



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
June 10, 2015**

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

REGRETS: Mr. Pierre Clement
Dr. Iain Taylor

STAFF: Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer
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/150610rwab-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. and adjourned at 6:39 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

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Lund that the minutes of December 10, 2014 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Ms. Fenton, seconded by Mr. Lund that the minutes of May 15, 2015 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda was approved by the Board as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – None

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentation – None

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

7.1 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE

7.1.1 Water Quality Monitoring Protocol

The following information was before the Board:

- *An information report dated May 15, 2015, re: Water Quality Monitoring Protocol*

Mr. Billard invited the Board to share their input on the Water Quality Monitoring Protocol report for staff consideration.

Mr. Regan commented that he would like to see stream gauging included as part of the Protocol considering the significant impact development has on this. Mr. Deacoff clarified whether Mr. Regan was commenting on stream gauging and water quality sampling at the same location. The Board continued to

discuss its implications. Mr. Billard asked about the discussions of staff in regards to this topic. Mr. Deacoff responded that this topic was generally considered outside of the project's scope.

Ms. Fenton commented on the importance of climate change to this discussion. Mr. Deacoff responded that environmental change and general precipitation regime are not generally discussed although it is addressed in the context of floodplains. Ms. Fenton continued by sharing that in terms of development, considering pre and post evaluation of storm water should be a key importance. Mr. Deacoff clarified that storm water management and measurement was considered outside of the project's scope.

Mr. Billard inquired whether the Protocol remained relevant as it is presently a year and a half old. Mr. Deacoff responded that it is the most up-to-date Protocol at this time.

Mr. Mills commented that when test results indicate a low PH (a reading of 5.5 or less), this should signal further testing be conducted including a metal scan. Mr. Billard commented further on this topic. He stated that there is presently no requirement to interpret the results, and asked whether there was qualified assessment of the data taking place as part of the Protocol. Mr. Deacoff explained that in terms of how they will address test results is still being discussed by staff. Staff has determined that a management framework will be necessary and that its development will be part of future work. Mr. Billard commented that consultants executing work on behalf of developers should be required to provide an interpretation of the results. The Board continued to discuss the process of analysis and the use of collected data.

Mr. Regan inquired whether the Protocol would be subject to public consultation. Mr. Deacoff clarified that it would not be. Mr. Regan asked whether the Protocol addressed drinking water. Mr. Deacoff clarified that the Protocol is not intended to address drinking water as it does not provide for treated water. He further stated that in regards to health risks and recreating water with high bacterial levels, Health Canada determines the thresholds when it would be unsafe to recreate.

Mr. Regan noted that the report indicated monthly testing and asked when the monthly testing begins. Mr. Deacoff shared that developers will be mandated to meet the requirements of the Protocol prior to breaking ground. Mr. Regan commented that developers should be required to complete 12 months of testing prior to the start of construction.

Mr. Regan noted that the Protocol should consider event intensity. Mr. Deacoff cited that while this consideration may present a resource-based limitation, it is a reasonable consideration and may be most practical utilizing automatic samplers.

Mr. Regan inquired whether this data would be needed for chain of custody. Mr. Deacoff responded that samples are not intended to be used for evidentiary circumstances.

The Board discussed with staff the parameters of sampling and how sites will be determined and the rationale for the lack of specificity. Mr. Deacoff explained that the Protocol is intended to remain flexible to account for the diversity of projects the Protocol will be applied to.

The Board discussed with staff the application of the Water Quality Monitoring Protocol and which development agreements it would apply to. Mr. Billard asked that HRM consider defining what conditions the Water Quality Monitoring Protocol will require.

Mr. Regan asked for clarity on the process that takes place if test results are unfavourable. Mr. Deacoff responded that it was beyond the scope of the Protocol. He explained that how HRM has addressed this issue to date is by referring to existing policies, which state that if measurements exceed acceptable levels, then the Municipality would conduct an assessment. The Board continued to discuss the implications of trophic state.

Mr. Mills inquired whether or not the Municipality would make the data collected available to the public via the Water Quality Monitoring Protocol. Mr. Deacoff responded that the Municipality does not currently have a data management approach that summarizes and interprets data in preparation to make it

available to the public. He continued to share that generally HRM makes ongoing water quality data available to the public when it is practical to do so. Mr. Mills clarified that he would like to see the collected data publicly available prior to approval of a development agreement. Mr. Deacoff commented that it would be unlikely they would be able to share data collected by the private developer prior to approval.

Mr. Regan asked whether it was possible for HRM to consider RCap (Rapid Chemical Analysis package) studies for water quality testing. Mr. Deacoff shared that staff had discussed the inclusion of RCap as part of the Protocol and he would bring forward the Board's remarks.

The Board discussed with staff the collecting methods specified in the Protocol, particularly as it related to Depth Integrated Samples, 4.(a), as well as 4.(c).

Ms. Fenton asked whether HRM would be looking at a quality assurance program. Mr. Deacoff responded that staff was not currently but that it was a valid consideration. Ms. Fenton continued by inquiring whether a review period was something that could be included the process. Mr. Deacoff responded that it was an area staff would consider. The Board agreed that they would like to see a timely review period implemented as part of the Protocol.

The Board discussed with staff 4.(c) and the implications of having watercourses sampled in the center of the flow.

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

9. IN CAMERA – NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 8, 2015

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Cailin MacDonald
Legislative Support