



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 13, 2014**

PRESENT: Mr. Adam Billard  
Dr. Barry Thomas  
Dr. Dusan Soudek  
Mr. Timothy Hayman  
Mr. Peter Lund  
Mr. Richard Hattin  
Mr. Walter Regan

REGRETS: Mr. Pierre Clement  
Mr. Adam Fancy  
Mr. Tom Mills  
Mr. Mark McLean

STAFF: Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer  
Mr. Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure  
Ms. Katie Neale, Planning Intern  
Mr. Andrew Reid, Legislative Assistant

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

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/rwab/RWABagenda140813.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. and adjourned at 7:04 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 9, 2014**

**MOVED by Mr. Reagan, seconded by Mr. Soudek that the minutes of July 9, 2014 be approved.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Mr. Regan requested an update on the lot grading bylaw, Sackville River floodplain, and the HRM water quality testing program with respect to the contractor and start dates. The chair noted that these may be requested as information items at the next meeting.

**MOVED by Mr Regan seconded by Mr. Soudek that the agenda be approved as amended.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

*Note: A follow up to the items above was provided in an email communication to the Board on August 25, 2014.*

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

The Board held a discussion in regards to the July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 minutes. The Chair requested from the Board how they would like to proceed in capturing their policy recommendations. In response, Mr. Duncan highlighted the template before the Board and suggested that the spreadsheet template would assist in capturing the Board's recommendation by aid of projecting it on screen. The Board agreed that the Legislative Assistant would prepare a draft of the July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 recommendations in template form for review at the next meeting.

The Chair requested an update on the Lake Banook herbicide issue. Mr. Deacoff described how Regional Council has requested a staff report on the issue and how there was no requirement to seek the input by the Board on this issue. The Board resolved that the chair would compose a letter to the Environmental and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC).

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Hattin that the Chair write a letter to the chair of the ESSC requesting that the Lake Banook weed issue be added to their agenda.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

*Note: This motion was later found to be out of order with the Board's mandate and its course of action was not pursued.*

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE**

**7. DISCUSSION**

**7.1 Model Community Plan Environmental Section Update – Potable Water and On-Site Sewage**

The Board had before them the following background information to guide their discussion:

- Staff presentation handout dated June 11, 2014
- Staff report dated October 4, 2013
- Model Community Plan Environmental Section Project – RWAB – Sections 1-3, dated August 6, 2014 (spreadsheet template)

The Chair opened discussion on Policy E-20 to Policy E-42

**Policy E-20**

In response to questions around the jurisdiction of policy E-20, Mr. Duncan clarified that this policy could be used by HRM through an MPS or LUB in conjunction with Halifax Water. Mr. Duncan stated that this policy attempts to put restrictions at the regional plan level but also acts through MPSs and LUBs. In response to whether any water protection zones have been created on private lands, Mr. Duncan responded that he did not know of any.

The Chair stated that two issues would need to be addressed for the Board to accept the policy:

- To see the provision for specific local water service districts
- To ensure that both public and private communal water systems are protected for volume and quality.

Mr. Regan inquired if the Halifax Charter gave authority to HRM to have watershed drinking water zones. Mr. Regan added that he would like to see a new zone created called Protected Water Supply Zone. Mr. Regan further inquired if 30m was enough for well head protection. Mr. Duncan responded that the 30m was in reference to a buffer around water sources.

Mr. Regan also inquired about aquifers and expressed that there should be an aquifer study on existing subdivisions. Mr. Duncan responded by clarifying that in the current project the ESSC has asked the Watersheds Board to make recommendations on new communities.

**Policy E-21**

In response to the Board, Mr. Duncan responded that this policy was similar to Policy E-20; however, it allowed municipalities to go a step further within the MPS. The Board discussed the difference between private and public water supply systems. The board agreed with the policy. Upon the Chair's proposal to protect private-sourced water, Mr. Deacoff proposed that the Board reword Policy E-21 to include private systems.

**Policy E-22**

The Chair stated that although this policy has been marked redundant it may be important to discuss regarding the idea of protecting volume and flow. After a brief discussion on the use of dry hydrants, the Board concluded that this policy was redundant to their project.

**Policy E-23 to E-25**

The Board agreed that Policies E-23, E-24, and E-25 were redundant.

**Policy E-26**

The Board discussed water contamination and debated the role of local government in monitoring, testing, and treating drinking water. The board also discussed the responsibility of landlords in maintaining water quality in rental properties and concluded that landlords had few responsibilities.

The Board discussed how records were kept on the quality of drilled wells. The Board continued the discussion on water quality and also commented on practices elsewhere on quality testing. Mr. Regan stated that HRM should create a baseline for quality water. Dr. Thomas described the repercussions of arsenic contamination and suggested that cost could be mitigated if the government performed spot tests.

The Chair voiced support for the policy, stating that the policy had the intention to enable HRM to assess large quantities of ground water in surrounding wells.

Mr. Regan commented that the policy should be transferred to the Regional Plan and include all of HRM to ensure that drinking water is as clean as possible. Mr. Regan further stated that while new subdivisions assess availability, quality should also factor into the hydrological tests.

The Chair asked Mr. Duncan that if the Board accept it, would Policy E-26 be extended to all of HRM. Mr. Duncan responded that the project was to develop policies for future planning strategies. In response to Mr. Regan's second point, Mr. Duncan stated that Regional Plan policy does not enforce water quality given the complex geology.

Mr. Lund questioned whether the policy might be clarified by adding "provide information to residents on well water quality" on the last line.

The discussion concluded with support for policy E-26 with Mr. Lund's addition.

#### **Policy E-27**

The Chair questioned whether there could not be other contaminants listed. Dr. Thomas and Mr. Lund stated that in its current form, the policy was specific to one provincial department. The Chair stated that "de-icing agents" could be removed and the policy broadened to mean that HRM may collaborate with the province to remove contaminants that end up in drinking water.

Mr. Deacoff suggested that the Board amend the policy statement "where this leads to the reduction of major contaminants." The Chair suggested the Board agree with the policy, as it protects wells and water systems.

#### **Policy E-28**

Mr. Hattin questioned how this policy could be enforced when heavier uses were within the central water districts.

Mr. Duncan replied that this policy speaks to demand management. Mr. Duncan stated that the issue at the time of the policy was that there was a lot of residential growth being fed off one supply. Mr. Duncan clarified that in the context of new planning areas, the capacity of a water system would be studied.

The Chair voiced support for the policy's provision for existing and future residents. Mr. Hattin disagreed with the last sentence of the policy: "...for industrial and heavy commercial purposes."

The Chair requested that clarification be given to this policy and the Board return to it next month, as the template's Regional Plan comment did not correspond with the policy.

#### **Policy E-29**

The Board debated the meaning of the policy and questioned if the priority was for on-site alternatives or municipal central servicing.

The Board agreed to change the wording so that "Department of Health" was substituted for "the Provincial government."

#### **Policy E-30**

The Board agreed with Policy E-30 but suggested its language be modernized to include the idea of growth centres.

**Policy E-31**

The Board expressed that this policy was not redundant to their consideration. A discussion occurred on waste management districts. The Board approved substituting this policy for the wording in the Regional Plan comment listed on the template.

**Policies E-32 to E-36**

The Board agreed that these policies were redundant.

**Policy E-37**

Mr. Hattin and Mr. Lund voiced disagreement with the policy, stating that effluent could be put in tanks and pumped out. Mr. Duncan explained that the rationale was to discourage industry that required privately owned complex treatment systems but promote them in industrial parks. The Board recommended that this policy not be included.

**Policies E-38 and E-39**

The Board agreed that these policies were redundant.

**Policy E-40**

The Board voiced support for this policy. Mr. Regan expressed that this policy could be used to enforce waste management districts.

**Policy E-41**

The board voiced support for this policy, especially as it related to waste management districts.

**Policy E-42**

The Board commented on this policy through the Regional Plan section of the template. Mr. Regan stated that the minimum riparian buffer should be changed to 30m.

- 8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**
- 9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 10, 2014**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04

Andrew Reid  
Legislative Assistant