



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 11, 2014**

PRESENT: Allan Billard, Chair
Adam Fancy
Walter Regan
Tom Mills
Peter Lund
Dr. Barry Thomas
Mark McLean
Timothy Hayman

REGRETS: Richard Hattin, Vice-Chair
Pierre Clement
Dr. Dusan Soudek

STAFF: Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer
Andrew Reid, Legislative Assistant
Jane Crosby, Legislative Support

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Board are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/rwab/index.php>

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m., and the Board adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Helen Creighton Room, 2nd floor, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 9, 2014

A typographical error was noted with the name “Musquodoboit”.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Lund, that the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board minutes of April 9, 2014, be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Dr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. McLean, that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

In response to a question from Mr. Mills, Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer, provided the Board with an update on the forest fire in the Lake Echo area and its impact on the Preston Area Watershed Study. Mr. Deacoff explained that although it is likely the fire had an impact on the watershed, the forest fire occurred outside the study’s area.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

7.1 Model Community Plan Environmental Section

Mr. Cameron Deacoff introduced the item to the Board noting that it is an item that has been briefly introduced to the Board at a previous meeting. He indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to come up with a possible process for approaching the project requested by the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC). The project will require that the Board provide comments on several policies collected in the Genivar report.

Mr. Deacoff explained the origin and objective of the project to the Board indicating that there was a request by the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee for review and provision of comments to staff. He noted that the Board will comment on selected policies to inform a Model Community Plan Environmental Section. Mr. Deacoff explained that the Board

will comment on the policies that relate to RWAB's terms of reference. He added that they will not be required to comment on those that are not relevant to their mandate.

Mr. Deacoff advised that this model section will only inform new community plans and will not change or revise any existing plans. Mr. McLean asked how many community plans currently exist. Mr. Deacoff responded that there are three levels of plans and explained his understanding of the various levels, as well as the revision schedules for each level. The Chair indicated that clarification on the application of the community plan policies and practices from the Chairman of the ESSC may be beneficial. Several members of the Board commented on the various levels of plans and entered into a brief discussion. Mr. Lund commented on possible discrepancies between the municipal planning strategies and the secondary planning strategies. Mr. Deacoff explained that staff is cognisant of possible conflict that could be envisaged and there is a process set up to avoid potential conflicts.

Mr. Deacoff continued his presentation and explained that there are 27 different policy categories identified in the Genivar report. He indicated that of the 27 categories, 13 fall within RWAB's mandate and terms of reference. He added that staff suggests only those 13 categories be reviewed and discussed. Mr. Deacoff then provided examples of those that fall outside RWAB's mandate including climate change and wind energy. The Chair expressed that, given the expertise of the Board members; the Board should not be discouraged from commenting on some of the policy categories that fall outside their mandate as they may affect watersheds. Mr. Deacoff encouraged the Board to consider the categories that are primarily within their mandate, however it is their project and they may proceed as they feel necessary.

Mr. Deacoff presented a proposed work plan for the Board. He suggested that the Board review 20-30 policies per meeting, beginning in July. This would mean that the Board would take approximately 6 months to review the 13 categories. He also recommended that the Board prepare for the policy review by reading the selected policies before each meeting. Mr. Deacoff then presented a proposed template for reviewing each policy.

The Chair thanked Mr. Deacoff for the presentation and the Board entered into discussion as to how they would proceed on the project. Mr. McLean asked for clarification on how much influence their comments would have on planning documents. He added that he hoped they are conducting this project to affect change. The Chair noted that, as he had previously mentioned, inviting the Chairman of the ESSC to discuss the project may be worthwhile. Mr. McLean added that he would like someone to provide the Board with more context. The Board continued their discussion and several Board members agreed that they would like to have a better understanding of the purpose of the project and the origins of the policies collected in the Genivar report.

The Chair asked the Board if they were comfortable with the proposed work plan. He indicated that for the upcoming July meeting they would look at Central Services. Mr. Lund commented that more policy categories could be added to the agenda and then deferred if necessary. Mr. Regan asked if they would be allowed to comment on Halifax Water. Mr. Deacoff was not able to comment on Halifax Water and he encouraged the Board to focus on the municipal policies. The Chair asked that the policies be edited prior to the commencement of their project. The

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Board concluded their discussion and agreed that focusing on central services for July's meeting would be a good way to get a sense of the policy review process.

- 8. ADDED ITEMS - None**
- 9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 9, 2014, 5:00pm, Maxine Tynes Room, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Jane Crosby
Legislative Support

INFORMATION ITEMS - None
