



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
March 11, 2015**

PRESENT: Mr. Allan Billard, Chair
Mr. Walter Regan, Vice Chair
Dr. Barry Thomas
Ms. Darlene Fenton
Dr. Iain Taylor
Mr. Tom Mills
Mr. Peter Lund
Mr. Pierre Clement

STAFF: Councillor Jennifer Watts
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager Energy & Environment
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Mr. Andrew Reid, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Cailin MacDonald, 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 Regional Watersheds Advisory Board are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/rwab/150311rwab-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. and adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. in the Helen Creighton Room, 2nd floor, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 14, 2015

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Mills that the minutes of January 14, 2015 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Mr. Regan requested that Sawmill River be added to the agenda for discussion.

Additions:

8.1 Reports of Interest to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board

The agenda was approved as amended.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Mills asked whether staff had an update on the Aerotech Park wastewater treatment plant (HRM File # 14900 Concept Subdivision Application) as well as responses to the questions and comments raised at the January 14, 2015 RWAB meeting. Mr. Reid responded that he has been in communication with the Development Officer and stated that since this matter is currently in concept form, it will be coming back to the Board for comment.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 CORRESPONDENCE

**6.1.1 Letter from the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
February 26, 2015**

Mr. Billard invited Councillor Watts to speak to the Letter from the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC) in response to Mr. Billard's initial letter to the Committee.

Councillor Watts thanked the Board for the invitation to attend the meeting as well as commented on the skills, experience and commitment to the community its members demonstrated. To determine their response for each issue, Councillor Watts shared that the Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Board and other opportunities for Board members to engage.

Regarding the Lake Banook issue, Councillor Watts shared that the Committee put forward a report to Halifax Regional Council, where it has recently been approved. She continued to state that since it was not a policy project; the Board was not formally a part of the development process for the report.

Regarding the Sawmill River Daylighting project, Councillor Watts shared that while this is not a policy project, a staff report will be presented at the next Harbour East and Marine Drive Community Council (HEMDCC) meeting. Mr. Billard asked Mr. Reid to notify the Board of the URL when the staff report is available online. Councillor Watts encouraged Board members who feel strongly about this issue to read the report and attend the HEMDCC meeting to address their concerns individually. She further remarked that if a matter was not planned to be addressed by the ESSC, there would be implications with it being addressed by the RWAB as they report to the ESSC and reiterated that as individuals, they are encouraged to share concerns through available channels.

The Board discussed with staff concerns with their mandate and role within their terms of reference.

Mr. MacLellan remarked on the reorganization happening within the Municipality and updated the Board on upcoming secondary planning projects, technical studies, floodplains studies, watershed studies and the stormwater management plan that RWAB may be consulted on in the future. He continued to state that as policies improve over time, there is less discretionary approval requiring comment from the Board. Mr. MacLellan stated that it is important for staff to support the priorities of Council; however he encouraged the Board to continue to share their questions and comments as they will continue to be well-received.

Mr. Clement drew attention to Mr. MacLellan's comments on daylighting and inquired whether or not the Board had received Halifax Water's technical report prepared by Stantec. Mr. MacLellan responded that if a report requested by the Board is publicly available, he will be able to provide it.

Mr. Clement suggested that when the Board has slow periods, they organize to discuss issues based on accessible information. Mr. Reid reminded the Board that their meeting schedule can also be adjusted based on their workload.

Mr. Billard asked for clarification in the Board's approach to discussions which are outside of current priority. Ms. Murphy explained that the Board exists to respond to Council priority, although it would be appropriate for the Board to have sufficient background information made available to them in preparation for their input should it be sought. And, it was suggested that the Board continue to share their comments, questions, and concerns in a similar manner by bringing issues forward to the ESSC for review and consideration.

The Board continued to discuss with staff concerns with their mandate and role within the existing governing model.

Mr. Mills commented that often there are recurring themes raised during their discussions and inquired whether the Board is permitted to share these issues with the ESSC. Councillor Watts explained that the ESSC finds this type of information helpful and encouraged the Board to organize and share their insights, and she will ensure that they are circulated to the Committee and others as appropriate.

Mr. Billard requested that the agenda and minutes from the ESSC be circulated to the RWAB, as well he requested Mr. MacLellan provide the Board with the list of secondary planning projects, and their timelines, when available. He also asked whether staff had a summary document on the policies previously reviewed by the Board. Mr. MacLellan shared that it was intended to be circulated for this meeting, but it has been delayed and will now be circulated prior to the next meeting.

Ms. Murphy encouraged the Board to continue to provide comments through the appropriate channels. Mr. Clement asked whether the Board is privy to documents, minutes and reports prior to public availability. Mr. MacLellan and Councillor Watts explained that they are permitted to see documents as they are made publicly available and shared how this information is generally released.

The Board went on to discuss with staff their role in and the process for Development Agreements.

Mr. Billard invited attendees to share any final thoughts on the discussions had. Councillor Watts commented that when useful, she plans to attend RWAB meetings and hopes to strengthen their relationship.

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentation – None

7. REPORTS – NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

8.1 Reports of Interest to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board

Mr. Billard noted a number of reports of interest to the Board, including those pertaining to Sawmill River and Lake Banook.

Mr. Regan shared background information on Sawmill River in Downtown Dartmouth and his desire to see it daylighted. Mr. Clement commented that there was insufficient information available to have a meaningful discussion on this topic. Ms. Fenton asked for clarification on when this matter would be discussed at community council and when information would be available publicly. Councillor Watts reiterated that it would be discussed at their next meeting. Mr. Billard commented that he would be interested in reviewing any factual reporting of fish passage as it relates to this project. The Board continued to discuss the implications of fish passage as well as the daylighting of Sawmill River.

Mr. Clement suggested to the Board, when there are lulls in agenda; they consider discussing topics from an ongoing list to keep better informed and educated on anticipated projects for when they may arise. The Board continued to discuss this suggestion. Mr. Billard suggested that the Board bring specific topics for proposed discussion to their next meeting.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 8, 2015

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Mr. Fenton, seconded by Mr. Mills that the March 11, 2015 meeting be adjourned.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Cailin MacDonald
Legislative Support