

REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2014

PRESENT: Allan Billard, Chair  
Mark McLean  
Pierre Clement  
Timothy Hayman  
Dr. Barry Thomas  
Adam Fancy  
Walter Regan  
Dusan Soudek  
Tom Mills  
Peter Lund

REGRETS: Richard Hattin, Vice-Chair

STAFF: Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer  
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager Energy and Environment  
Ms. Maureen Ryan, Senior Planner  
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk  
Ms. Jane Crosby, Legislative Support

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. in the meeting room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Barry Darlymple, present on behalf of the Environment Sustainability & Standing Committee (ESSC). Councillor Darlymple is Chairperson of the ESSC and is in attendance for the Board's discussion on their Terms of Reference.

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - December 11, 2013

The following changes to the minutes were noted:

Mr. Hayman was listed under "Regrets"; he should be listed as "Present".

Item 5.1, Second paragraph, fourth sentence, should read:

"He indicated that a more rigorous sampling program would be beneficial as it could allow for development of a model for each particular lake."

Item 5.1, Second paragraph, last sentence, should read:

"He noted that sampling the inflows into a lake would be beneficial as it would allow one to estimate loading."

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Dr. Soudek that the minutes of December 11, 2013 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The Chair requested that Item 7.2 be addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

Addition:

8.1 Model Community Plan

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Dr. Soudek, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## 7.2 Regional Watershed Advisory Board – Terms of Reference

The Chair opened the discussion, noting that the Terms of Reference for the Regional Watershed Advisory Board has been an issue for several members. He indicated that members of the Board felt constrained by the current Term of Reference and asked for comments.

Mr. Regan indicated that he would appreciate being able to bring items for discussion to the table rather than having all items brought to the Board by staff. Dr. Thomas

supports this idea and noted that he has an interesting item for discussion on engineered wetlands; however under the current Terms of Reference he is not able to bring that idea forward.

Mr. Clement discussed the idea of being able to extend the meeting time to bring forth products of their discussions to the table and perhaps bring questions forward to the ESSC. Mr. McLean asked if there was anything preventing them from doing this within the current Terms of Reference. The Chair then asked staff for clarification on the Terms of Reference. Ms. Sherrill Murphy, Deputy Clerk, responded and briefly explained the governance model for the RWAB through the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC) to Council. Ms. Murphy noted that the Terms of Reference for the Board were specific as to the mandate of the Board. Councillor Darlymple added that if RWAB had a project of interest they may send a notice via a motion to the ESSC requesting that the item of interest be allowed for consideration. The ESSC may then determine if this request can be accommodated. Ms. Murphy commented that this is within the Board's capabilities; however projects/work brought forward by staff cannot be overlooked as this work is based on priorities set by Regional Council.

Mr. Regan asked about RWAB being able to comment on the Regional Plan. Ms. Murphy responded that the Regional Plan is at a point in its process where it is nearing completion, to which Councillor Dalrymple agreed. She further indicated that the matter was to be considered by the two Committees of Council identified as having input based on their Terms of Reference – the Heritage Advisory Committee and the Design Review Committee. Members of this Committee, acting as individuals rather than Committee members, will have an opportunity to provide input when the matter comes to public hearing, to which Councillor Darlymple agreed. With regard to the transportation of leachate to Highway 101, Ms. Murphy indicated that both ESSC and Halifax Regional Council have dealt with this matter and no further comment/input is being sought. Several members of the Board indicated that longer meetings may be necessary from time to time due to the volume of work being brought forth. Ms. Murphy indicated that there is no difficulty with this from a support perspective.

Mr. Mills asked if RWAB could be sent Watershed Study reports before they are final. He indicated that it is difficult to comment on final reports. Ms. Ryan explained the process for the issuance of a watershed study. She noted that these studies are generally steered by a staff committee and she explained at what point they would come forth to the Board for comment. Ms. Ryan also explained that there are often community meetings where preliminary findings are presented. She noted that this would perhaps be a good time to bring these findings forth to the Board. Mr. Regan asked if they would be able to comment on the specifications of a study. Mr. MacLellan explained that the Regional Plan gives staff very specific policy around watershed studies and it would be inappropriate for this to come before the Board. Ms. Ryan indicated that it is Policy E-17 in the Regional Plan that sets out the parameters for watershed studies.

The Board continued their discussion and the following motions were put:

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Fancy, that the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board (RWAB) request that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to seek earlier input from RWAB with regard to watershed studies. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Lund, that the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board be provided with a copy of Regional Plan Policy E-17 and be given authority by the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee to comment on that policy from a professional perspective for future watershed studies. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Lund, that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee allow the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board (RWAB) to comment on the controls and measures in place for the leachate being transported to the Sackville Landfill, and that all available data on this matter be provided to RWAB for review. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**4.1 Porters Lake Watershed Servicing Study Report**

**4.2 Tantallon Watershed Servicing Study Report**

Agenda Items 4.1 and 4.2 were discussed concurrently.

Staff indicated that these items were being brought back to the Board, so that they may make a recommendation as a whole on the individual comments from members. It was clarified that these recommendations would be going to the appropriate Community Council. Mr. Lund suggested the Board work through the individual comments and attempt to compile them. Ms. Ryan explained that the original recommendation was that the studies be accepted as a tool for future community planning. She indicated that in the past, many of the Board's formulated recommendations were somewhat action-oriented, citing some examples. These recommendations would help guide future community planning. The Board continued their discussion and Councillor Darlymple suggested that these items be discussed at a future Board meeting and recommendations could be formulated and brought forth. Mr. Regan suggested that they work through the individual comments over the next month and come back to their next meeting prepared to pass a motion with their recommendations as a Board.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence**

**6.1.1 Correspondence from the Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax re: Phosphorus: Details on Lake Carrying Capacity (dated Nov. 29 2013)**

The correspondence was before the Board.

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Dr. Soudek, that the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board accept and file the correspondence from the Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**7.1 Case 18781: Application for Development Agreement – Mixed Use Subdivision – Sub-Areas 7 & 8, Bedford West**

A memo from staff dated October 9, 2013 from Mr. Andrew Bone, Senior Planner, was before the Board.

Mr. Lund requested a streamlined version of the data collected for the Birch Cove study, which is currently posted on the HRM website. Mr. Lund and Mr. Regan indicated that this information would be beneficial to Board members as they review this case.

This item was deferred to the February 12, 2014 meeting at the request of the applicant.

**7.2 Regional Watershed Advisory Board – Terms of Reference**

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

**8. ADDED ITEMS**

**8.1 Model Community Plan Environment Section**

A staff report dated October 4, 2013 with attached Genivar “Boilerplate Environmental Section for Community Plans” report were circulated to the Board.

The Board held a brief discussion on this item and Mr. MacLellan provided the Board with an overview of the report from Genivar. The Board will be asked for input and comments to inform a Model Community Plan Environmental Section. Due to time constraints it was recommended that this item be deferred.

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Clement that this item be deferred to the February 12, 2014 meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 12, 2014**

The next Regional Watersheds Advisory Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

It was noted that the agenda for the next meeting would likely contain a number of items. Several members indicated that a three hour meeting may be necessary.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Jane Crosby  
Legislative Support