

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## DARTMOUTH LAKES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES MARCH 29, 2006

PRESENT: Ms. Audrey Manzer, Chair  
Councillor Gloria McCluskey  
Ms. Stephanie Bird  
Dr. Hugh Millward  
Mr. Pierre Clement  
Dr. Klaus Hellenbrand  
Dr. Mark Trevorrow  
Ms. Christine Hoehne  
Mr. Peter Connor  
Mr. Mark McLean

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms. Catherine Lunn, Vice Chair  
Dr. Ron Beazley

STAFF: Dr. Tony Blouin, Manager,  
Mr. John MacPherson, Planning & Development Services  
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Legislative Assistant

GUESTS: Dr. Don Gordon  
Dr. Paul Hill, Department of Oceanography, Dalhousie University  
Ms. Lori Wrye  
Mr. Brian White, EDM  
Mr. Paul Jollymore, EDM

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Ms. Manzer recognized Dr. Don Gordon's 34 years of service on the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board. She thanked Dr. Gordon for his research work on behalf of the Board and for all his efforts and support over the past number of years.

Each member of the Board thanked Dr. Gordon, noting the following:

- Dr. Gordon's advice is well appreciated and will be sought for years to come
- Dr. Gordon's contribution includes such tangible outcomes as the establishment of buffer zones
- Dr. Gordon has always approached his work with the Board with kindness and sincerity
- Dr. Gordon's work with the Board is a very good example of how a scientist can make a contribution

Councillor McCluskey thanked Dr. Gordon, on behalf of the residents of HRM, for his commitment over so many years.

Tony Blouin thanked Dr. Gordon, on behalf of staff, for all the very useful data on the lakes he has provided over the years.

Dr. Don Gordon thanked members for their kind words. He noted that Mark McLean is assuming his responsibility on the Board with both interest and enthusiasm. Dr. Gordon suggested that he would continue as an emeritus member of the Board.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Note was made that the word 'stone' in the second to last paragraph on page 5 was spelled incorrectly.

**MOVED by Peter Connor, seconded by Christine Hoehne that the minutes of the November 30, 2005 meeting of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board, as amended, be approved.**

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

**Additions:**

- 4.1 Dartmouth Crossing Update
- 4.2 Dartmouth Sports Field
- 5.2 Phosphorus Thresholds for Lakes

- 8.1 Sampling of Lakes
- 8.2 Update - Public Participation Committee for Portland Hills

**MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Mr. Clement that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Board agreed to deal with item 5.2 at this time.

**5.2 Presentation: Lori Wrye - Lake Micmac and Sediment**

Dr. Paul Hill, Department of Oceanography, Dalhousie University, introduced Ms. Lori Wrye noting that she had just successfully defended this report of her Honours project.

Ms. Wrye, using overhead projection, briefly presented her project entitled Suspended Sediment and Disaggregated Inorganic Grain Size Analysis of Lake Charles and Lake MicMac, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Ms. Wrye's presentation included the following highlights:

- Objectives
  - < To understand recent changes in sediment input into the study area
  - < To determine the size and settling rates of fine sediments discharged into the study area
- Review of Historical Lake Problems
- A Description of the Study Area
- Explanation of the Current Lake Problems
- Impact of Construction Sites
- Grassy Brook was used as a Reference Point
- Methods used including sampling and laboratory work
- An overview of the results
- Conclusions:
  - Settling ponds were overwhelmed during the Thanksgiving rainfall event
  - Increased pond size resulted in suspended sediment concentrations decreasing drastically
  - Current technologies of preventing sediment from entering into waterways are effective

A copy of Ms. Wrye's presentation is on file.

Ms. Wrye responded to questions regarding her presentation.

Mr. Brian White, EDM, Project Manager introduced Mr. Paul Jollymore, Construction Manager, Dartmouth Crossing, both whom were present for another agenda item. Mr. Jollymore described what happened during the Thanksgiving rain event and the efforts that have been made to address the resulting issues.

Dr. Hill noted that the sediment concentration in Lake MicMac was quite low, however, the material is very fine and is very visible making the lake look brown.

In response to a concern that a wind event will cause the sediment particles to re-suspend, Dr. Hill indicated that the sediment would eventually find its way into places where it will not be re-suspended.

The Chair thanked Ms. Wyre and Dr. Hill for the presentation.

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

##### **4.1 Dartmouth Crossing Update**

Mr. Brian White and Mr. Paul Jollymore on behalf of Dartmouth Crossing Ltd., gave a brief update on the project including the following milestones:

- HRM Tentative Subdivision Approval - February 2006
- NSDEL Extension of Site Service Approval - February 2006
- Municipal Service Agreement - Pending March/April 2006
- Infrastructure Installation - Complete - July/August 2006
- Above Ground Construction - Approximately 800,0000 sq. feet - September 2006

Mr. White clarified that the Stormwater Management Plan applied over the entire site and will remain with each lot when it is sold. He further indicated that he would be providing some information regarding the Detailed Stormwater Management Plan at the next meeting of the Board.

In response to a question regarding excavation of the site, Mr. Jollymore advised that most of the excavation was complete. He went on to indicate that installation of underground services is ongoing and roadways will be gravelled as soon as possible following completion of this work. He further noted that he is on-site every day and would be more than happy to show members around the site.

Mr. White noted that the daily reports are available to members of the Board.

Stephanie Bird joined the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The Board agreed to deal with items 5.1 and 5.3 at this time.

### **5.1 Policy on Daylighting of Rivers**

- A staff report dated January 31, 2006 was before the Board.

Dr. Tony Blouin, Manager, Environmental Performance, advised that Council has directed staff to consult with the Water Advisory Boards regarding the policy on daylighting of rivers. He indicated that the input from the Boards would be incorporated in the policy and then the policy would go back to Council for final approval.

Dr. Blouin, using overhead projection, then presented the River Daylighting policy as found in the staff report. Dr. Blouin's presentation included the following highlights:

- Definition - Daylighting of a watercourse is a process by which a stream or river which has been enclosed within a pipe or culvert structure is rehabilitated to a more natural state
- Policy 1 - Where existing HRM stormwater collection infrastructure must undergo significant repair or replacement, daylighting of the watercourse involved will be considered as an option
- Policy 2 - Where practical and legal considerations could permit a feasible daylighting project, HRM will consider the cost of daylighting as opposed to costs for repair or replacement of existing infrastructure
- Policy 3 - Where community interests or groups advocate daylighting of a particular enclosed watercourse, HRM will consider the project in light of conditions 1 and 2
- Any expenditure of capital funds must meet the Capital Project rating criteria:
- Daylighting will in likelihood fall under the Operational Efficiency criteria
- There are no specific projects in mind at this time
- Policy will be applied on an ongoing basis
- HRM funding is limited.

Concluding his comments, Dr. Blouin indicated that staff is seeking input from the Board regarding the policy. A copy of Dr. Blouin's presentation is on file.

Referring to the three points contained in the proposed policy, Dr. Millward clarified that the policies are subordinate. The first condition to daylighting when HRM funding is to be used is that significant repair is required. The second condition is cost. Dr. Millward expressed concern that the proposed policy may raise expectations with the public regarding daylighting proposals they bring forward. Dr. Millward suggested that the wording of the policy should be clarified to identify which of the policies is subsidiary to which.

Mr. McLean indicated that although he liked Policy 3, he was concerned that HRM would be missing opportunities for potential funding. Mr. McLean went on to suggest that HRM or a community group in cooperation with HRM, identify some projects which could benefit from funding that is made available from time to time (e.g. habitat compensation funds) Mr. McLean noted that a high level identification of projects would be all that was necessary.

Mr. Blouin noted that in the development of an inventory list, HRM might rely on input from the Boards, stakeholder groups, and the Sackville Rivers Association, etc. to suggest projects.

Mark Trevorrow noted that the daylighting policy raises expectations regarding water quality and that fish will return to the these watercourses. Dr. Trevorrow suggested that HRM's role relative to habitat should be made clear.

Dr. Blouin agreed that there is the potential for fish to return to these watercourses, however, HRM is not attempting to establish that expectation. He indicated that the municipality is not a fish manager. The purpose of the policy is to create the potential to undertake daylighting projects. Once the habitat is created and if it is on HRM property, HRM would be responsible for it as a piece of public property. HRM would not be responsible for the fish or any amphibians in that habitat. Dr. Blouin further clarified that the policy is not intended to raise expectations that a great number of daylighting projects would be undertaken.

In response to a question, Dr. Blouin noted that the preamble recognized that enclosing or piping watercourses during any new construction is not recommended. This in essence establishes the policy chiefly for new construction.

**MOVED by Dr Millward, seconded by Mr. Clement that the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board endorse the proposed policy along with the input provided by the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board and subject to amendments from the other Watershed Boards. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **5.3 Phosphorus Threshold for Lakes**

- This matter was added to the agenda during the setting of the agenda.

Dr. Blouin addressed the matter noting that the issue of a phosphorus threshold for Morris-Russell lake would be before the Board in the near future. The intent of this presentation is to provide the Board with background information in this regard. Dr. Blouin gave a presentation including the following highlights:

- What is Phosphorus, what is the impact of Phosphorus

- Trophic Levels - Oligotrophic, Mesotrophic, Eutrophic
- Threshold level is a management tool which sets a limit beyond which further assessment is needed
- Morris-Russell MPS requires that TP threshold levels be set
- Guidelines to be used in setting the threshold
- How is Background TP determined
- Review of Trophic TP ranges
- Purpose of setting TP threshold levels
- Next Steps - Russell/Morris
  - < Russell Lake West Development Agreement
    - Requires Developer to undertake work and recommend TP Threshold to HRM/DLAB
  - < Morris Lake DA
    - Under Negotiation
    - HRM may undertake work to set TP Threshold depending on cost

A copy of Dr. Blouin's presentation is on file.

Mr. Connor left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- To the extent information is available from the Queen's University studies on Morris Russell Lake it could be used in the analysis of the TP Threshold levels
- The policy implies that the development would cease if the threshold levels are exceeded

Mr. Clement noted that prior to the development of Morris-Russell Lake there were studies done which include recommendations regarding phosphorus levels. He asked if those recommendations have been exceeded and has the status of the lake been compromised since the area has been developed.

Dr. Blouin indicated that the stormwater management provisions included in the development plan exceed those of any previous development agreements. He noted that the 40% reduction recommended in the studies has not actually been reflected in the Municipal Planning Strategy and Development Agreement.

Dr. Millward noted that both studies were carefully reviewed by the Public Participation Committee and are reflected in the Secondary Planning Strategy (SPS). In general, the lake protection measures within the SPS are the most stringent in HRM and are now being put into effect through the Development Agreement.



The Chair thanked Dr. Blouin for his presentation.

#### **4.2 Dartmouth Sportsfield**

Mr. Clement expressed disappointment that one of the field surfaces is to be sodded. He noted that this field abuts a wetland and care must be taken regarding fertilizers. Mr. Clement went on to note that the parking lot tends towards the wetland and the intention is to keep it gravelled. In the event the lot is to be paved, Mr. Clement requested that a stormwater management plan come to the Board.

This request will be forwarded to staff for their information.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Policy on Daylighting of Rivers**

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

#### **5.2 Presentation: Lori Wrye - Lake MicMac and Sediment**

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

#### **5.3 Phosphorus Threshold for Lakes**

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

### **6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **7. STAFF UPDATE**

### **8. ADDED ITEMS**

#### **8.1 Sampling of Lakes**

- This matter was added during the approval of the agenda.

Mr. Clement distributed data relating to lake testing done at the spring turn over (when ice is out of Fraser Lake). Mr. Clement noted that testing was done over a ten year period and provides information over the long term.

## **8.2 Update - Public Participation Committee for Portland Hills**

- This matter was added during the approval of the agenda.

Dr. Millward, using a coloured map of the Phases 4 and 5 of Portland Hills, gave an update of the work of the Public Participation Committee including the following highlights:

- The Committee began meeting in the late fall of 2005
- The work of the Committee is almost complete
- The Secondary Planning Strategy (SPS) requires a 100 foot vegetation buffer along the lake and 50 ft either side of the water courses
- At least one half of the lakeshore should be in public buffer
- The proposed development agreement will have 100% of the lakeshore in public parkland & buffer
- There will be also be all public park and buffer along the two brooks
- The SPS requires that the developer not build on steep slopes, and the proposed Development Agreement adheres to this requirement.
- 25% of the area will be public parkland
- The developer will be required to-undertake a lake monitoring program

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2006 beginning at 5:15 p.m.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy  
Legislative Assistant