



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 13, 2016**

PRESENT: Mr. Walter Regan, Chair
Ms. Kelly Schnare, Vice Chair
Ms. Darlene Fenton
Ms. Jennifer Rocard
Ms. Meredith Clayden

REGRETS: Mr. Russell Dmytriw
Mr. Pierre Clement

STAFF: Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer
Krista Vinning, 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.html>*

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m., and adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. in the Helen Creighton Room, 2nd floor, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

The Chair welcomed the newest member of the Board, Ms. Jennifer Rocard. There was a round table of introductions. Ms. Clayden announced that she would be resigning from the Board due to an out of province work relocation. She indicated that she would be stepping down in the summer months.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 10, 2016

MOVED by Ms. Fenton, seconded by Ms. Clayden

THAT the minutes of February 10, 2016 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Chair indicated that he would like to briefly discuss an update on the lot grading and stormwater bylaws, as well as HRM Engineering inspections.

The following items were added to the Agenda:

- 10.1 Update on the Lot Grading and Stormwater By-laws
- 10.2 HRM Engineering Inspections on Developments

MOVED by Ms. Clayden, seconded by Ms. Fenton

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair asked the Legislative Assistant to send a thank-you letter to Andrew Reid, former Legislative Assistant, for his work with the Board.

- 4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – None**
- 5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None**
- 6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None**
- 7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – None**
- 8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – None**

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

**9.1. Paper Mill Lake Watershed Assessment Study Objectives and Outline
(Rick Scott and Eva Mooers, Dalhousie University)**

The following was before the Board:

- Handout provided by Dalhousie University outlining the objectives and reporting deliverables of the Paper Mill Lake Watershed Assessment dated April 13, 2016

Mr. Deacoff introduced Ms. Eva Mooers and Mr. Rick Scott from Dalhousie University. He explained that the Municipality has arranged for Dalhousie to conduct an assessment of the total phosphorous levels in the Paper Mill Lake Watershed.

He indicated that during the development of Bedford West, there were numerous occasions where total phosphorous levels exceeded the threshold levels; however the Municipality did not have well developed response to that circumstance. Mr. Deacoff added that the goal of the study is to determine all of the aspects that relate to total phosphorous and water quality in the Paper Mill Lake Watershed and allow the Municipality to formulate a proper response to resolving these water quality issues.

Mr. Deacoff explained that Dalhousie would be conducting the work on this project over the next number of months and this presentation would allow the Board to provide recommendations, advice and input into the study. It was noted that there would be another presentation in a few months' time of the draft report.

The Chair thanked Mr. Deacoff for the introduction and welcomed Ms. Mooers and Mr. Scott. Ms. Mooers indicated that there has been monitoring completed in the past for the watershed and that Dalhousie will make recommendations for how to move forward based on their analysis of that information. She presented a map of the area to the Board and pointed out some of the areas that are undeveloped and in development. The Chair noted that there are three major dams on this system and Ms. Fenton was able to provide the Board with a history of the dams and some of the land around these structures. Ms. Clayden inquired about fishways on the dams and the Chair responded that these dams are a complete barrier to fish passage.

Ms. Mooers reviewed the objectives of the study with the Board and described some of the methods that would be used to complete the study. She noted that they would try to determine if the phosphorous loading from Bedford West is increasing over time.

The Board briefly discussed the development occurring in the area and the sub-areas. Ms. Fenton asked if Dalhousie is focusing on new development in the area, or the well-established developments. Mr. Scott responded that the focus was on Bedford West and the outcomes would allow them to design a water quality monitoring program.

Ms. Fenton asked if Dalhousie plans on speaking to the developer about their plans to develop the area. She noted that perhaps the water quality monitoring plan might change if the development was occurring in smaller phases. Mr. Deacoff added that one of the reasons this study is being completed is that the development does not really match the watershed boundaries and there are other activities that may be impacting water quality. The municipality wants to ensure that they are not penalizing developers for actions that might not be impacting the watershed. He provided some examples of other activities in the area that might be impacting water quality such as the construction of the highway interchange and the operation of a quarry.

The Chair asked if there would be river gauging completed as part of the study and noted the importance of the information received from gauging. He noted that Annapolis Basin may have information for them on the watershed because of the dams located in the watershed. Ms. Clayden asked if the study would look at other aspects of water chemistry beyond phosphorous. She indicated that it would be beneficial to collect this information. Ms. Mooers responded that this would be addressed in the fifth objective of the study which looks at the trophic state of the watershed. Mr. Deacoff added that the municipality is aware of a number water quality issues, however the focus is often phosphorous because it is the one factor that they have policy direction to work with.

The Chair asked if the focus is only on Bedford West or the watershed as a whole. He expressed concern over the study not covering the entire watershed. Mr. Deacoff responded that the scope of assessment is for the entire watershed with a focus on Bedford West. Mr. Scott noted that they would likely be looking at upstream inputs as well. He also indicated that the study would focus on current development and does not include upcoming developments.

Ms. Mooers explained that the study would also look at consequences of adopting alternative water quality management thresholds. There was a brief discussion on stormwater diversion and how it can reshape boundaries of a watershed. The Chair asked if they would look at chlorophyll A. Ms. Mooers responded that they would if it is in the information that has been collected. The Chair also asked if they would be looking at septic systems that are potentially leaking. Mr. Scott and Mr. Deacoff responded that there is only one small area that isn't serviced for wastewater.

Ms. Mooers and Mr. Scott concluded their presentation. Ms. Schnare asked if Dalhousie could provide the Board with a bibliography of the information used for the study. It was noted that Mr. Scott and Ms. Mooers would be returning in the summer to discuss the draft report of the study. The Board thanked Mr. Scott and Ms. Mooers for their presentation.

10. ADDED ITEMS

10.1 Update on the Lot Grading and Stormwater By-laws

The Chair asked for an update on the Lot Grading and Stormwater By-laws that were presented to the Board in February. Mr. Deacoff responded that he would inquire about the Board receiving an update.

10.2 HRM Engineering Inspections on Developments

The Chair expressed concern regarding engineering inspections only being done by invite on developments. He asked if the Board could be provided with some clarity on the issue.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 9, 2016

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Jane Crosby
Legislative Support

INFORMATION ITEMS – NONE