

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
DARTMOUTH LAKES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES

January 27, 2010

PRESENT: Mr. Peter Connor, Interim Chair
Mr. Pierre Clement, Interim Vice-Chair
Dr. Klaus Hellenbrand
Ms. Christina Hoehne
Dr. Mark Trevorow
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
Dr. Cathy Conrad
Peter Crowther
Johanna Campbell

REGRETS: Mr. Mark McLean
Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Planner

STAFF: Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer, Sustainable
Environment Management Office
Ms. Sharon Webber, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Peter Connor, Interim Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. in Room 101 of the Findlay Centre, 26 Elliot Street, Dartmouth.

Mr. Connor welcomed new members Dr. Cathy Conrad, Mr. Peter Crowther and Ms. Johanna Campbell. The Board members introduced themselves and identified which group they were representing.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 25, 2009

Correction: Page 5, Item 7.1.1 - *Mr. Connors* should be *Mr. Connor*.

MOVED BY Ms. Christine Hoehne, seconded by Mr. Pierre Clement that the minutes of November 25, 2009, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Move: Item 7.1.1 Russell Lake Phosphorous Results 2009 to be dealt with immediately following Item 3.

MOVED BY Mr. Pierre Clement, seconded by Ms. Christine Hoehne that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Board agreed to deal with Item 7.1.1 at this time.

7.1.1 Russell Lake Phosphorous Results 2009 (Cameron Deacoff / Paul Morgan)

Mr. Connor invited Mr. Cameron Deacoff to do his presentation. Mr. Deacoff introduced the following representatives from Stantec: Shannan Murphy, Sam Selley and Julianne Sullivan and two representatives from Clayton Developments, Mr. Michael Hanusiak and Mr. Scott MacCallum.

Mr. Deacoff outlined the background of the monitoring program for the Lake and gave a chronology of the 2009 sampling event. The end result is that the average 2009 phosphorous levels are consistent with the historical averages found in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Mr. Clement asked how the samplings were done, deep water or surface and at what water depths were used. Ms. Sullivan stated that the samples were collected at 1 metre subsurface.

Mr. Clement then asked if there was a monitoring program, if so what are the value definitions and what happens if the levels exceed the acceptable thresholds. Is there

documentation on what action will be taken for these situations. Mr. Deacoff stated that he did have this information, including municipal actions and subsequent documents which could be provided to this Board. Mr. Clement then expressed concern that samplings should be done at various depths. Ms. Sullivan, Stantec, indicated that the 1 metre samplings have been consistent since 2007.

Mr. Clement then asked if the samplings included chlorophyll as well. Mr. Deacoff indicated that they did.

Dr. Cathy Conrad inquired as to why the in-lake station was chosen as the primary sample site for this study. Stantec replied that it is positioned above the deepest hole in the lake which is ideal for testing.

Mr. Connor asked if the increase in phosphorous levels in August was due to the pumping station off Gaston Road. Mr. Deacoff indicated that he could not recall any further problems with this pumping station. He also indicated that Halifax Water had identified a problem with a sewage pipe in March 2009 which has since been corrected. Testing was done again after the problem was corrected and the bacteria counts returned to normal levels.

Mr. Clement recommended that the storm sewer outfalls should be monitored in order to alleviate any future problems in that area. This information would also help Clayton Developments in their endeavors.

Mr. Michael Hanusiak, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Clayton Developments, asked to talk to the Board on behalf of Clayton Developments. He reviewed the various stages of the Russell Lake development and the measures taken with each stage. They have continued to voluntarily monitor a brook which runs from Gaston Road to the bottom of Russell Lake during all phases of development. Stantec has been monitoring the water for sediment and clarity. They are on their last phase of this project however would be open to continue to monitor the water quality if HRM would like them to do so.

Mr. Clement inquired if Clayton Developments had any plans to put in natural water filters in the wetlands to improve water quality. Mr. Hanusiak indicated there were 9 acres originally set aside for a school however this project will not be going ahead. Clayton Developments is now rethinking what to do with this land. Mr. Connor inquired if the development agreement would be opened up once the decision is made about this land. Mr. Hanusiak said that this would be part of the Municipal plan and yes would open up the development agreement.

Dr. Mark Trevorrow indicated that the current practice of 4 samplings a year would not give a true picture of what is going on in Russell Lake. He indicated that any number of events such as high winds and storm events could increase levels therefore it would be difficult to get a sense of the true readings. Mr. Deacoff indicated that this was a fair observation of the current situation however they could not monitor more frequently. He

realizes that there needs to be a monitoring program which could find a balance; not enough readings would give an inaccurate view of this situation and regular monitoring such as weekly or daily would be expensive to maintain. He indicated that Clayton Developments are taking responsibility in their role in protecting Russell Lake.

In response to Mr. Clement's concern in regard to future monitoring of Russell Lake when Clayton Developments have completed their project, Mr. Hanusiak indicated that Clayton Developments are leaving behind a \$10,000.00 legacy with HRM on the table for post development water monitoring. Clayton Developments have made a commitment to the residents of the community that the water quality in Russell Lake will not be affected by their construction.

Mr. Connor thanked Mr. Deacoff and the representatives from Stantec and Clayton Developments for coming to our meeting.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Workshop Briefing – Friends of the Earth

Upon request of the Chair, Mr. Deacoff provided a brief summary of the Workshop he attended that was presented by "Friends of the Earth". He advised that no specific commitments resulted from the workshop. The workshop was attended by several HRM staff members and Councillors Nicoll, Watts and Lund. The content focused on the "Water Soft Path" and issues discussed included reducing the demand for water and energy with water conservation being the main issue. Focus was water conservation in urban communities such as ways of reducing demand by fixing leaky pipes and installing low flush toilets.

Mr. Deacoff indicated that Councillor Lund would be giving a presentation on February 12th on this topic. Mr. Clement asked if the Board could get a copy of this presentation once it is made public. Mr. Connor asked Councillor Jackie Barkhouse if Councillor Lund would be interested in coming to one of our meetings and giving his presentation. She indicated that she felt Councillor Lund would be open to that suggestion.

This item should be place in Item 5, Consideration of Deferred Business for follow up.

4.2 Concept Plan Application – Eileen Stubbs Avenue, Burnside Industrial Park, Dartmouth, NS

Mr. Connor indicated that the comments that he submitted to staff were not included in the response letter to Mr. Andrew Forsythe, Terrain Group Inc.

Dr. Conrad indicated that the date on the letter should read 2009 not 2008.

Last fall Mr. Connor, Dr. Klaus Hellenbrand and Mr. Clement walked lots 3A and 3B indicated on these plans. At that time they were not aware of lot 3C. Mr. Connor

indicated that he would like to do this walk again and include lot 3C. Dr. Hellenbrand, Mr. Clement and Ms. Hoehne indicated they would like to accompany Mr. Connor.

Mr. Connor indicated that he would like to invite Mr. Forsythe to a future meeting to express the Board's concerns.

This item should be placed in Item 5, Consideration of Deferred Business for follow up.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Aquatic Weed – Lake Banook / Mic Mac

Mr. Pierre Clement did a quick review of this subject. Dr. Don Gordon did take a look at This situation and found that the weed growth seemed to be normal for this species However the exact species is unknown.

Dr. Mark Trevorow suggested that we should engage one of the canoe clubs to monitor these weeds. Dr. Klaus Hellenbrand suggested that we wait until next growing season to address this issue. Ms. Christina Hoehne suggested taking photographs of the growth process. Dr. Mark Trevorow suggested that the growth may be due to the low water levels.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff

7.1.1 Russell Lake Phosphorous Results 2009 (Cameron Deacoff / Paul Morgan)

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 3.

7.2 Chairman's Report

7.2.1 Reminder – January 29, 2010 HRM Water Board Workshop

Mr. Connor mentioned that those attending the Workshop on Friday should stay behind after meeting to discuss the details.

Mr. Connor, Mr. Clement, Dr. Hellenbrand, Ms. Hoehne, Dr. Trevorow, Dr. Conrad and Mr. Peter Crowther have indicated they will be going to this workshop.

7.2.2 2010 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Connor asked the group to review the 2010 Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board Meeting Schedule. All meetings will be held from 5:15 pm to 7:15 pm at the Findley Centre, Room 101, 26 Elliot Street, Dartmouth. The dates are:

January 27 / February 24 / March 31 / April 28 / May 26 / June 30

No meetings for July or August

September 29 / October 27 / November 24

No meeting for December

MOVED BY Dr. Trevorrow, seconded by Dr. Conrad that the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board approve the 2010 meeting schedule as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.3 Staff

7.3.1 Election of Chair / Vice Chair for 2010

Mr. Connor requested that the Board defer these elections until the February meeting. He indicated that he wanted to wait until after the HRM Water Board Workshop (Item 7.2.1) scheduled for this Friday.

MOVED BY Dr. Hellenbrand, seconded by Dr. Conrad that the Election of Chair/Vice-Chair be deferred to the February meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Oat Hill Lake Group

Mr. Clement indicated that a new group has been formed to monitor Oat Hill Lake. The Oat Hill Lake Group is headed by Mr. Terry Rowell. This group currently has 60 members and is committed to cleaning up Oat Hill Lake. They have been evaluating the differences between water monitoring versus ecological monitoring of this area. Mr. Clement indicated that he would be interested in having Mr. Rowell in to speak to the group at a future meeting.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, February 24, 2010

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Sharon Webber
Legislative Support