

REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2013

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

REGRETS: Peter Lund  
David Lombardi

STAFF Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Energy and Environment  
Ms. Jane Crosby, Legislative Support

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm at the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

Mr. Rick Hattin, Vice-Chair, introduced himself to the Board and provided the members with some background information on his experience.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: August 14, 2013**

Mr. MacLean noted that he was not present at August 14th meeting and he should be listed under "Regrets" rather than "Present"

**MOVED by Mr. Soudek, seconded by Mr. Regan that the minutes of August 14, 2013 be approved as amended.**

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

Mr. Regan suggested the Board discuss the Municipality's option to bring leachate to the Sackville landfill for processing. He also suggested adding an item to discuss the possibility of the reinstatement of the Halifax Water Quality Testing program.

**MOVED by Mr. Soudek, seconded by Mr. Hayman that the agenda, as amended, be approved.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**6. ADDED ITEMS**

**6.1 Leachate at the Sackville Landfill**

Mr. Regan initiated a discussion on the possibility of leachate being stored/processed at the Sackville Landfill. He inquired as to whether this item would be within the mandate of the Board. The Board entered into brief discussion on this item. Mr. MacLellan provided a brief update on this item to the Board. He noted that there is a public consultation underway. The Chair indicated that this item may not be something that RWAB can comment on.

## **6.2 Halifax Water Quality Monitoring Program**

Mr. Regan inquired about the reinstatement of the Halifax Water Quality Monitoring Program. Mr. MacLellan clarified that there is a report going to Council from the Bedford Watershed Advisory Board recommending the Water Quality Monitoring program be reinstated. He added that there is also some work underway for the development of a Water Quality Monitoring Protocol for new developments. He noted that this item will likely be a future agenda item for RWAB.

## **7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Russell Lake Water Quality Policy Review Project**

An Information Report dated July 22, 2013 was before the Board as was a Recommendation Report dated March 28, 2013 which included The Revised Policy Review: Russell Lake Water Quality, Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board, and December 2012 as an attachment.

As a former member of Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board (DLAB), Mr. Clement provided fellow RWAB members with an overview of the policy review project. He indicated that there was a study done with regards to water quality in Russell Lake and provided information on the report's findings.

He indicated that, last year, staff had suggested that DLAB conduct a policy review and provide advice and recommendations on measures that could be taken to try and reduce the effects of development on Russell Lake.

Mr. MacLellan and Mr. Clement provided Board members with further background on the process that took place with regards to the policy review. Mr. MacLellan noted that the project brought forth some key recommendations for staff. He added that DLAB reviewed the objectives of the 1994 Russell Lake Management Plan.

Mr. MacLellan also indicated that this report is a good example of a project that is having policy impacts. He noted that this is the type of work that will likely come forward in the future for the Board. He suggested that members review the recommendations in the report.

The Board entered into discussion and Mr. MacLellan, with the assistance of Mr. Clement and Mr. MacLean, responded to questions. Mr. Mills inquired about the layout of Russell Lake as the report references various inlets. Mr. Clement responded and also indicated that Russell Lake is a very shallow lake. Mr. Mills also noted the historic uses of the area as being agricultural. He inquired as to whether the phosphorous levels of the lake are related to past activities or because of development. Mr. MacLean noted that it is difficult to know the origin of the problem.

The Board continued their discussion on the history of the lake and noted that, historically, Russell Lake has had trouble. Residents of the area are now expecting otherwise. Mr. Clement initiated a discussion on improving the quality of Russell Lake. Mr. MacLean noted the ecology of the lake as having naturally occurring levels of phosphorous that are slightly higher. He expressed concern about creating an expectation that may not be achievable for that particular Lake.

Mr. MacLellan noted that this policy review provided Council with confidence that the expectation to turn Russell Lake into a “swimming pool” was unreasonable. He then initiated a discussion on the remainder of the recommendations and responded to questions. It was noted that many of these recommendations would have a regional impact.

Mr. Clement inquired about a follow-up from Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council. Because RWAB is undertaking policy work, Mr. MacLellan advised that RWAB can make a motion to request that information. After a brief discussion on the Board’s Terms of Reference the following motion was put:

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Dr. Thomas that the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board recommends that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request that Harbour East and Marine Drive Community Council direct staff to provide a semi-annual update on the responses to the recommendations made in the June 6<sup>th</sup> 2013, Russell Lake Water Quality Policy Review Project.  
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 9, 2013**

The next meeting of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board will be held on October 9, 2013 at the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41pm.

Jane Crosby  
Legislative Support