

HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES

July 18, 2012

PRESENT: Ms. Ellinor Williams, Chair
Mr. Walter Regan, Vice Chair
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Allan Billard
Dr. Barry Thomas
Mr. Ross Evans
Mr. Derrill Hynick
Ms. Julia Brydon

REGRETS: Mr. David Ripley

STAFF: Ms. Jane Crosby, Legislative Support
Mr. Paul Morgan, Senior Planner

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

The Chair welcomed new Board member, Ms. Julia Brydon, representing District 13 and round table introductions was given by Board members.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 20, 2012

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Evans that the minutes of June 20, 2012 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO NEXT AGENDA – NONE

Councillor Hendsbee entered the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The Board agreed to address Item 7.1 - Review of Draft Shubenacadie Lakes Subwatershed Study – Preliminary Report prior to Items 5.1 and 5.2.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. Williams that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Item 7.1 was dealt with at this time.

7.1 Review of Draft Shubenacadie Lakes Subwatershed Study – Preliminary Report

Mr. Paul Morgan, Senior Planner advised that staff was seeking the Board's input with respect to the Draft Shubenacadie Lakes Subwatershed Study's water quality objectives and to provide comments on the overall study.

The Board entered into discussion with Mr. Morgan responding to questions of clarification on the study.

The Board provided the following comments on the Draft Shubenacadie Lakes Subwatershed Study:

- The presence of pyritic slates in the area is a concern in terms of the correct disposal of acid slates and the control of dust associated with blasting
- The high levels of ammonia in Millar Lake (possibly from the airport via Soldier Lake) suggestion was made that this lake should be included in the study
- A system to identify trends before the early warning level is reached would be useful

- It was recognized that setting water quality objectives is necessarily a subjective process because of the wide diversity of lakes and watersheds; however, the inclusion of phosphorous as a significant parameter is widely accepted
- Metals should be included in the parameters monitored since dissolved metals (from increased traffic) would not be noted/caught by monitoring suspended solids
- This study (based on the HRM Lakes Quality Sampling Program) provides a snapshot of the current lake water quality; unless the sampling program is reinstated, sampling will have to be undertaken by developers in order to monitor quality levels in the future
- It was noted that a permanent water quality monitoring systems is available at \$50,000
- Water quality remediation measures should be suggested
- HRM should require the regular pumping of septic tanks since septic tank maintenance is often overlooked; in clustered systems, water use for each household would have to be monitored to decide when pumping was necessary and to establish equitable cost sharing
- The establishment of wastewater management districts should be promoted
- Within districts, residents could club together to cover septic tank pumping costs
- Wastewater cluster systems with STPs should be encouraged in place of individual septic systems; it was suggested that, in time, HRM should take these over and run them
- Wilson Lake is part of the Shubenacadie Lakes system
- It was noted that the Sawmill River Watershed is also part of the system; the Board was advised that this entire watershed is developed except for the industrial park site which the consultants will monitor
- In order to cover the entire watershed, Hants County should be asked to participate in the study
- The diversion of the Lake Charles River should be examined: also water control structures
- Storm water should be treated to maintain water quality
- The goal should be 100% on-site storm water retention; suggestions for specific measures to achieve this would be helpful
- It was recognized that the multiple jurisdictions involved in storm water management represents a problem
- Engineering limits to control storm water runoff should be more stringent
- Water quantities (flows) should also be monitored as more information is needed for modelling purposes; permanent stream gauging devices are required to do this
- Not to have included flood plain mapping in the study was a missed opportunity; it was noted that this could be done later
- Private road-building in open space developments could lead to erosion and sedimentation problems
- Biological indicators can be useful as early warning indicators
- A future step could be to study receiving waters and establish total receivable inputs

- It was suggested that acid rain could be considered

The Board reiterated their concern over the cancellation of the HRM Water Quality Monitoring Program, indicating that it should be reinstated. The Board requested an update on their letter sent to the Chief Administrative Officer in May 2012.

Mr. Regan requested a copy of the Fall River and Porters Lake Watershed studies, the Board indicated that this information should be available on HRM's website.

The Board indicated their satisfaction that there were no contentious issues with the draft study's objectives.

MOVED by Mr. Billard, seconded by Mr. Regan that a summary of the Board's comments be forwarded to staff to be considered for inclusion in the final recommendations. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Update re: HRM Urban Forest Master Plan Workshop of June 28, 2012 (Ellinor Williams)

Ms. Williams spoke on the benefits of the HRM Urban Forest Master Plan Workshop.

Mr. Regan suggested the possibility of having a presentation from HRM Forestry at a future Board meeting, to which the Board agreed.

5.2 Update re: Halifax Water's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Technical Conference of June 28, 2012 (Walter Regan)

Mr. Regan advised that he had attended the June 28, 2012 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Technical Conference and found it to be very educational and informative.

6. DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Review of Draft Shubenacadie Lakes Subwatershed Study – Preliminary Report

Matter addressed earlier in the meeting, see page 3.

8. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – August 15, 2012 (to be confirmed)

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Jane Crosby
Legislative Support

INFORMATION ITEMS – NONE