

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
April 15, 2009

PRESENT:

Ms. Ellinor Williams, Chair  
Mr. Walter Regan  
Dr. Barry Thomas  
Mr. Derrill Hynick  
Mr. Ross Evans  
Mr. Nathaniel Smith  
Mr. David Ripley  
Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Peter Lund

REGRETS:

Mr. Scott Harron

STAFF:

Mr. Brian White, Planner  
Ms. Sandra T. Riley, Legislative Assistant

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 April 15, 2009

1.	CALL TO ORDER	03
2	.APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - March 18, 2009	03
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	03
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	
4.1	Case #01179, Rockcliffe Village Development Proposal, Northwest Arm Drive/ Cowie Hill Road, Halifax	03
4.2	Jacques Whitford/Stantec: Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan. Response to presentation	04
4.3	Future Role of HWAB	06
4.4	Water Resource Protection Strategy Proposal	07
5.	CORRESPONDENCE	07
6.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING- May 20, 2009	08
7.	ADJOURNMENT	08

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair, Ellinor Williams, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 18, 2009**

The Committee agreed to defer the approval of the minutes of March 18, 2009 to the next meeting of May 20, 2009.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Due to time constraints in receipt of members' agenda packages, the agenda was not available to most members. Therefore, the Chair provided a brief outline of what might be discussed in tonight's meeting. This was approved by the Board.

**MOVED by Walter Regan, seconded by Nathaniel Smith, that the Order of Business be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

4 **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

4.1 **Case #01179, Rockcliffe Village Development Proposal, Northwest Arm Drive/ Cowie Hill Road, Halifax**

The Halifax Watershed Advisory Board members agreed that they were impressed by this project and pleased to find elements of the natural environment handled with such care. Some concerns were raised and the following information was provided by representatives of the project who were in attendance:

- Oil-grit separators would be provided for all outside parking lots. "Holding tanks" to catch spills of water, grease, oil etc. would be placed in all underground parking lots.
- Ownership of the larger natural parkland area and the two smaller neighbourhood parks would be turned over to HRM upon completion of the project.
- The Intersection with the Northwest Arm Drive had been approved by the Department of Transportation.
- Outflow from the wetland would be directed under the Old Sambro Road, into a

**MOVED By Nathaniel Smith, seconded by Walter Regan that the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board support the approval of the Development Agreement Case 01179 - Rockcliffe Village Development Proposal, Northwest Arm Drive/Cowie Hill Road, Halifax, subject to the following recommendations:**

- 1. That the oil/grit separators in the parking lots and the grease/grit holding tanks in the underground car-parks be monitored and maintained according to the manufacturer's directions and that copies of the maintenance schedule and reports be forwarded to HRM and to the HWAB.**
- 2. The Development Agreement will include arrangements for the transfer of the three parklands to HRM.**
- 3. The silt fences will remain in place during the construction period and after it has been completed until the site surface had stabilized. During this time they will be maintained by the contractor. Then, with the approval of both the developer's engineer and an HRM engineer, they will be removed by the contractor.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**4.2 Jacques Whitford/Stantec: Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan**

The Members of the Board expressed their satisfaction with this study. They had been hoping for a water quality monitoring program of this kind for a long time. A discussion ensued and the following comments emerged:

1. It is important to secure sufficient funding to ensure that the monitoring program will function on a continuing basis. Concern was expressed over the wide range of funding options. It was felt that the high cost option would, in fact, prove to be the lowest practical level of funding for a worth-while program.
2. Professional interpretation of the monitoring results should be provided to make the information more accessible to a wide range of users.

3. The following water bodies were suggested for inclusion in the program:
  - Black Lake, Burnside
  - Feeley Lake, Sackville Regional Park
  - Moose River
  - A lake in the Sheet Harbour area that could potentially serve as the water supply for Sheet Harbour
4. All lakes which have supervised swimming or paddling and/or beaches should be included in the study. Among these are:
  - Lake Echo
  - Petpeswick Lake
  - Conrod Lakeas well as Lawrencetown Lake and Porters Lake – which will need special treatment since they are brackish, but recreational lakes nonetheless.
5. Lakes used for drinking water by private operators (e.g. Little Springfield Lake in Sackville) should be traced and included in the monitoring program. (Perhaps a testing system could be developed for private operators.)
6. None of the lakes (neither primary nor back-up) supplying the HRM Municipal water system should be included in the monitoring program. They are the responsibility of Halifax Water and are monitored separately.
7. River flows should also be gauged
8. In order to assist in the planning of future development, it would be helpful to overlay the watershed map with the development plan showing district/regional/growth centres and include those watershed likely to be developed first, in the monitoring program.
9. A group of pristine lakes (not likely to be affected by development) should be included in the program as a control group in order to monitor natural effects and for reference purposes
10. The monitoring program should provide enough information to assign water quality objectives.
11. Although it comes under the jurisdiction of the Province, groundwater should not be forgotten as an important aspect of the water resources of any area

12. The HWAB would like to receive the final report on the Water Quality Monitoring Function Plan for review and comment at the same time as it goes to staff.
13. Airport run-off, the presence of pyritic slates, and any other similar problems should be referenced.
14. Either the word “demonstration” or “pilot” should be included in the title to describe this project.

The meeting recessed at 7:57 p.m. and reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

After further discussion, it was agreed that the Chair would prepare a summary of the Board's comments on the Water Quality Monitoring Program Functional Plan, circulate this to Board members by e-mail for comment and approval and forward a revised version to Jacques Whitford/Stantec by Friday, April 17, 2009, as requested.

#### **4.3 Future Role of the HWAB**

The Halifax Watershed Advisory Board members expressed their concerns about problems with the agenda packages. It was also noted that HWAB recommendations have not been posted to the website recently. It was agreed that the Chair should contact the Municipal Clerk's office regarding these issues and the need for updating the Board website.

\*The Chair advised that she sent an email to Mr. Richard Hattin, Chair of the Bedford Watershed Advisory Committee, stating HWAB's decision to await the findings of the HRM Staff reviewing the Boards and Committees before continuing discussions with the BWAC regarding a merger or boundary change.

Following some discussion on the need for feedback from the Planning Staff, Brian White, Planner, advised that, in the future, he would arrange to have the Planners' responses to HWAB recommendations to projects, which are included in the Staff Reports to Council, to also be provided to the HWAB. The Chair agreed to make this request to Paul Sampson, the Planner for the Rockcliffe Development, currently under review.

In response to a query from the Chair, Staff advised that there would be less As-of-Right Development under the new Regional Plan.

A discussion ensued covering the expansion of the role of the HWAB to include reviewing As-of-Right Development, updating the Red Book and/or Municipal Planning Strategies, and reviewing projects from Engineering. Deputy Mayor Hendsbee suggested that it might be appropriate for the HWAB to review the new 'Lot Grading and

It was generally agreed that the Board would continue to operate as before, reviewing Development Agreements and advising Council where appropriate, at least until the findings of the Review Committee on boards and committees are known. Meanwhile, the Board would also look for opportunities to improve the protection of water resources within HRM on a wider scale.

**MOVED BY Nathaniel Smith, seconded by Derrill Hynick that Planning Staff provide the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board with an information report summarizing the relevant MPS policies that relate to water quality monitoring throughout all HRM's plan areas. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

#### **4.4 Water Resource Protection Strategy Proposal**

Derrill Hynick made a brief presentation to the HWAB of a proposal on Water Resource Protection Strategy to emphasize the need to bring together all the aspects of water management, including those under Federal and Provincial jurisdiction as well as Municipal, and securing adequate funding in order to properly protect this valuable resource.

It was agreed that Mr. Hynick would provide an outline of his proposal for discussion, to be circulated before the next meeting.

### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

The HWAB received electronic correspondence from Mr. Keith Manchester, who reports to the Board concerning the Bennery Lake Watershed Management Committee. He provided the Board with the minutes of the March meeting and stated that he would not be in attendance at the September meeting. He suggested that the HWAB arrange for someone to attend in his stead.

A letter has been sent to Mayor Peter Kelly enquiring about the HWAB 2007 Report on Septic Tanks in HRM.

A letter was written to Ms. Aileen McCormick, of St. Margaret's Bay, regarding her concerns over incorrectly located septic tanks in her neighbourhood.

\*Also see Item 4.3 regarding email to Mr. Richard Hattin.

The Chair advised that a copies of all correspondence have been submitted to the Municipal Clerk's office.

6. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2009.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Sandra T. Riley  
Legislative Assistant