



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
May 13, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Allan Billard, Chair  
Mr. Peter Lund  
Ms. Darlene Fenton  
Dr. Iain Taylor

**REGRETS:** Mr. Pierre Clement  
Mr. Walter Regan, Vice Chair  
Dr. Barry Thomas  
Mr. Tom Mills

**STAFF:** Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer  
Mr. Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure  
Ms. Katie Neale, Intern  
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/150513rwab-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. and adjourned at 6:17 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. in the Maxine Tynes Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 8, 2015**

**MOVED by Mr. Lund, seconded by Ms. Fenton that the minutes of April 8, 2015 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

8.1 Approval of minutes from December 11, 2014.

8.2 Tantallon, Musquodoboit and Porters Lake Watersheds Studies Staff Report.

8.3 Otter Lake Site.

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

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

**5.1 Information Report from the Director of Planning dated February 18, 2015 re: *Model Community Plan Environmental Section*.**

The Board continued their discussions of section 3.2 Specific Recommendations for Improvement, *Summary Report Model Community Plan Environmental Section*. The Board continued to review each policy individually and discussed policies as a group in which there were concerns. The Board made the following recommendations:

In reference to E-91, Mr. Lund inquired in regards to slopes whether this report would be consistent with the proposed lot-creating by-law or whether it would help guide this by-law. Mr. Duncan clarified that the lot-creating by-law will not be consistent with this report, however he said that in reference to slopes it stipulates measurements that are far flatter.

The Board discussed with Staff the consistency of the definition of wetlands and watercourses buffer strips in comparison to the *Regional Plan*. The Board also discussed their concern with developments depositing stormwater into wetlands.

Ms. Fenton asked whether c) E-91 "*all wetlands (as defined by characteristic wetland vegetation)*" should be changed to reflect existing provincial legislation, for example, "*all wetlands (as defined by provincial legislation)*". Mr. Deacoff agreed that this may have been an area that the Board did not focus on during their review and that he terminology could be updated. Mr. Billard clarified that part of the Board's intention throughout this process was to introduce consistency in these policies and note that where provincial legislation existed, it would take precedence. He continued that the policies generally defer to the provincial standard.

Mr. Duncan provided a brief history of the creation of the *Summary Report Model Community Plan Environmental Section*. He explained that as staff, their role was to compile and review all of the environmental policies out of the existing Land-Use plans to decide which policies remained relevant and provide their recommendations into one report.

Mr. Duncan continued that as it stands, the report is still in recommendation-form for staff to review and comment further on. Overall, the Board's advice on lake and stream protection will become the basis for management for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Taylor inquired about the relationship between HRM and provincial policies. Ms. Fenton responded by sharing that the Nova Scotia Environment Department looks at policies from a broader provincial perspective and that at the municipal level policies seem to reference more detail.

Mr. Lund suggested that d) E-91 amend the width of the buffer strips from 50 feet to 20 metres to be consistent with other measurements within the report. Mr. Duncan reassured the Board that the level of detail is not as significant compared to ensuring that the concepts reflected within each policy are accurate.

In reference to E-92, the Board briefly discussed this policy and determined that it be approved as amended.

Mr. Taylor inquired about the developments happening in Long Lake and showed the Board a flyer which was distributed. After briefly reviewing the flyer, Mr. Deacoff believed that the developments in Long Lake are part of East Hants and outside of HRM boundaries. Mr. Taylor shared his concern that municipal boundaries are not watershed boundaries. Mr. Billard asked that staff determine and share the boundaries of Long Lake with the Board for further discussion at a future meeting.

In reference to E-95, the Board approved as amended.

In reference to E-100, the Board approved as amended.

In reference to E-102, Mr. Lund asked for clarification on the definition of conservation referenced in this policy. Mr. Duncan responded that he would need to confirm the source document for this policy before determining its definition and assured that staff would review. Mr. Billard inquired what date the "effective date" referenced. Mr. Duncan responded that he would need to review the source document for this policy in order to determine the "effective date." He encouraged the Board to look at the intent of the policy rather than specifics.

In reference to E-139, the Board approved as amended.

In reference to E-151, Mr. Lund commented at the E-91 appeared to be similar. Ms. Fenton inquired what the policy means by "hazard" and its definition. In this context, Mr. Duncan shared that hazard would typically refer to slope failure. The Board recommends that the preamble of the report define "hazard" to include "slope failure."

**MOVED by Mr. Lund, seconded by Ms. Fenton that the Board approve the *Summary Report Model Community Plan Environmental Section*, with the comments from their April 8, 2015 and May 13, 2015 meetings included, for staff consideration.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence – None**

**6.2 Petitions – None**

**6.3 Presentation – None**

**7. REPORTS – NONE**

**8. ADDED ITEMS**

**8.1 Approval of minutes – December 11, 2014.**

The Board deferred approval of the December 10, 2014 minutes until their next meeting on June 10, 2015.

**8.2 Tantallon, Musquodoboit and Porters Lake Watersheds Studies Staff Report**

Mr. Lund provided a brief update on the Tantallon, Musquodoboit and Porters Lake Watersheds Studies Staff Report.

Mr. Duncan asked whether it would be useful to have the planning staff attend a future RWAB meeting to provide a high-level overview of the Regional Plan and its basis as environmental-based land-use document. The Board agreed that this would be a useful exercise to partake in.

Mr. Taylor asked whether it would possible for the Board to have brief reference document which outlined all of the decisions from the past few years made by the Board. He suggested that each topic include an introduction, consideration and conclusion to provide a brief overview of the past to help inform their future recommendations. Mr. Lund believed that a similar summary table may exist. Mr. Billard requested that staff look into whether a background document could be circulated to the Board.

**8.3 Otter Lake Site**

On behalf of Mr. Regan, Mr. Billard shared a brief on the Otter Lake site.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 10, 2015**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Cailin MacDonald  
Legislative Support