

DARTMOUTH LAKES ADVISORY BOARD
NOTES

November 2, 2011

PRESENT: Pierre Clement, Vice Chair
Christine Hoehne
Johanna Campbell
Klaus Hellenbrand

REGRETS: Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
Mark Trevorrow
Peter Connor, Chair

ABSENT: Mark McLean
Peter Crowther

STAFF: Darrell Joudrey, Planner, Planning & Infrastructure
Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer
Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pierre Clement, Vice Chair called the meeting to order without quorum at 5:25 p.m. in Room 101 Findlay Centre, 26 Elliott Street, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 5, 2011

Typographical error noted in the title of Item 5.2 - *Lake Banook* on page 5.

As the Board did not have quorum, the October 5, 2011 minutes were deferred to the next meeting for approval.

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

The Board agreed to address Item 5.1.

The Order of Business was accepted as amended and Item 5.1 was discussed at this time.

5.1 Spill Clean-Up Red Bridge Pond – Mr. John Sibbald, Pollution Prevention Coordinator, Environmental Engineering

Mr. John Sibbald, Pollution Prevention Coordinator, Environmental Engineering, provided an update and reviewed photos of the Red Bridge Pond spill clean up. Highlights were as follows:

Last January 2011 in an act of vandalism, the copper fuel lines that lead into the buildings were cut and removed from the tanks. As a result, fuel free flowed into the storm sewer system, discharging into Red Bridge Pond. Hydrocarbon was released into the bedding of the sanitary services system. The local Fire Department were first onsite, followed by Halifax Water. Booms were placed in the affected areas and material was excavated down to the footing drains in order to remediate the site. It was noted that as the storm sewers are not water tight, and are designed to leak and allow water in, hydraulic product caught in the bedding and storm sewer would repeatedly discharge during rain storms. Halifax Water remained onsite until June 2011 to address this issue.

In response to questions raised by Board members, staff estimated that approximately 200 litres was discharged from the tanks and no more than \$10 worth of copper was removed from the tanks.

In addition to the clean up efforts, Halifax Water brought in vacuum trucks to skim the surface of the water as the booms could only hold so much product. The booms were rotated during their removal to allow the fuel at the bottom to be reabsorbed. The

booms were then placed into bags so as to not drag or drip any product during their removal.

Staff further clarified that the Fire Department's mandate is to minimize fire and protect human health; they are not environmental responders. Typically during a fuel spill, the fire department's protocol would be to use their hoses to flush the product into a nearby catch basin. The Department of Environment is responsible for all hydrocarbon releases in Nova Scotia, as well as surface water quality.

As Halifax Water is the owner of conveyance systems, such as a catch basin, which hydrocarbons may enter into; Halifax Water has a role and responsibility to participate and respond to a spill to protect HRM's infrastructure. In this case, the directive was given to the property owner to clean up the site and a directive to Halifax Water to support HRM's financial commitment.

Staff went on to note that the Fire Departments would often be the first responders to a scene, as the spill would often be called in as an emergency (ie. public's exposure to the spill). As product is often discharged into a storm sewer, the Fire Department would contact Nova Scotia Department of Environment to address any impact to the surrounding properties, lakes, rivers, brooks, etc.

The Coast Guard has a 24/hour duty officer for environmental emergencies across the Province. The call would then be transferred to the appropriate agency (ie. Halifax Water, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Environment Canada).

Halifax Water personnel were onsite the day of the spill in January 2011 and they monitored the situation through to the late summer 2011. Staff visited the site a few weeks ago and will continue to monitor. Mr. Sibbald indicated that he has not noticed any negative impact to the site, commenting that the Red Bridge Pond looked very healthy this past summer.

It was noted that any future questions or concerns related to the Red Brook Pond spill could be forwarded to Mr. Sibbald.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Wastewater Management Functional Plan Update – *Mr. Cameron Deacoff* (Verbal Update)

No update to report on at this time.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Spill Clean-Up Red Bridge Pond – *Mr. John Sibbald, Pollution Prevention Coordinator, Environmental Engineering*

Matter addressed earlier in the meeting, see page 3.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – None

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Delegations – None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Chairman's Report – *Mr. Peter Connor (Verbal Update)*

No update provided.

7.2 Synoptic Survey Monthly Update – *Mr. Pierre Clement (Verbal Update)*

Mr. Clement advised that he will be scheduling a meeting with participants over the next two weeks to review the data collected in 2011 and discuss how it will be addressed. He noted that a technical report had been prepared for the 2010 data. Once the 2011 data has been reviewed a copy could be provided to the Board for their information.

7.3 Penhorn/Woodlawn Community Vision Action Team Monthly Update – *Mr. Pierre Clement (Verbal Update)*

Mr. Clement reported that the Vision Action Team will be meeting Thursday night. The Vision Action Team has been focusing on developing a plan to build trails to connect the Penhorn Lake, Russell Lake and Shubenacadie Canal trails. The Vision Action Team is looking to establish a trails committee, as well as a community association for the Penhorn/Woodlawn area. They will be present at the Penhorn-Woodlawn development community meeting to engage with the public with regard to an opportunity for a community association for the area.

It was noted that a key issue in terms of trail development is the connectivity between Woodlawn and Penhorn. This area was blocked off when the highway was constructed. Mr. Clement noted that there is a pedway across the highway but there are accessibility issues. The Vision Action Team is hoping that HRM will give consideration to addressing ways to better connections between the two areas.

Mr. Clement further advised that there is an upcoming Public Information Meeting on proposed zoning amendments for the Penhorn Mall site.

7.4 Policy Development Update – Mr. Cameron Deacoff (Verbal Update)

Mr. Deacoff referenced a Stormwater Management Functional Plan staff report that was reviewed and accepted in the late summer by the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee and Harbour East Community Council. The report states that where Community Council's do not have the mandate for water resource management, the policy will not flow through them or the Watershed Advisory Boards for direction. However, there will be a community engagement consultation process to provide meaningful input to the process. Members of the respective Watershed Advisory Boards and other local subject matter experts will be consulted on the development of the policy. The Clerk will provide the link of the Stormwater Management Functional Plan staff report to Board members.

Mr. Deacoff advised that there is a watershed study underway that covers a portion of the Shubenacadie Lakes system. A public information meeting is scheduled for November 14th related to this study. Invitations were sent to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board but all Board members are welcome to attend.

A group made up of various organizations are hosting a meeting relative to the Save our Lakes Policy Project on November 23rd at the Findlay Centre, Dartmouth. The group will be reviewing opportunities to "green" the Red Book (HRM's design guidelines) and make improvements to environmental management. Staff will forward an invitation along with background information for this meeting to the Board members.

Additional background respecting how the Dartmouth Area Watershed Network group was formed was provided to the Board. On May 15, 2011 a number of groups, representatives and individuals met to discuss and identify what challenges and opportunities there were to better management water resources. A large report was compiled (word café format) from a list of questions and the group wrote down their comments that addressed or identified issues related to those specific themes. The Clerk will forward a copy of the Save our Lakes Policy Project staff report to the Board for their information.

Mr. Clement further indicated that the Dartmouth Area Watershed Network group will also be meeting November 19th in Fairbanks and hoped that a member or members from the Board could attend.

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – December 7, 2011

10. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Ms. Hoehne expressed concern with changes in the levels and colour of the ground water running off the retaining wall adjacent to the off ramp from Main Street towards Waverley Road during heavy rain storms. She has also noticed water level changes in Lake MicMac and questioned whether these changes are related to the recent nearby development and suggested having staff review and report back to the Board.

The meeting adjourned without quorum at 6:10 p.m.

Krista Vining
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Staff memorandum dated October 11, 2011 re: Shubenacadie Lakes Sub-Watershed Study