
 DO 109.5 %sat
 DO: 11.03 mg/L
 EC: 34.52 ms/cm
 TDS: 21.44 g/L
 SAL: 21.69 ppt
 SSG: 14.5
 CPH: 0011.81 ug
 LBARO: 10.29mb

From: Colton D'Eon <coltondeon@hotmail.com>
 Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 8:40 AM
 To: Charlene Leblanc <Cleblanc@munargyle.com>
 Subject: Re: water testing

Hey Charlene,
 Do you have a few mins to send over those readings?
 Thanks,
 Colton

From: Charlene Leblanc
 To: Colton D'Eon
 Subject: RE: water testing
 Date: November 6, 2019 9:30 AM

SALT BAY Oct 29, 2019

Temp 13.45
 Dtp +0058.1 mv
 pH 7.23
 DO 107.1 %sat
 DO: 10.79 mg/L
 EC: 40.07 ms/cm
 TDS: 16.04 g/L
 SAL: 25.57 ppt
 SSG: 19.5
 CPH: 0013.18 ug
 BARO: -103omb

From: Colton D'Eon <coltondeon@hotmail.com>
 Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 8:40 AM
 To: Charlene Leblanc <Cleblanc@munargyle.com>
 Subject: Re: water testing

Hey Charlene,
 Do you have a few mins to send over those readings?
 Thanks,
 Colton

From: Charlene Leblanc <Cleblanc@munargyle.com>
 Sent: October 1, 2019 1:40 PM
 To: Colton D'Eon <coltondeon@hotmail.com>
 Subject: water testing

Last week the salt bay test was
 17.3 degrees
 pH 7.26
 salinity 25.6

Eel Lake was 18.50 degrees
 pH 7.53
 salinity 22.6

From: Charlene Leblanc
 To: Colton D'Eon
 Subject: October 29, 2019 water test
 Date: October 29, 2019 3:57:00 PM
 Attachments: October 29, 2019 water test.docx

Have a look, at the sites I was at today.

The Basin is the unclassified body of water right of the Morris Island wharf.

Charlene

SITE	pH	Salinity	Temp	CPHYLL	DO
Mike's Isl	6.81	23.5	12.0	12.7	109.5
Off surette	7.07	24.33	11.7	20.28	105.8
Sluice Bay	7.22	25.88	11.7	14.57	106.4
Salt Bay	7.23	25.77	11.45	13.18	107.1
Widgegums	7.36	26.82	11.90	15.75	106.1
Fox Isl	7.51	27.74	11.90	12.53	108.2
Bar Rock	7.42	27.26	11.80	25.94	107.7
Calf Island	7.59	27.39	11.75	16.62	108.2
The Basin	7.41	27.43	12.10	11.89	107.9
Eel Lake	7.57	21.69	12.00	11.81	109.5

Conclusion

- These emails demonstrate that Deon's was given full access to insider government data as the ADA program developed, and used this insight to their advantage to target locations they would later apply for.
- This ensures their award (TBA) and removes competition from other applicants.
- By discouraging and minimizing public consultation, Deon's can assure itself of being the awarded applicant for their desired ADA locations in 2025 from NS DFA.
- This was all facilitated and channeled through Charlene Leblanc as she successfully indoctrinated MoDA staff and Council with the AANS Aquaculture Expansion agenda; and offered full insider access to Deon's.
- She operated in a fully conflicted manner between her roles as 1) MoDA development officer for ADA, 2) local aquaculture business owner (Leblanc Seeded Lines), 3) AANS/Seafarmers.ca Board member, and most importantly as 4) the internal champion and Agent for Deon's Oysters representing their expansion /business interests.
- Leblanc has a long history of working with and for Deon's Oysters.
 - Nolan Deon is ex-president of AANS/Seafarmers.ca
 - Charlene Leblanc is on the AANS Board of Directors
 - Colton Deon is on the AANS Board of Directors



From: [Glenn Digdon](#)
To: s. 480(1)
Subject: RE: Argyle FOIPOP Review 24-003 - emails between Charlene Leblanc and Colton Deon- Part 3
Date: March 13, 2025 6:56:00 PM

Received, Glenn

Duplicate email string - pp. 338-341



From: [Malcolm Madden](#)
To: [s. 480\(1\)](#)
Subject: RE: Argyle FOIPOP Review 24-003 - emails between Charlene Leblanc and Colton Deon- Part 3
Date: March 13, 2025 7:44:00 PM

Received: Malcolm

Duplicate email string - pp. 338-341



From: Darryl LeBlanc
To: s. 480(1)
Subject: Re: Proposed Aquaculture Project
Date: March 16, 2025 11:19:25 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi s. 480(1)

From my understanding, there is not a presentation at the March meeting. The group has an opportunity to ask questions, just like any other resident who attends meetings.

Council has a process and policy on presentations, and we have a waiting list to present. I believe our next opening was June if the group so desired to present at that time.

As I indicated before, waterways are not Municipal jurisdiction. The decisions are made by the Province, and the 5 sites selected are going through the application process as we speak. The residents will get their opportunity to speak on the matter once the Provinces 90-day assessment is completed.

Regarding my reaction to this, I am indifferent. I represent all constituents, and I have both those for it and against it. According to the Province however, "not in my backyard" is not a justified reason to turn down an application. Based on the selection process by the Province, the Municipality and the previous councillors did their job at that time, and from what I have seen if I was on council then I would have approved it as well based on the criteria.

I hope this helps please reach out anytime.

Darryl LeBlanc
Councillor District 6
Municipality of Argyle
902 740 3261

From: s. 480(1)
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 9:37 PM
To: Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>
Subject: RE: Proposed Aquaculture Project

You don't often get email from s. 480(1) [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Councilor LeBlanc,

First of all, please excuse my extended silence in thanking you for your extremely prompt and comprehensive response to my February email. Subsequently, s. 480(1) said that she had spoken with you

about our concerns. I appreciate that you have not been involved in all of the discussions over the past 5 years, and apparently, many of those residents who are most affected were not as well. Herein lies the problem.

I understand that there will be a presentation at the upcoming March Council meeting. I would be curious to get your reaction. It is my understanding that only one side of the argument has been heard at Council Meetings to date. I hope they will be allowed to speak.

Again, I appreciate your interest in this matter. I think we all want to see our beautiful bay remain the way it is for our grandchildren.

Very best regards,

s. 480(1)

From: Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 6:05 PM

To: s. 480(1)

Subject: RE: Proposed Aquaculture Project

Good day Mr. Huston,

First off, thank you for reaching out to me. I will try to answer your questions and concerns to the best of my knowledge.

As a new councillor, I cannot comment on the previous discussions you have had with the Municipality, your previous Councillor, or the CAO. I was not privy to those discussions as I am sure you can appreciate. I can say however that I do thank you for your contribution to the area for all the years you have been visiting. Argyle is a beautiful place and my family and I have made Lower Argyle our home for the last 24 years.

What I do know and can comment on is that the 5-sites awarded must still go through the approval process, and public engagement will be available after the 90-day

examination process by the Province. At that point residents can have their say regarding this project. I understand some may feel that this is not acceptable, but those are the Provincial Guidelines, and we cannot change them. As well, Transport Canada oversees the traffic on waterways, and they must approve any plan that is presented to the Province. If they feel that navigation is affected, then they can decline the project from the Federal level.

Regarding your question about the Bond being submitted I would say that if the CAO said that, then you can believe it to be true. As for the debris you are referring to in your email, please send me specifics regarding this (type & location) as I would be happy to bring this forward to our MLA as the waterways are Provincial jurisdiction and that question may be best for him.

The process that was followed over the years regarding your concern on public engagement was one that was laid out by the Province from my understanding.

Residents may not like the process, but the Municipality did what they had to do based on direction from the Province. All public engagement or information sessions were advertised. Could the Municipality have done more? I don't have the answer to that question. It is one I need to investigate to further understand what took place.

On a personal level, and as Councillor for District 6, I look forward to having discussions with all the constituents regarding any issues or concerns. Please understand however that I do represent the full district, and any decision that I will ultimately come to will be one that is in the best interest of the District, the Municipality, and the area in general. Not all decisions are popular; however, I have full confidence that the decisions made by the previous council was done in what they felt was the best interest of the Municipality. I have had the pleasure to sit on committees previously with most of them and I fully respected them in their role.

Thank you for bringing this forward. I will take your concerns into consideration regarding this topic as we go forward.

I look forward to hearing from you

Regards,

Darryl LeBlanc
Municipality of Argyle



Councillor District 6

5 Rue J.E. Hatfield Court / PO Box 10
Tusket, Nova Scotia B0W 3M0

902-740-3261

dleblanc@munargyle.com

www.munargyle.com

From: s. 480(1)
Sent: February 26, 2025 4:59 PM
To: Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>
Subject: Proposed Aquaculture Project

You don't often get email from s. 480(1) [Learn why this is important](#)

Subject: Proposed Aquaculture Project

Dear Councillor LeBlanc,

s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

I am writing to express my profound disappointment that there has been no attempt to update us on the progress of the proposed aquaculture leases in Lobster Bay as was promised. s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

has always tried to maintain good ties with our neighbors. As land-owners of 25% of the property directly adjacent to the proposed 53 lease locations, we have never been contacted by the Municipality to comment on how these structure will affect us. I met with Alain Muise at my request last August, and he assured me that we would be solicited for comments with more than adequate notice prior to any lease being awarded. I have heard nothing. Alain has my contact information, and Argyle has never had difficulty reaching me at tax time.

After seeing what has happened in Eel Lake, we are not anxious to have miles of semi-submerged cages interfere with our ability to navigate the waters so close to our islands. It is interesting that this project is being touted as a tourist attraction. I submit to you that s. 480(1)

s. 480(1) and I suspect that would qualify us as the largest group of “tourists” in the Argyles.

I asked Alain whose responsibility it would be if these cages washed up on our property in a storm. Or who would clean up the mess if a farmer were to go out of business or go bankrupt. He said that each farmer would be required to post a bond that would be sufficient to remediate any damage. Is this true? I wonder why there is still debris in evidence in the area from previous failed ventures? I am hearing from other local residents that they too have had little opportunity to express their concerns over the specific locations, which is a matter of serious concern.

Respectfully, s. 480(1)

s. 480(1)

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From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Bruce H Hancock](#)
Subject: Fwd: March 20 council session
Date: March 18, 2025 7:52:37 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)
[Outlook-http_mun.png](#)

Nicole Albright
Warden
Councillor District 5
Municipality of Argyle
902-307-4474

Begin forwarded message:

Duplicate email string - pp. 7-8



From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Bruce H Hancock](#)
Subject: Fwd: March 20 council session
Date: March 18, 2025 7:53:07 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Nicole Albright
Warden
Councillor District 5
Municipality of Argyle
902-307-4474

Duplicate email string - pp. 18-21



From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Bruce H Hancock](#)
Subject: Fwd: March 20 council session
Date: March 18, 2025 7:53:50 PM

Nicole Albright
Warden
Councillor District 5
Municipality of Argyle
902-307-4474

Begin forwarded message:

Duplicate email string - pp. 35-39



From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Bruce H Hancock](#)
Subject: Fwd: March 20 council session
Date: March 18, 2025 7:55:05 PM

Nicole Albright
Warden
Councillor District 5
Municipality of Argyle
902-307-4474

Duplicate email string - pp. 84-89



From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Bruce H.Hancock](#)
Subject: Fwd: March 20 council session
Date: March 18, 2025 7:55:45 PM

Nicole Albright
Warden
Councillor District 5
Municipality of Argyle
902-307-4474

Begin forwarded message:

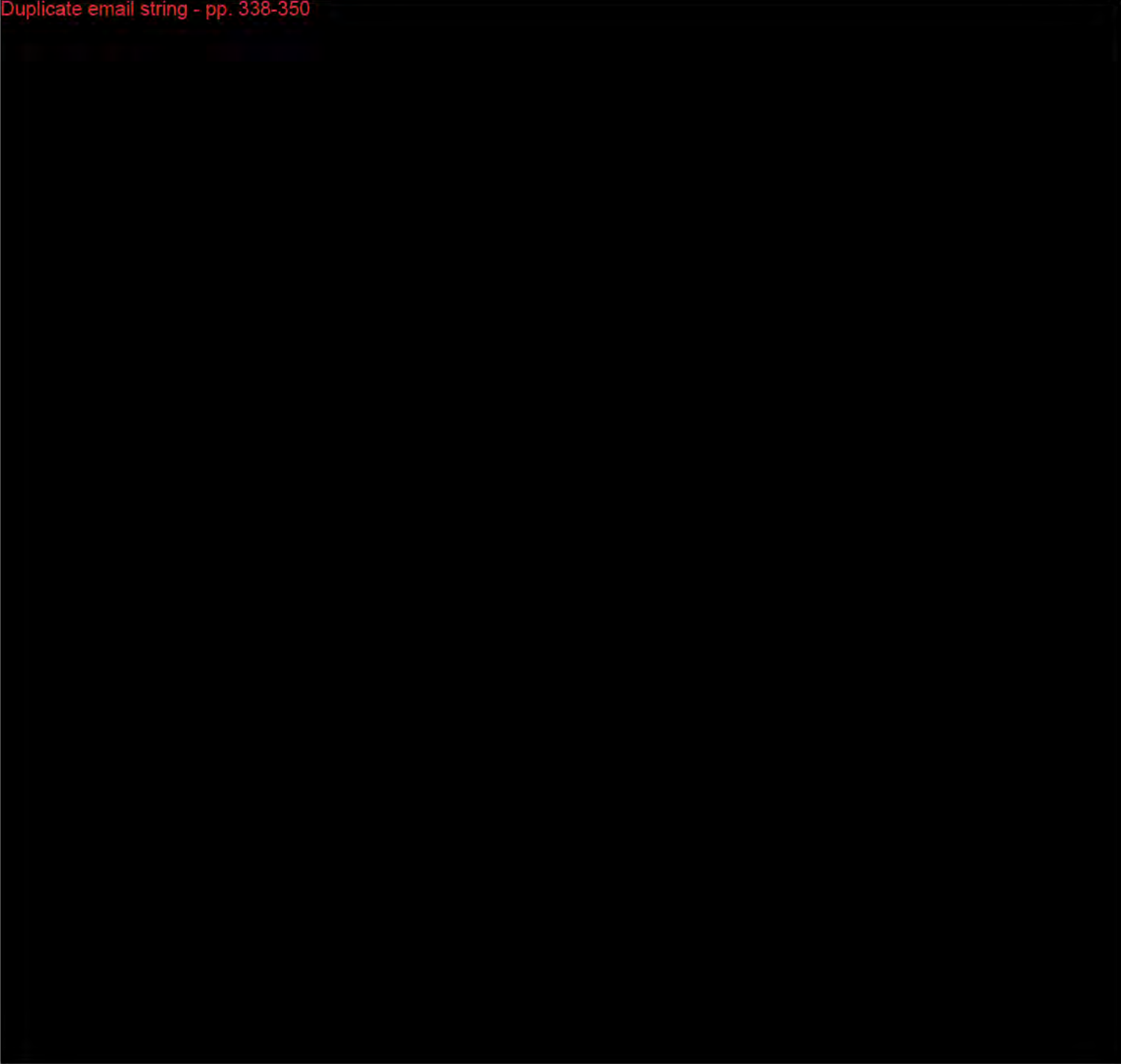
Duplicate email string - pp. 181-193



From: [Nicole Albright](#)
To: [Bruce H Hancock](#)
Subject: Fwd: Argyle FOIPOP Review 24-003 - emails between Charlene Leblanc and Colton Deon- Part 3
Date: March 18, 2025 7:57:20 PM
Attachments: [Argyle FOIPOP Review 24-003 - emails between Charlene L eblanc and Colton Deon- Part 3.pptx](#)

Nicole Albright
Warden
Councillor District 5
Municipality of Argyle
902-307-4474

Duplicate email string - pp. 338-350



From: s. 480(1)
To: [Greg Foster](#)
Subject: There is only one right way to vote...
Date: March 20, 2025 10:21:55 AM

You don't often get email from corey.a.clamp@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Greg,

Hopefully you read this before this evening's meeting.

Briefly, I am writing to ask that you support Malcolm Madden's motion tonight to have a letter sent to the province requesting that MoDA be given the opportunity to redo the public engagement exercise on the full 53 pre-assessed aquaculture sites.

Alain has stated that the public engagement piece was satisfactory as per the province, and that it satisfied their (the province's) regulatory framework requirements. Almost a year ago I asked to see what these requirements were, and was never provided with the same. MoDA's own public engagement report states that after almost a full year's worth of labour (almost 1400hrs per their report), they had 39 public contacts, including "MoDA Council, the media, commercial fishing, commercial aquaculture, organized community groups and members of the community" (see page 13 [Aquaculture Development Area Local Stakeholder Engagement Report](#)). I have undertaken several public engagement exercises during my career, and am comfortable saying these metrics do not mesh with a successful campaign. MoDA is on record as having stated that their public engagement efforts were insufficient (see this [June 21 2024 news report](#), and the June 2024 Council meeting). As I've said to you before, I am generally in favour of the careful development of the aquaculture sector in MoDA. I am not ok with how this pilot project has been implemented (for the most part) behind closed doors, and without adequate opportunities for public participation. Note that every report on aquaculture development cites the importance of public engagement exercises for these projects to succeed (see [this report](#) speaking to the Pictou experience, and [this report](#) commissioned by DFA in 2023).

The Houston government is making clearer every day that they have little interest in engaging with the public, or as they refer to us now "special interest groups". Instead, they want to ensure that the private sector knows that Nova Scotia's resources are ripe for the picking, and available to the highest bidder. Right now the stakes are relatively low. What happens however when the province wants to facilitate the opening of new mines that could forever contaminate our watersheds and lead to the disappearance of more valuable species (eg. irish moss and acadian white fish disappearing after the opening of the tin mine). What happens when they want to start fracking and we need to be considered about fracking liquid getting into our environment? What happens when all these industries stop being 'locally' owned, and are sold off to international conglomerates who have no loyalty or obligations to our communities?

Frankly, the image of a d'Eons-owned, solar-powered oyster farm in the waters behind my house, with the windmills and sunset as a backdrop, maybe with a lobster boat or kayak sailing by, reflects a lot of what I'd like to see for my community. But locale matters, and not everyone is ok with the idea of such a farm being in their literal backyard. Had people been given the opportunity to speak to the placement of these **53 sites** placed throughout *our* waters prior to their being submitted to the province, perhaps we could have avoided getting to where

we are now. Regardless, this is where we are today.

Please remember, the ADA is a PILOT project. As MoDA and DFA like to repeatedly point out, this is the first of its kind anywhere in the world. To pretend that we are going to get every part of this right the first time around is ridiculous. Mistakes happen, and there is no shame in recognizing that fact. While the province seems to be ok with the public engagement efforts, it is clear that our communities are not satisfied with how this project was communicated to them. 39 contacts after almost 1400hrs of work, during COVID when people were being told to stay home, does not strike me as satisfactory public engagement. The first time most community members, and MoDA councillors, saw the map of the 53 pre-assessed sites was in April 2024 - almost 6 years after this project began.

Some at the MoDA table are trying to say that there is only a small group of people concerned about this issue. As of now, the Association for Responsible Aquaculture in Argyle has 247 followers. There are over 50 members active in an ongoing email distribution chain, all of whom are keen on learning as much as they can about this issue. With Houston's recent moves to squash offices of accountability (eg. auditor general's office), and the noise south of the border, people are looking more and more for leadership from their political representatives. Personally I have zero faith in my provincial representative arguing for the interests of my community over those of his political party (or his own career). I do believe however that as the level of government closest to the people, that our municipal representatives can still provide an effective counter-weight against the pressures of big industry and big government.

Please Greg, vote in favour of Malcolm's motion tonight. Show your constituents that you are more interested in representing their interests than in pleasing the provincial government. At the end of the day, who cares if the province is saying that the public engagement efforts were 'good enough'. The communities most impacted by this project are telling everyone who will listen that they do not share this opinion. If we really want to have a successful development of the aquaculture sector in MoDA, we need to get it right from the start, and that means speaking and listening to those most impacted. Frankly, I think the idea of a d'Eons-owned, solar-powered oyster farm on the water behind my home, with the windmills as a backdrop, and a kayaker rowing, or lobster boat steaming by is pretty picturesque, and very much in line for what I'd like to see for our communities. Hell, we've been eating oysters around here for millenia (give Mark Kurlansky's book "The Big Oyster: History on the Half Shell a read if you're interested in this kind of thing), and I personally love the idea of having another food industry in my area. Not everyone shares that idea though, and until we ensure that all voices are heard, we are sabotaging what could be a great industry all because some people got dollar signs in their eyes.

I am hoping to attend this evening's Council meeting. I will be paying attention to how this vote goes. I remember our conversations from when you were campaigning, and hope that your care for your constituents and the environment we live in shows through in your actions this evening.

Thank you,

s. 480(1)