

# Proposed Regional Governance Model:

## Dartmouth Area Watersheds Network

### **Purpose:**

- To protect Dartmouth's water (defined by map and Dartmouth Area Watersheds Management Plan).
- Model for other Regional "Forums" for the Province

### **Role:**

- Registry of all projects, activities, etc., requiring government approval that could affect water quality and quantity
- A complete referral system versus current fragmented – partial systems for all levels of government and public
- Include conditions on permits in registry
- Inventory / mapping of water course location, quality, quantity, VECs, community vision
- Develop community green plans
- Inventory of areas that need to be restored
- Screen proposals – guidelines versus non- that need approvals
- Provide recommendations to all levels of government
- Monitor works for impact
  - Advice to contractors
  - Call to regulators
- Promote individual BMP in daily activities
- Act as environmental inspector on sites
- Advise Fed/Prov/Mun/Ab. on suitable BMP for a project – science-based advice as per Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board (DLAB) to HRM

## **“The Regional Model” Structure:**

- Recognized under Provincial Environment Act as a watershed advisory body (per the existing legislation).
- Recognized under Ocean’s Act for similar advisory role in coastal issues
- More with DFO Fisheries Act
- Recognized by HRM Council
- Needs at least 2 staff and storefront location for access
- Board of Directors
- Project review:
  - Committee to provide review and science-based advice;
  - this is where proponents would go if they wish to present their proposal;
  - representatives on this would be from registered NGO; community groups with an interest in the Vision of DAWN – including DLAB; and
  - DAWN would record the recommendations pro and con but not to take a position – individual groups could
- Need to look at what services DAWN can provide and what work they can take on from government in administrative area
- Don’t want to be another layer in the system
- Want to be of benefit to proponents and regulators
- Want to proactively address the gaps in watercourse protection and restoration of the natural ecosystem function
- Gaps
  - Daily activities in the urban areas
  - Soil erosion control plan
  - Poor BMP
  - Lack of environmental education – we need to do for watercourses what has been done for recycling (RRFB model)
  - Community desires set aside for special interests
- Relation to DLAB
  - DLAB would continue to function as they do, providing recommendation to HRM councillors on projects referred to them
  - If they wish to broaden their review to projects not sent to them the DAWNnetwork would welcome the input but it would be public
  - Would have rep on Regional Governance Model review committee