

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

DARTMOUTH LAKES ADVISORY BOARD

APRIL 24, 2002

MINUTES

PRESENT: Ms. Audrey Manzer, Chair
Dr. Ron Beazley
Mr. Pierre Clement
Dr. Hugh Millward
Ms. Stephanie Bird
Ms. Catherine Lunn
Mr. John Osborne
Ms. Christina Hoehne
Mr. Robert Bell
Dr. K. Hellenbrand

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Kurt Pyle, Planner
Ms. Lynne Le Boutillier, Assistant Municipal Clerk

REGRETS: Councillor Hetherington, Dr. Don Gordon and Dr. Paul Hines

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Meeting called to order by the Chair at 5:15 p.m., Findlay Community Centre.

With the agreement of the Board, item 4.1: Request - C & D Waste Disposal Site in Dartmouth was moved up on the agenda.

1.0 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 27, 2002 meeting were adopted, as circulated, on motion of Dr. Millward and Mr. Bell.

4.0 **NEW BUSINESS**

4.1 **REQUEST - C & D WASTE DISPOSAL SITE IN DARTMOUTH**

Circulated with the agenda package was a proposal dated April 15, 2002 to establish a CD-3 Materials Transfer, Processing and Disposal Facility on Lakeview Drive off Highway 118 in Dartmouth submitted by Metro Construction Debris Ltd. Copies of a Site Development Plan were also provided.

Mr. Dietmar Tholen, a consultant for Metro Construction Debris Ltd., was in attendance.

In his introduction of the item, Mr. Pyle referred to the joint meeting of the three watershed advisory groups held in January to review the proposed waste management strategy. At that meeting, comments were made about the desire of the Boards to have input. While it is not a requirement to bring the proposals before the boards, staff felt they should, given the biggest potential impact of these facilities will be on waterbodies.

Part of the process involves Regional Council considering new applications for Construction and Demolition Waste disposal. Three requests have been received; one for the Harrietsfield area, another in the vicinity of the Airport and the third in Dartmouth. The first two were reviewed by the Halifax/Halifax County Watershed Advisory Board last week, as they fell within their jurisdiction. The Metro Construction Debris Ltd. site is located in the Eric Wheby quarry. Part of the process adopted involves holding Public Information meetings in the areas where the facilities are proposed. A tentative date of May 15th has been set for the Dartmouth site. Mr. Pyle indicated the members' attendance would be appreciated. The meeting may be held at the Dartmouth North Community Centre. He will notify the members, in due course.

Mr. Pyle noted that staff is to evaluate each proposal and report back to Regional Council. Regional Council will make the decision(s). He noted that because a planning amendment is required, Regional Council is not obligated to consider the proposal at all. Even with Council's approval, the proponents will also require a C & D Disposal Licence, site planning approval, as well as NSDOE&L approval. Mr. Pyle sought input

from the Board on anything they wished staff to look into further or anything they wished stressed to Council when they make their presentation. He explained that staff will not be taking the proposals to the respective PACs.

In presenting the proposal, Mr. Tholen noted the location of the site off Highway 118, the highway to the Airport. He identified where the cells will be located, ie. at the upper north corner of the quarry, a distance from Highway 118. Six cells are proposed, two of which were previously developed. The latter cells have a liner and have a leachate collection system. It is the intent to recycle the materials on site and remove nine specified recyclable materials, with the residuals being disposed of in the new disposal site configuration. It was recalled by Mr. Pyle that Webby's had been give permission to use some inert materials to infill the quarry for rehabilitation. At that time, they did not have a processing facility for sorting the materials and the NSDOE&L stopped the operation and it has not been used since 1995. In 1997, the Province brought in their C & D Waste Guidelines.

Mr. Tholen noted that the proposal being presented basically follows those Guidelines. The proposal includes a sorting facility on site. The materials are sorted into nine different streams. Not more than 40% of the residual materials are disposed of in the cells. By 2005 only 25% of residual materials will be permitted. It is anticipated that it will take two years, at 300,000 tons a year, to fill up a cell. He described how the clean up of the existing materials on site will be done.

It was noted that while the quarry has a depth of 20 meters, it can only be filled to a depth of six meters.

Mr. Tholen reviewed how the surface water will be directed via a brook to a settling pond, eventually reaching Grassy Brook, where it crosses under the Highway to Lake Micmac. The members stressed the importance of protecting this wetland because of its important role in treatment.

During the review of how groundwater will be affected, it was noted that a hydrogeologist was engaged. In one instance a fracture was identified, but due to its angle the groundwater from the site should flow below Lake Charles. The Chair raised concern over a quote from page 6 which states "the regional groundwater flow regime is expected to include flow in a south-southeasterly direction under downtown Dartmouth, and beneath and perhaps through Lake Banook, towards Halifax Harbour". Mr. Tholen felt very little flow would end up in Lake Banook.

Mr. Tholen identified proposed monitoring wells and sampling points for surface water. Mr. Tholen noted that in addition to the HRM process, an application is also being made to NSDOE&L.

In the event the standards are not met, Mr. Pyle was questioned as to what happens, i.e. would their license be revoked? Mr. Pyle noted that one of two things might happen, since HRM issues the license and approval is from the Province. Mr. Tholen reviewed with the members the normal process when NSDOE&L identifies a problem. The process would take up to three to four months. Mr. Pyle cautioned that if there is not good monitoring, it may take 5 to 6 years before the impact is felt on Lake Micmac. Due to the legislation, there is not the ability to immediately shut down such facilities, however under HRM's Land Use and Licencing By-laws Stop Work Orders can be issued. NSDOE&L has the ability to shut down a business forever.

Mr. Pyle referred to the zoning on the property being Industrial. He noted that while the sites are only required to be 90 meters from a house, the nearest house in this instance is on Ethel Court, 437 meters from the closest building to the entrance off the highway.

In addition to the materials being delivered to the site by truck, trucks will be leaving the site with materials to be recycled. It was noted that only a portion of the roadway to the site is paved, the balance is gravel. Concern was expressed that measures be adopted to ensure materials don't leave the site on the tires of trucks.

A question was posed regarding the level of inspection the sites will receive. Mr. Pyle noted that one enforcement officer will be dedicated to the C & D Waste Disposal facilities.

At the conclusion of the presentation, there was a general consensus that the Board was generally satisfied with the proposal. It was felt that it was good to see the site used for something useful.

There was general agreement that the Board felt the proposal was well researched and the plan was a good fit with the lands. However, it was stated that the Board was looking at it strictly from the context of its terms of reference, i.e. environmental aspects.

Mr. Pyle noted that while this proposal is at the pre-design stage, when more details are provided, staff intends to bring them to the Board again, but it depends on whether Regional Council keeps this step in the process or adds to the process.

Before leaving this item, there was a question posed regarding how frequently sampling will be done. Mr. Pyle noted that it would be done quarterly. It is a provincial requirement.

2.0 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

2.1 UPDATE OF THE LAKE STUDY

Mr. Clement requested it be deferred.

2.2 UPDATE - STATE OF LAKES TOUR

Circulated at the meeting was a revised table to be used in association with the 2002 State of the Lakes Tour. It was noted that since the original table was circulated to the members a few months ago, little feedback has been received.

The Board discussed how to approach conducting the tour. It was decided that two or three people should commit to visiting all the lakes, with the balance of the members doing portions of the tour as they are available. This would allow for a consistent element to the tours. Before the tour commences, a check list is to be developed to be used when observing the lakes. It was suggested the report Mr. Osborne provided on Maynards Lake for the March meeting, might serve as a model. Mr. Osborne and Dr. Hellenbrand were asked to draft one for the May meeting. It will be put on the agenda for discussion. Since both members would be present for all the lake tours, they were also asked to draft a schedule over the months of June and July.

Mr. Clement suggested on the back of the check list, it would be useful to have a map of the lake being studied. The members could write their notes on the map. Mr. Pyle and the Chair will look into providing the maps.

2.3 REGIONAL PLANNING REVIEW

Circulated with the agenda package were copies of Ms. Muecke's presentation given last month.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chairman advised that a date(s) for the proposed meetings of the three waters related Boards on terms of reference and area of jurisdiction have yet to be established.

Concern was expressed by both the Chairman and Mr. Osborne regarding the water quality of Russell Lake's northwest cove in the vicinity of Norman Newman Drive. Two possible sources of sediment were identified, i.e. the McPhee Pontiac site and the development on the Hammerling property. It was noted that no progress appears to have been made on the McPhee Pontiac development site for sometime. There are huge mounds of earth on the site, with only a thin layer of straw covering them. It was noted that drains leave the site and enter Russell Lake. The surface water would not have to flow across Norman Newman Drive to the lake. It was also noted that sediment control measures don't appear to be effective for the Hammerling property

development.

Dr. Millward also noted similar problems are developing associated with the Summerfield area of Portland Hills.

The Chairman advised that she had been forwarded a copy of an e-mail from John Sheppard and Tony Blouin which related to discussions last week on Maynards Lake. It had been sent to Councillor Hetherington and he forwarded it to her. The contents of the e-mail relate to a contract let by HRM to study the source of contaminants in Maynards Lake. It was noted that the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board was not informed of research taking place on this lake which is within its area of jurisdiction. Councillor Hetherington intends to bring this oversight to the attention of Harbour East Community Council. The Chairman noted that this gap in knowledge had led to some stress for the Board.

It was also noted that in the past the DLAB has been involved in reviewing proposals for contracts, for example a Committee was established to select who would do the Russell Lake and Morris Lake Studies.

Dr. Millward agreed that since the DLAB is an advisory board of Community Council on matters involving water quality, staff should have informed the Board that the study was going to tender and sought its advice on the terms of the contract. Due to this oversight, the Board only became aware of the study through a newspaper article. It was felt that staff should do a better job of keeping the Board informed.

It was summarized by the Chairman that if there are any studies being undertaken within the boundaries of the Board's work, the Board at the very least, should be informed. Preferably, if proposals are going to be accepted and bid upon, the Board should be given the opportunity to review the terms of reference. The Board might advise that HRM funds might be better spent elsewhere. The Board felt that giving advice on these research projects was just as important as any other area of advice it gives.

6.0 STAFF'S REPORT

Mr. Pyle advised that the first in a series of Mayor's Town Hall meetings on Accountability is being held in the School Board building, tonight at 7:00 p.m. The Mayor and senior staff will be present.

LAKE LEVELS

Concern was expressed by Mr. Osborne regarding the level of Maynard's Lake being down a half meter. A similar situation was observed at Lake Micmac and Lake Banook.

It was suggested that someone may have opened the sluices. Mr. Pyle will check into it. It was noted that before amalgamation, the Board was advised of any artificial changes to the lake levels.

7.0 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 29, 2002.

8.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Lynne Le Boutillier
Assistant Municipal Clerk