

HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
JULY 16, 2003

PRESENT: Dr. Wayne Stobo, Chair  
Ms. Janis Rod  
Mr. Walter Regan  
Ms. Ellinor Williams  
Dr. S. Ray  
Ms. Christine Anne Smith  
Mr. Frank Hope  
Mr. Shalom Mandaville  
Mr. Peter Murray  
Dr. Barry Thomas

ABSENT: Mr. Keith Manchester (regrets)  
Mr. Bill Ernst (regrets)  
Dr. Spencer Lee (regrets)  
Mr. Ross Evans  
Mr. Jim Holmes  
Mr. Lawrence White

ALSO PRESENT: Capt. John Owens (guest)  
Ms. Susan Corser, Planner  
Ms. Lynne Le Boutillier, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Approval of Agenda, Additions and Deletions .....	3
2.	Approval of Minutes .....	3
3.	New Business	
3.1	Community-University Research Alliance Request for Support .....	6
4.	Business Arising from Minutes/Status Sheet .....	4
4.1	Big Springfield Lake .....	6 & 7
4.2	Baseline Fecal Coliforms .....	7
4.3	Presentation re Availability of Drinking Water in HRM, Focusing on Pockwock and Lake Major .....	7
4.4	Glen Arbour Golf Course - Audubon Program .....	7 & 8
4.5	Sewage Treatment - Sir John A. MacDonald High School .....	8
4.6	Joint Meeting on HRM Water Resource Management Study .....	8 & 9
4.7	Making oil out of Garbage - Submission Mr. Evans .....	9
4.8	Sheldrake Lake Hypolimnion Project - Comparative Lake Study .....	9
4.9	Westgate - Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan and Stormwater Management Plan, Phase 1A, as per sections 2.7.2 and 2.7.3 of Development Agreement 00265 .....	4 & 5
4.10	Representative of NSDE&L .....	9 & 10
4.11	Water Testing Results .....	10 & 11
4.12	Receiving Water Baseline Sampling Program .....	11
5.	Concept Plans .....	11
6.	Items for Next Meeting .....	3 & 4
7.	Date of Next Meeting .....	11
8.	Adjournment .....	11
	Changes in the Terms of Reference .....	5 & 6

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 6:30 p.m., Halifax Hall.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Three Information Items were circulated at the meeting:

- C The Halifax County/Halifax Mainland Watershed Advisory Board: Partnering with Government, Industry and the Public - It had been suggested at the May meeting by David Dwyer that it would be worthwhile for members to review this presentation of Dr. Stobo, former Vice-Chair Colleen McNeil and Ms. Corser annually.
- C Watershed Advisory Boards report dated July 7, 2003 which went to the July 15, 2003 Regional Council meeting. The report recommends new Terms of Reference and boundaries for the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board and the Bedford Waters Advisory Board.
- C Updated Meeting Schedule as of July 11, 2003.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED BY Dr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Mandaville that the minutes of the May 21, 2003 meeting be adopted, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED BY Ms. Williams, seconded by Ms. Rodd that the minutes of the June 18 , 2003 meeting be adopted, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

6. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- C Regional Planning Presentation on Project - The Board wishes to discuss where it fits into the process and the kind of input it can give. Ms. Corser will arrange.
- C Twinning of Highway 103 - Frank Hope expressed concerns that work is proceeding on his project without an environmental assessment, etc. The Secretary was in receipt of a copy of correspondence dated July 14, 2003 from the Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization to the Minister of DTPW (Department of Transportation and Public Works) regarding concerns they have with the partial infilling of Cranberry Lake to accommodate the twinning. Accompanying the letter was a proposal to the NSDTPW entitled "Aquatic Monitoring Program for the Twinning of Highway 103". Due to the size of the document, copies were not run off for all the members. However, Mr. Regan and Ms. Rod requested a copy as soon as possible. They will provide a summary of the contents for the next meeting. Mr. Mandaville preferred an electronic copy. A copy of the original e-mail will be

provided to him.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES/STATUS SHEET**

4.9 **WESTGATE - EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PLAN AND  
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN, PHASE 1A, AS PER SECTIONS 2.7.2  
AND 2.7.3 OF DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT 00265**

Mr. Mark VanZeurmeren, Project Manager, EDM (Environmental Design and Management Limited) was in attendance.

At the last meeting, copies of the Dillon Report prepared for HRM on the STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) were requested by Ms. Smith and Mr. Regan, subsequently Mr. Mandaville. Four copies were obtained. The fourth copy Ms. Corser will put in the case file.

The Board discussed how they wished to forward comments on to HRM, ie. prepare a set of recommendations or provide input through the minutes. During the ensuing discussions, the following were noted:

- C The Board had already provided recommendations on this development in April 22, 2002, copies of which were provided after the last meeting. It was observed that the comments were quite detailed and it was doubtful that further comments were required.

Nevertheless, Ms. Corser noted that Sections 2.7.2 and 2.7.3 of the Development Agreement require the Board to review the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan and Storm Water Management Plan for Phase 1A. The Development Officer, Kelly Denty, needs a formal reply from the Board on their review of these two plans.

The Chair noted that the Board had reviewed the Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Storm Water Management plans at the June meeting and did not find any serious or obvious deficiencies. The plans are quite acceptable re mitigation. The Board finds the plans appear to fulfil what the Board feels is adequate.

Some problems were identified as follows:

- C VG lab had not been used for water testing.
- C Total phosphorous not at the proper detection limit. The Board desires to see sampling redone at the proper detection limit.

- C With the twinning of Highway 103, changes be made to one of the affected culverts to permit fish passage.

The Chair will draft a letter to the Mayor identifying the situation and requesting that he take the matter up with the Province, i.e. the culvert be reconfigured. Copies of the correspondence will be DOT and Paul Boudreau, Manager, Habitat Management.

- C Capacity of existing Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)

The Chair questioned if the Dillon Report had a bearing on the Westgate plan or HRM's responsibility.

Mr. Regan observed that the Dillon Report acknowledges the treatment plant has overflow problems and should be upgraded.

Rather than writing the Mayor, Ms. Corser noted that it is the Development Officer who is looking for the Board's input. The Board considered writing to Ms. Denty indicating that it appears the STP, which will handle effluent from Westgate, currently has periodic problems with overflow and ask that the facility be upgraded to remediate the problem, so it can handle the additional flow. It was suggested that given the Dillon Report recommends upgrading, this would not be appropriate and the item should be added to next month's agenda for further discussion. The Chair wanted the members to consider appropriate phrasing if they wish to provide more comment than simply the Board supports Dillon's recommendation that upgrading should occur

The Board concluded that following last month's review of the proposed Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Storm Water Management Plans, the Board agreed that the plans met what they felt was an acceptable standard.

It was felt that provision of comments, through the minutes, should suffice as the Board's input. EDM can obtain approved copies of the minutes from the HRM Web site.

### **CHANGES IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

A report which went to the Regional Council July 15 meeting was circulated. Ms. Corser provided a color map which illustrated the changes in the jurisdictions of the Board and BWAB (Bedford Waters Advisory Board). Regional Council adopted the changes in the Board and BWAB's terms of reference. No changes were made to the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board's jurisdiction.

Mr. Regan noted that a portion of the Sackville River now falls under the jurisdiction of the BWAB. Essentially the Sackville River Watershed has been split. Ms. Corser offered to obtain a larger version of the map in this area. Mr. Regan felt he could obtain one. The Chair reflected that most of the development activity will likely occur in HWAB's jurisdiction. Nevertheless, it will be preferable to interact with BWAB.

### 3.0 **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 3.1 **COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ALLIANCE REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**

The Chair provided background on this request. While it was initially decided that the Chair should write a letter of support of the concept described, after a lengthy discussion regarding providing another letter of support later in the meeting, it was decided this would not be appropriate. The Chair will get back to Annamarie Hatcher, Community Research Coordinator, St. Mary's University Environmental Studies and explain that the Board does not have the mandate to provide such support and isn't prepared to do so.

### 4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES/STATUS SHEET (cont'd)**

#### 4.1 **BIG SPRINGFIELD LAKE**

Circulated in the agenda package was a revision of the draft letter prepared by Mr. Manchester. Circulated at the meeting were copies of a further revised version that the Chair had prepared. Essentially, he explained that the revisions were made to make the recommendations less prescriptive to avoid liability issues. In revamping the correspondence, the Chair tried to simply provide suggestions on what they might be able to do to achieve the desired results.

It was noted that the Board needs to be mindful, at all times in drafting recommendations, that this approach needs to be taken, ie. use suggestions. If recommendations appear to be prescriptive when future reviews are done, the Chair encouraged the members to bring this to the Board's attention.

A couple of changes were made to this draft:

- C bolding could be removed from first paragraph of the recommendations
- C Recommendation 9 - change the word 'they' to 'HRM'
- C Remove Dave Hiltz's name from the list of individuals to receive a copy. Add Brad Anguish, Director of Environment Management Services. It was felt that Mr. Anguish should be copied such correspondence in future.

#### 4.2 **BASELINE FECAL COLIFORMS**

Deferred to the next meeting. The Chair recalled he was to draft a letter to the Mayor indicating the Board supported continuing the testing program, even if it was only once yearly.

#### 4.3 **PRESENTATION RE AVAILABILITY OF DRINKING WATER IN HRM, FOCUSING ON POCKWOCK AND LAKE MAJOR**

Ms. Smith asked this presentation be deferred to August.

#### 4.4 **GLEN ARBOUR GOLF COURSE - AUDUBON PROGRAM**

Dr. Thomas advised that no response has been received to the letter he wrote on behalf of the Board May 31, 2003 to determine under which of the six categories of the Audubon Program, Glen Arbour Golf Course is certified in. The Board was curious to know if it fell under one of the categories associated with water quality management. Reference was made to the condition of Sandy Lake, since the course was developed. Nothing had been included in the Development Agreement associated with this golf course related to remediation.

The Board debated what the next course of action would be.

- C Send a second letter to Glen Arbour with an additional paragraph noting that if there is no answer, in a reasonable time frame, the issue would be sent to staff or the Audubon Society will be contacted directly.
- C Write the Audubon Society enquiring about the category(s), Glen Arbour falls under. If Water Quality Management, reflect on the condition of Sandy Lake, with a copy of the letter to Glen Arbour.
- C Raise the issue with the Development Officer, Central Region to see if they would follow-up, as it relates to an outstanding issue of water quality.

It was concluded that Dr. Thomas will pursue the matter further through Mike DeYoung, Glen Arbour by telephone and ask him whether the Board can expect a response to the May letter. He will provide an update for the next meeting. The Board can decide on further action at the August meeting. Dr. Thomas expressed some concern that he has not seen any evidence that they have been certified by the Audubon Society. It was understood from Mr. Evans that they had. The Chair reflected that if they were not certified, they would have responded to this effect.

Dr. Thomas indicated he would not feel comfortable signing any correspondence implying degradation of the lake was due to the golf course. Such correspondence would require

the Chair's signature.

#### 4.5 **SEWAGE TREATMENT - SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD HIGH SCHOOL**

The Chair circulated a draft letter to the Mayor regarding the above item. He provided background on the item, recalling the letter sent to the Minister, requesting he attend a Board meeting and the subsequent response from the Project Manager, Mr. Porter. At last month's meeting the Board decided this response was not acceptable and a letter should be written to the Mayor expressing concern that there had been no consultation with HRM, considering HRM would have to deal with any aftermath of pollution of Five Mile Lake.

Following the review of the draft, it was suggested that:

- C An additional paragraph be added as follows: The Board is not in a position to provide any advice on the potential watershed impact since the details of development have not been provided to the Board. However, the Board is concerned that the water quality of Five Mile Lake could be adversely affected.
- C Correspondence be copied to Brad Anguish, Director of Environmental Management Services.

The Chair will make the changes and send out. Copies will be provided with the next agenda package.

#### 4.6 **JOINT MEETING ON HRM WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STUDY**

Circulated at the meeting was an Information Report which went to Regional Council, July 15<sup>th</sup> updating Council on the process. It was noted that a CD accompanied this report which contained the consultant's report and the submissions of the various Watershed Advisory Boards. A copy was provided to the Chair.

The Secretary noted that the CD did not appear to contain all the input provided to John Sheppard. The Board's Secretary was asked to address with Mr. Bernard.

It was noted that the Chair could not attend the recent meeting with staff and other Board Chairs on the Study. Ross Evans had attended on the Board's behalf. As he was absent, his update was deferred to the August meeting.

While the report indicates a presentation will be made to Council after the summer break by the consultants, etc., the Chair indicated that at the last meeting he attended with staff and the other WAB Chairs, he was left with the impression that the Boards would be consulted before the next stage, so individual members of the Board could raise or have



addressed specific concerns.

Ms. Williams indicated that it was her impression that the meeting Mr. Ross attended, on behalf of the Board, was simply to inform the Boards as to what has happened to date versus discussing how to proceed.

#### 4.7 **MAKING OIL OUT OF GARBAGE - SUBMISSION MR. EVANS**

Deferred in absence of Mr. Evans.

#### 4.8 **SHELDRAKE LAKE HYPOLIMINATION PROJECT - COMPARATIVE LAKE STUDY**

Included with the agenda package was the final WRWEO Sampling Design for HRM Study of Shel Drake Lake Aeration Project and the Comparative Lake Study. This additional information had been requested at the June meeting. The Board felt it needed more details before it could indicate its support of the project.

The Chair reviewed various requests made to date. Mr. Hope indicated what was being sought today was a letter to the Mayor from the Board indicating it supported, in principle, the Comparative Lake Study proposed.

A lengthy discussion followed and it was concluded that it was not within the Board's mandate to provide HRM with letters of support which are associated with funding projects of this nature. The Board wasn't a scientific review committee for proposals. The Board could provide a recommendation to this effect if HRM sought its opinion.

As an alternative, it was suggested to Mr. Hope that he might consider making a submission to HRM, who might in turn ask the Board to review.

#### 4.10 **REPRESENTATIVE OF NSDE&L**

Ms. Corser advised the members that she has discussed with the Municipal Clerk and a HRM Solicitor the appropriateness of asking the Province to appoint a NSDE&L representative to the Board, which was suggested by Mr. Mandaville at the June meeting.

After considerable discussion, the majority indicated they did not feel the Chair should write the NSDE&L inviting a senior staff member to participate in the Board's meetings. However, interest was expressed in inviting the representatives of HRM Environmental Management Services to an upcoming meeting. It was felt important to develop some interaction with the department. Ms. Corser will look into having them attend the September meeting.

#### 4.11 **WATER TESTING RESULTS**

Ms. Williams and Ms. Corser updated the Board on progress made in following up on the various requests for water testing results the Board has made since 1996.

Ms. Corser was pleased to advise that as of tomorrow she anticipates having all the information available. Essentially the files will contain the cover page of the development agreement, applicable section of the development agreement, Board's recommendations and the reports. All the information will be consolidated at one location.

It was suggested that Mr. Mandaville be provided with the information, to see if there is anything he is missing.

In future the Board will be provided with this information on a regular basis as it is received. A procedure has been set up.

A discussion followed on having the information provided on disk. It was suggested that the information be asked for on an electronic spreadsheet, preferably Excel.

Concern was also expressed that the Board, besides never knowing if the information had been provided, did not know if it was looked at by staff. Ms. Rod suggested that when the Board makes recommendations for monitoring, whoever is doing the testing be required to interpret the results and provide a summary. Should there be a problem, they highlight. Dr. Ray questioned who will look at the results to ensure their interpretation is right.

The Chair reflected that with this shift of onus on the proponent, if HRM does an assessment and it does not agree with the proponents, this would provide a strong case in situations of bonding.

Ms. Corser noted that Dr. Blouin is qualified to assess the results, but this isn't one of his job functions. It was suggested that when Brad Anguish attends an upcoming meeting, this matter be raised with him.

It was felt that the Board should include in its recommendations henceforth that when baseline studies on water monitoring are requested that an analysis by the proponent t be provided to be reviewed by HRM with copies to the Board. This will be another matter to be raised with Brad Anguish.

The Board will consider enhancing it recommendations in future on monitoring by requesting the proponent to analyze the test results, which in turn would be reviewed by HRM. A copy of the recommendations would be sent to the appropriate Planner, asking for the title page of the development agreement, etc. to be sent to the Board for its records.

Referring to the latter item, Ms. Corser assured the Board that she has asked the administrative staff to do this.

4.12 **RECEIVING WATER BASELINE SAMPLING PROGRAM**

Provided in the agenda package was an e-mail from Ms. Roberge, dated June 26, 2003 accompanied by results including June 2003.

5. **CONCEPT PLANS**

None.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

August 20, 2003. Ms. Corser gave her regrets. The Chair indicated he would not likely be able to attend.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m.

Lynne Le Boutillier  
Legislative Assistant