

## **Attachment #1**

### **Background and Minutes of Public Consultations**

#### **Phase 2 Polling District Boundary Review**



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 5**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**October 19, 2010**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** original signed  
Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair, Governance & District Boundary Review  
Committee

**DATE:** October 13, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Phase 2 Public Consultation- Polling District Boundary Review

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

The motion of Regional Council of August 4, 2009 adopting a two phase approach to the District Boundary Review process and establishing the Governance & District Boundary Review Committee of Council.

**BACKGROUND**

The Halifax Regional Municipality is required, under the HRM Charter, to conduct a major review of polling districts every eight (8) years. Following the review Regional Council will submit an application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) to review HRM's application and to confirm or alter the number and boundaries of HRM's polling districts. The NSUARB has directed that the review be conducted in two phases and that public participation be carried out in both phases of the review. HRM's submission to the NSUARB must be made by December 31, 2010.

At the completion of Phase 1 on the Boundary Review to set the governance structure for HRM, Regional Council's decision was to maintain 23 polling districts. The revisions of polling district boundaries have been based on that decision of Council.

## **DISCUSSION**

HRM's polling district boundaries have undergone a number of revisions since amalgamation. Due to growth in HRM and where growth has occurred, a number of polling district boundary adjustments are required in order to comply with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board direction that voter equity be maintained across polling districts.

The Governance & District Boundary Review Committee has examined a number of options for adjustment to HRM's polling district boundaries to comply with the requirements as outlined by the Board.

It is the intention of the HRM's Governance & District Boundary Review Committee to propose changes that:

- Comply with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board's (NSURB) requirements to ensure voter equity between polling districts
- And, reduce, where possible, the changes for HRM's voters

The Committee has directed staff to prepare the proposed boundary revisions and to hold a series of public meetings in early November to inform the public of the proposed changes and consult the public on their views. The presentations will provide an overview of the changes, the legislative requirements in setting polling boundaries, and seek the public's views on the proposed changes. The ad and schedule for the public meetings is attached to this report. Advertisements for these public meetings will begin to appear in community and regional publications and other media outlets shortly. Information on the proposed boundary changes will be available on the HRM web site commencing Monday October 25<sup>th</sup>. The public will be provided with additional ways to provide written submissions.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Expenditures related to the Public Consultation are within the Operating Budget of the Municipal Clerks Office – Account A- 121.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

This report outlines the public engagement strategy for Phase 2 of HRM's District Boundary Review process.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1) Overview of HRM's Governance and Boundary Review Process
- 2) Ad and Schedule of Public Meetings- Phase 2 Polling District Boundary Adjustments

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Cathy J. Mellett, Municipal Clerk, 490-6456

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# Your Council. Your Say.

## HRM's District Boundary Review

### Polling District Review

The Halifax Regional Municipality is required to review polling districts and district boundaries in HRM prior to the 2012 Municipal Elections. Based on growth in HRM and where growth is occurring, and in order to comply with the legislated requirement to maintain voter parity, some changes to polling district boundaries will be required.

Public Consultation on polling district boundary changes will allow the public to review the proposed changes and make comment prior to HRM's final submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board by December 31, 2010. Details of the proposed boundaries will be presented at the public meetings (listed below) or can be viewed on line **commencing Monday, October 25, 2010** by visiting HRM's web site at [www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview](http://www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview).

### When & Where?

Date	Location
Wednesday, November 3, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Cole Harbour Place, Westphal Room 51 Forest Hills Parkway, Dartmouth
Wednesday, November 3, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Halifax West School Cafeteria 283 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax
Thursday, November 4, 2010 7:00 p.m.	St. Andrews Centre, Seniors Room 6955 Bayers Road, Halifax
Monday, November 8, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Basinview Drive Community School 273 Basinview Drive, Bedford
Monday, November 8, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Dartmouth High School, Cafeteria 95 Victoria Road, Dartmouth
Wednesday, November 10, 2010 7:30 p.m. <i>(Please note time)</i>	St. Margaret's Centre, Multi-Purpose Room 12 Westwood Blvd, Upper Tantallon
Wednesday, November 10, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Gordon Snow Community Centre, Multi-Purpose Room 1359 Fall River Road, Fall River

### Unable to Attend a Meeting?

If you are unable to attend any of the scheduled meetings you can still view the proposed boundaries on line at [www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview](http://www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview) (**commencing Monday October 25, 2010**) and provide your comments by:



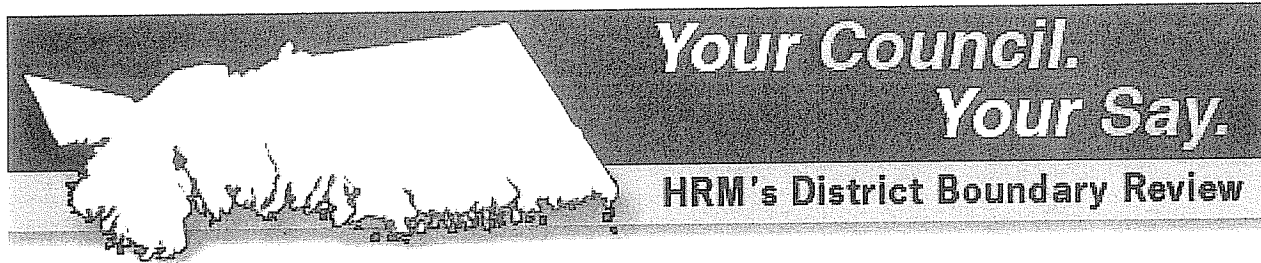
**Email:**  
clerks@halifax.ca



**Fax:**  
490-4208



or  
**Writing to:**  
Municipal Clerk, City Hall,  
PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS  
B3J 3A5



## HRM's Governance & District Boundary Review Process

### Phase 1: Governance

- Questions like the size of electoral districts, role of councillor, powers and size of Community Council and Regional Council, and how Council can work best to serve the citizens of HRM.

Public Input - Spring 2010

- Completed August 2010 - Council decided to maintain the status quo of 23 Districts in HRM

### Phase 2: Boundary Review and Adjustments

- Electoral district boundaries are readjusted or redrawn
- November 2010 - Public meetings on district boundaries.

Revisions if required

- Late Fall 2010 - Council recommends adoption of new boundaries.
- December 2010 - HRM's submission is made to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.



**Additional comments** you wish to provide ...

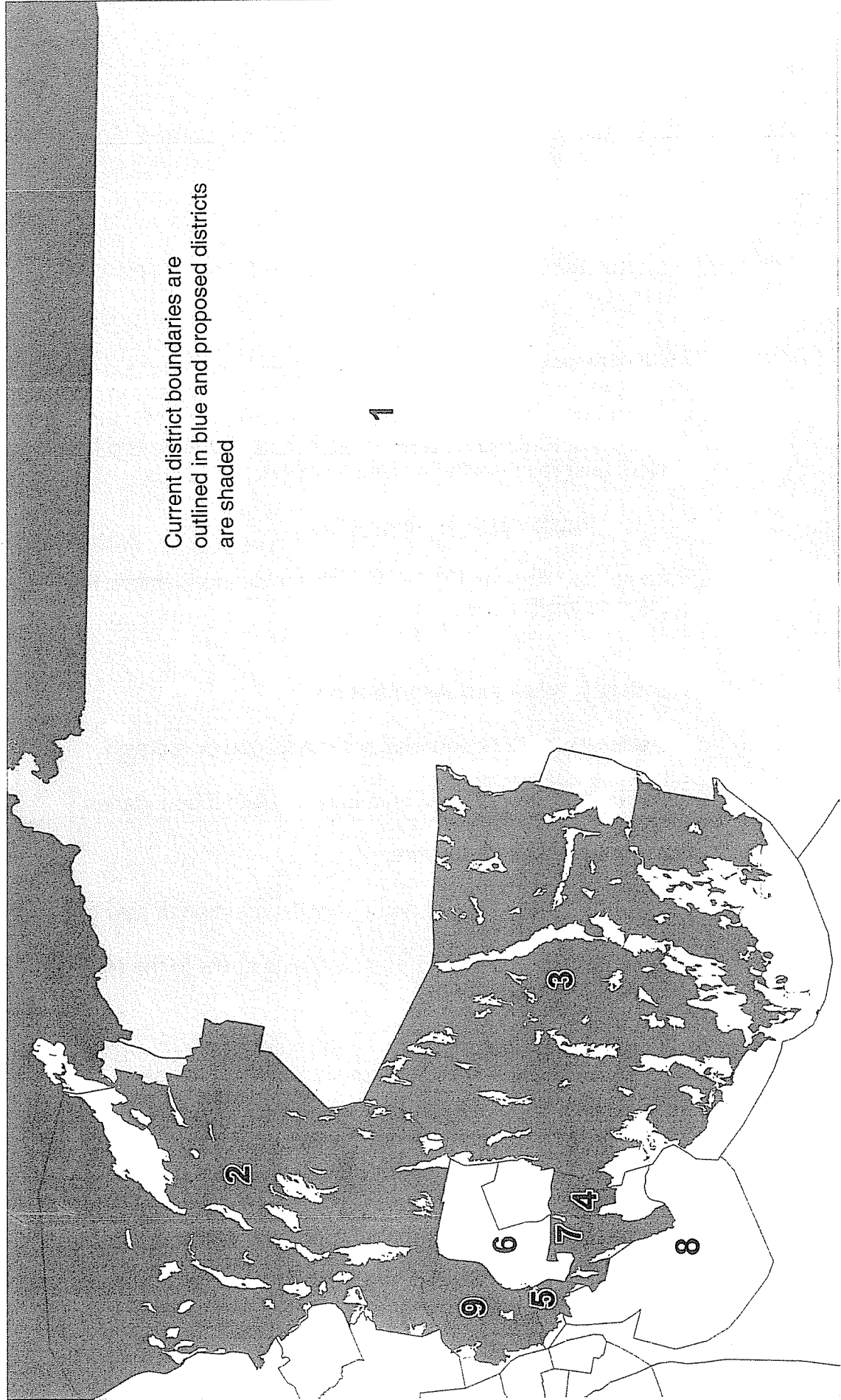
Please visit us at [www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview](http://www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview) to view the presentation and then contact us by:

**Email:** [clerks@halifax.ca](mailto:clerks@halifax.ca)

**Fax:** 490-4208

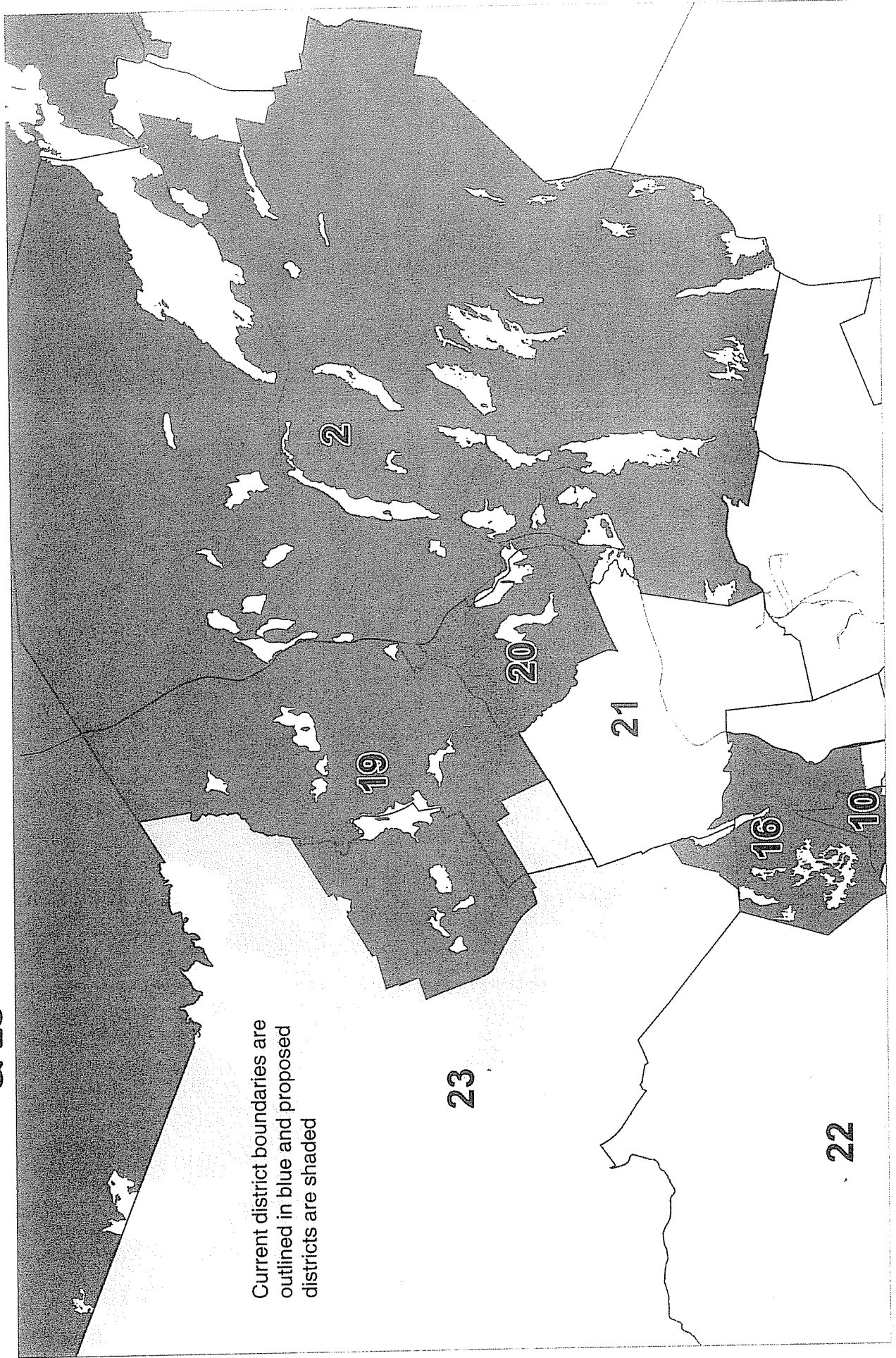
**Writing to:** Municipal Clerk  
City Hall  
PO Box 1749  
Halifax NS B3J 3A5

# Proposed Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9



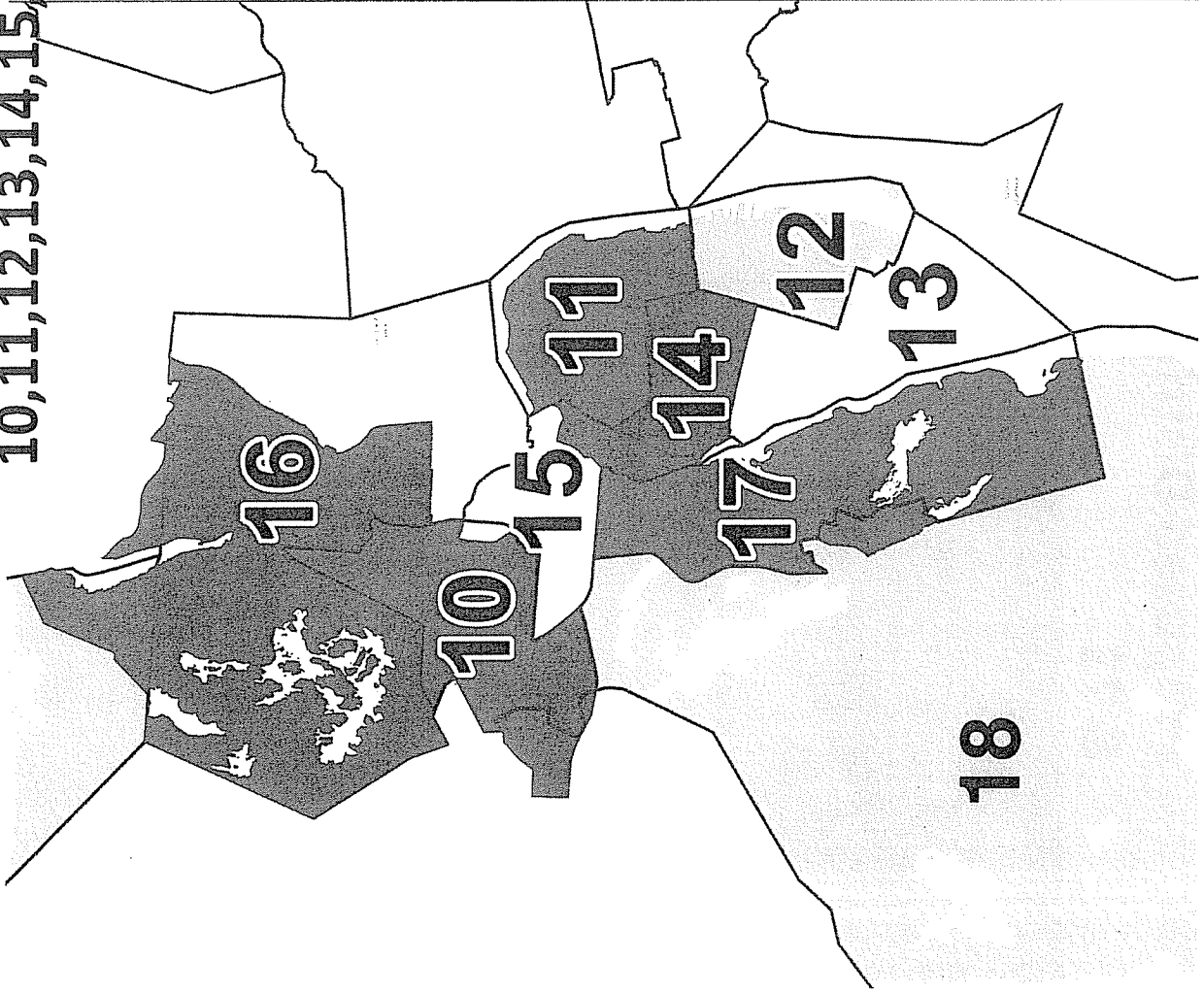
# Proposed Districts 16, 19, 20, 21, 22 & 23

Current district boundaries are  
outlined in blue and proposed  
districts are shaded



## Proposed Districts

10,11,12,13,14,15,17 & 18

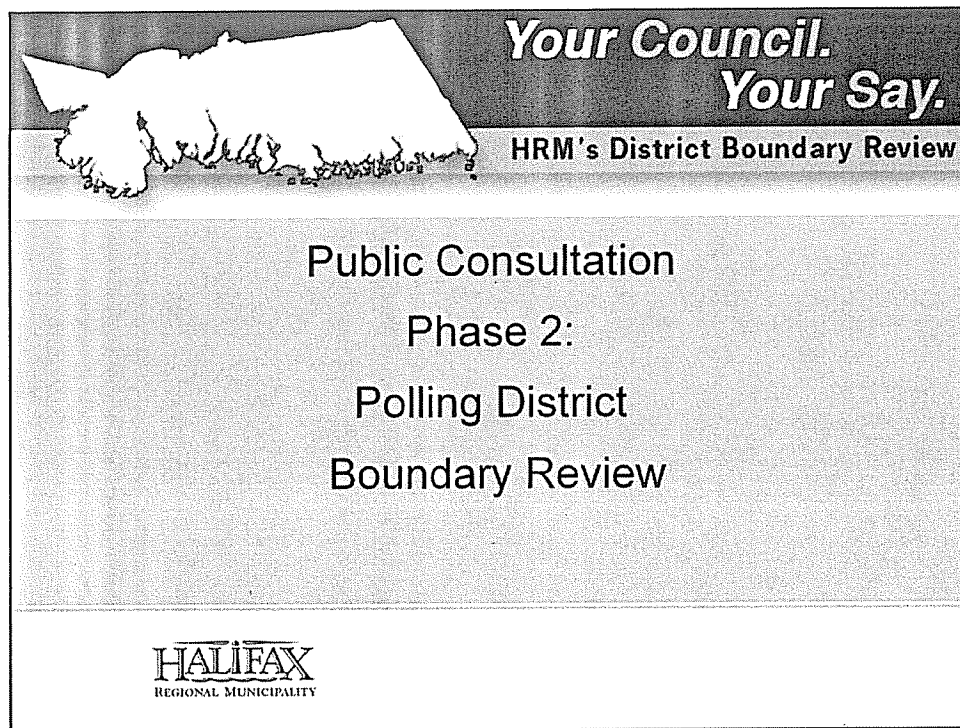


Current district boundaries are outlined in blue  
and proposed districts are shaded

# 2012 Projected Voters per proposed District

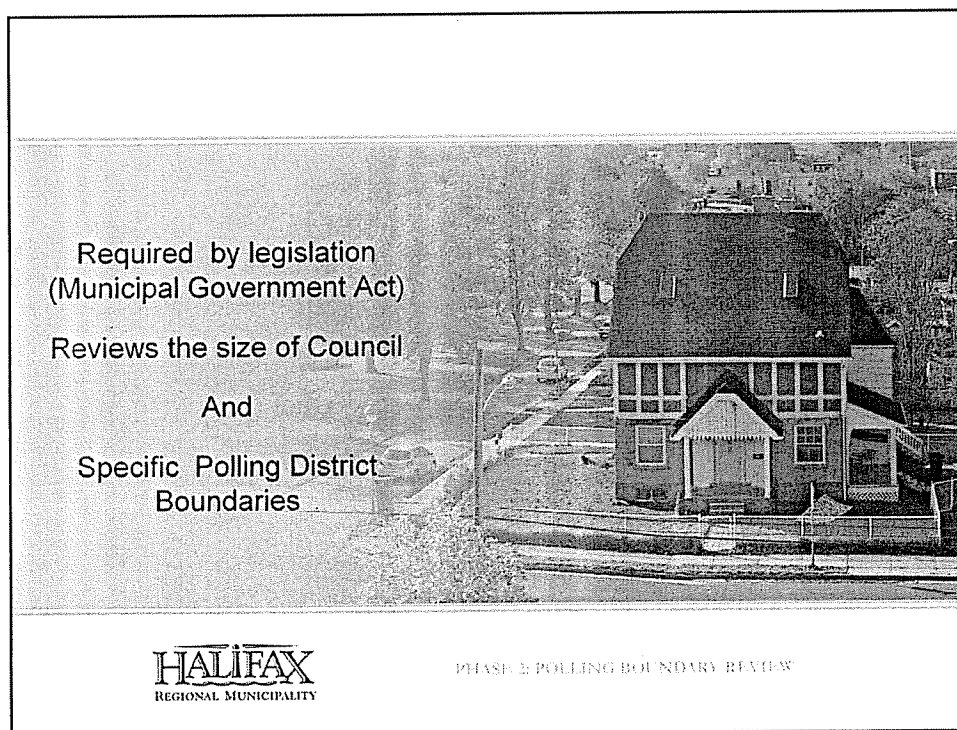
<b>Total Projected 2012 Voters*</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Voters 2012</b>	<b>Percentage Deviation</b>	
<b>Average Voters / District</b> 14,244	1	12,791	-10.2	
	2	15,978	12.2	
	3	15,285	7.3	
	4	15,763	10.7	
	5	13,861	-2.7	
	6	14,822	4.1	
	7	15,035	5.6	
	8	13,661	-4.1	
	9	13,513	-5.1	
	10	14,985	5.2	
	11	13,472	-5.4	
	12	12,836	-9.9	
	13	13,232	-7.1	
	14	13,716	-3.7	
	15	14,417	1.2	
	16	12,995	-8.8	
	17	13,237	-7.1	
	18	13,059	-8.3	
	19	15,619	9.7	
	20	15,491	8.8	
	21	14,349	0.7	
	22	15,136	6.3	
	23	14,361	0.8	
<b>Total Projected 2012 Voters*</b>		327,613		
<b>Average Voters / District</b>		14,244		
<b>10% Lower</b>		12820		
<b>10% Higher</b>		15668		

\* from Environics  
Analytics report



Welcome to Phase 2 of the Public Consultation on HRM's Polling District Review.





Every eight (8) years HRM, and every other municipality in Nova Scotia, is required by Provincial legislation to undertake a review of voter distribution and polling district boundaries. HRM is required to carry out a major review of the number of districts during this year (2010).

At the end of the review process HRM must make a submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) who have the final decision on both the number of districts and location of specific polling district boundaries.



## Phase 1: Governance

The number of districts

Role of district councillors

Power and size of community councils

How Council can best represent the citizens of HRM



PHASE 1: POLLING BOUNDARY REVIEW

Phase 1 of the review was all about Governance - including the size and number of districts, role of Councillors, and the powers of community councils. This phase was carried out earlier this year.

## Phase 1 – Is Complete:

"Regional Council's decision of August 3, 2010 to retain the status quo of  
23 districts in HRM"



PHASE 1: POLLING BOUNDARY REVIEW

Phase 1 was completed on August 3, 2010 when Halifax Regional Council passed a motion to "maintain the status quo of 23 districts (and Councillors) plus the Mayor".

## Phase 2 – Review of Polling District Boundaries



PHASE 2: POLLING BOUNDARY REVIEW

Now we are in Phase 2, where specific polling district boundaries - sometimes called electoral boundaries - will be revised or redrawn .

## Phase 2 – Public Consultation

Take proposed boundary changes out  
to the public for comment

Revise if necessary

Council makes their decision

Submitted  
to the Nova Scotia Utility and  
Review Board (NSUARB)



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Public Consultation is an important part of the District Boundary Review process. The revisions being proposed to the boundaries are being taken out for public comment and input.

After hearing from the public revisions will be made if required and possible. Then Council will make a final recommendation to change or accept the revised boundaries.

That decision of Council will form the basis for HRM's submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, who have final authority under the Act to determine the size of council and district boundaries.

## Phase 2 – Legislated Direction on Setting Boundaries

Each elector wants to feel that their vote counts

Ensuring that voting districts have about the same number of voters

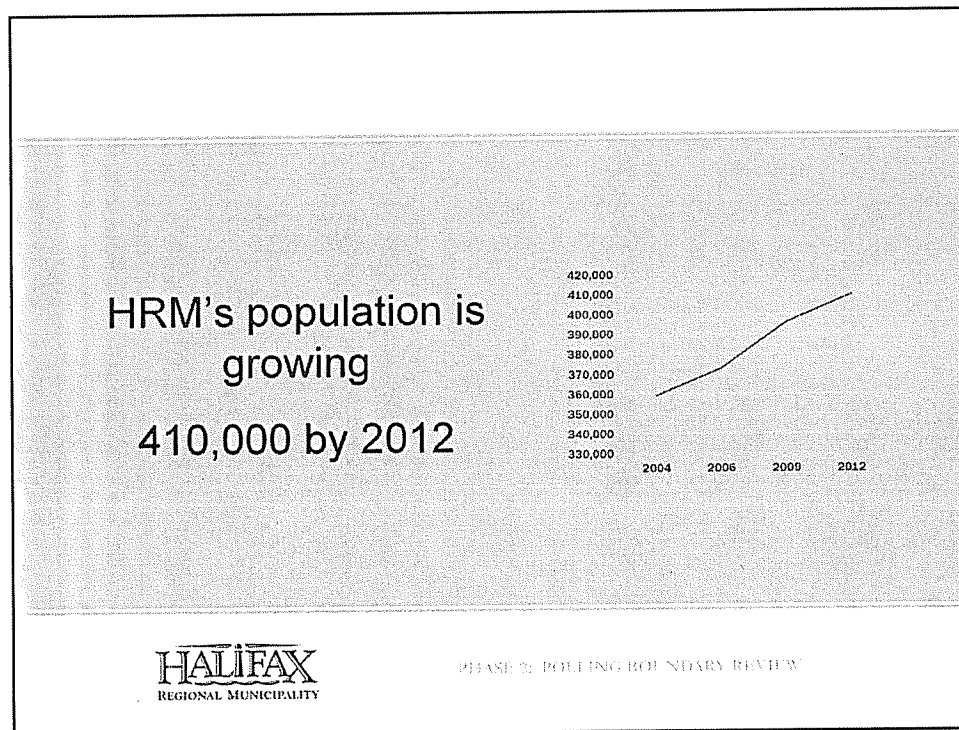
NSUARB requires +/- 10% of the average voters in each district



PHASE 2: POLLING BOUNDARY REVIEW

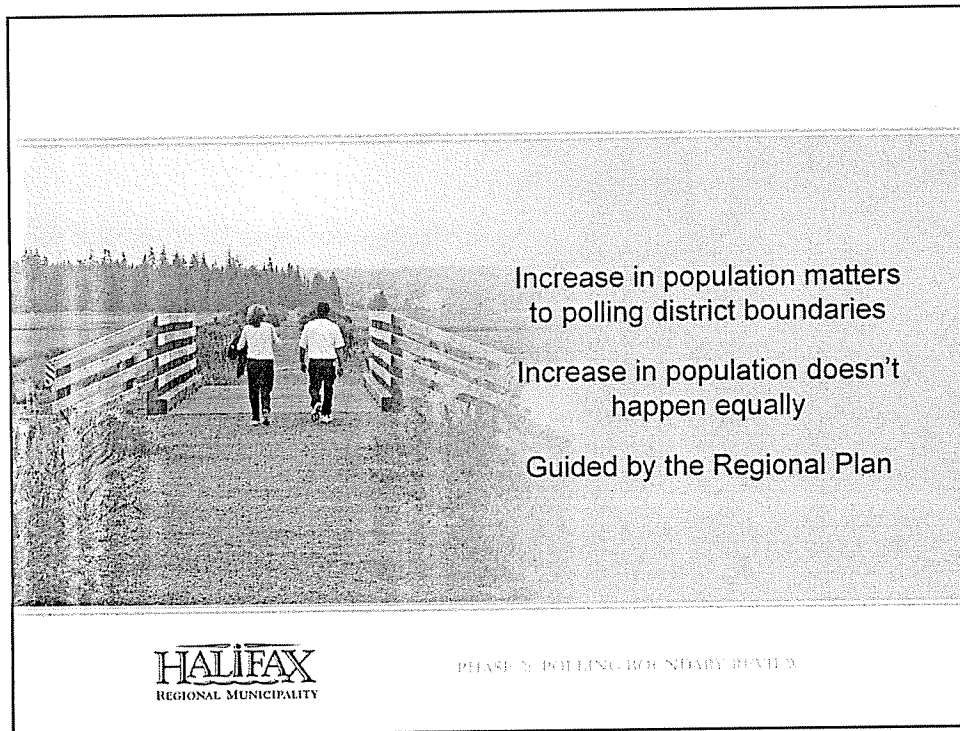
The Municipal Government Act (MGA) provides a number of factors that have to be considered when setting polling district boundaries. One of those factors is voter equity, so voters can feel that their vote counts as much as anyone's.

The NSUARB requires HRM to propose districts that are within plus or minus 10% of the average voters per district or make a very good case as to why that is not possible.



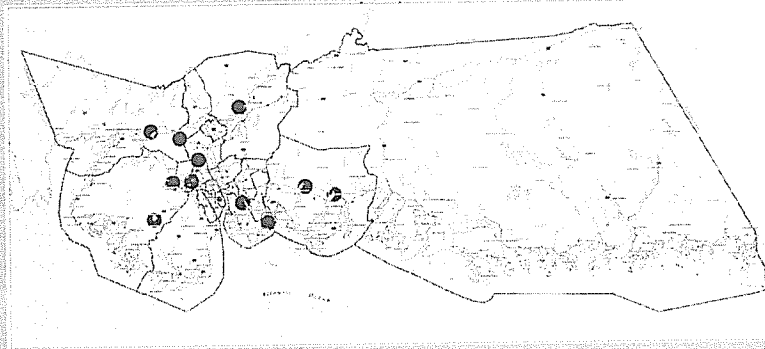
Another factor that affects district size is population, and HRM's population is growing.

In 2006 our population was about 373,000. By 2010 HRM had surpassed 400,000 people, and by the next municipal election our population is projected to be over 410,000. That means that by 2012 the average number of voters per district will reach 14,244, up from an average of 12,406 voters per district in 2006.



Where that population growth occurs also matters. Growth doesn't occur equally across HRM. Growth in HRM is guided by the Regional Plan.

## Growth Areas in HRM



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PHASE 2: POLLING BOUNDARY REVIEW

Some of the fastest growing area of HRM are in District 2 – Fall River, District 23 Tantallon & area, District 7 the Morris Russell Lake area, District 22 the Beechville Timberlea area, and of course in Districts 16 & 21, Wentworth, Bedford West, Bedford South. Other areas of HRM are also growing but just not at the same pace as the high growth areas outlined in the Regional Plan.



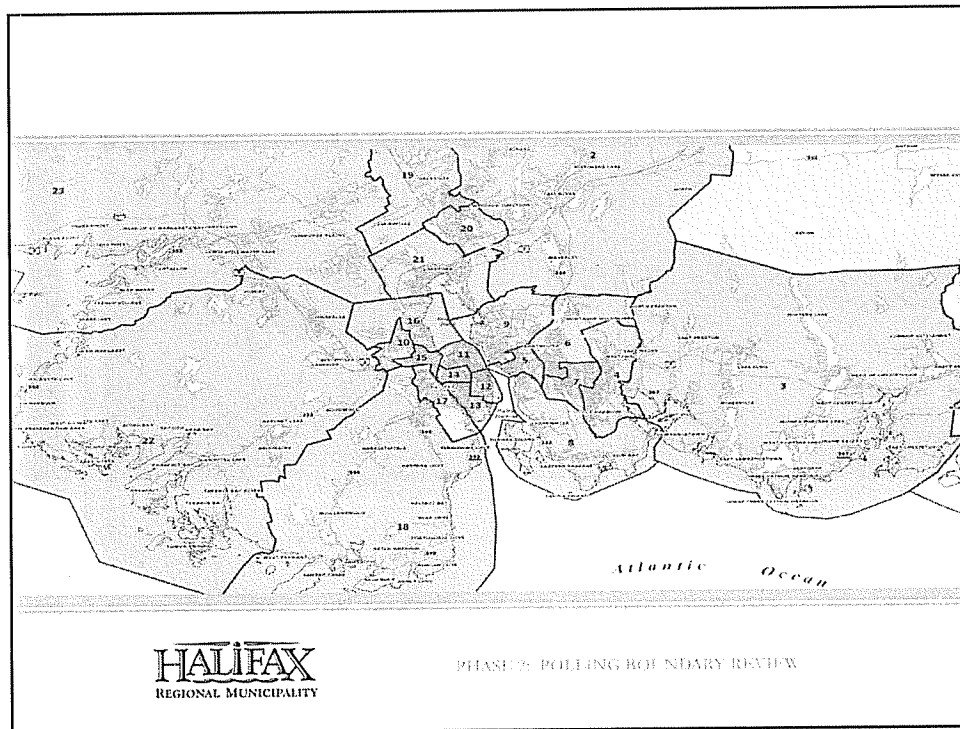
Based on growth & population projections 11 of 23 current districts will be either over or under the required voter average by 2012.

Some changes to polling district boundaries are required



PHASE 1: POLLING DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW

Based on the growth in HRM and where growth is occurring, if current polling district boundaries were maintained then by the next election in 2012 eleven (11) of the twenty-three (23) would be outside what the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) requires to maintain voter equity.



This map shows those districts, based on the current polling district boundaries, that would be either over or under the allowed voter average allowed for based on population projections for the next municipal election in 2012.

Districts 1, 11, 14 & 17 (in beige) would be below the +/- 10% of the average number of voters per district.

Districts 2, 3, 4, 7, 16, 22 and 23 (in pink) would all be above the +/- 10% of the average number of voters per district.

Changes in polling district boundaries are required based on the legislation and direction given to HRM by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

When making changes:

- Take growth into account
- Ensure parity between districts
- Minimize the change to voters
- Keep communities within the same electoral districts
- Use identifiable boundaries
- Meet the NSUARB requirement of voter equity (+/- 10% of average)



PHASE 1 POLLING BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Governance & Boundary Review Committee of Regional Council adopted a number of principles to guide any revisions being proposed to polling district boundaries for the Municipal Election in 2012.

Those principles are:

- Take growth into account
- Parity between districts
- Keep communities and areas of interest with the same electoral district (where possible)
- Use identifiable boundaries

Of course,

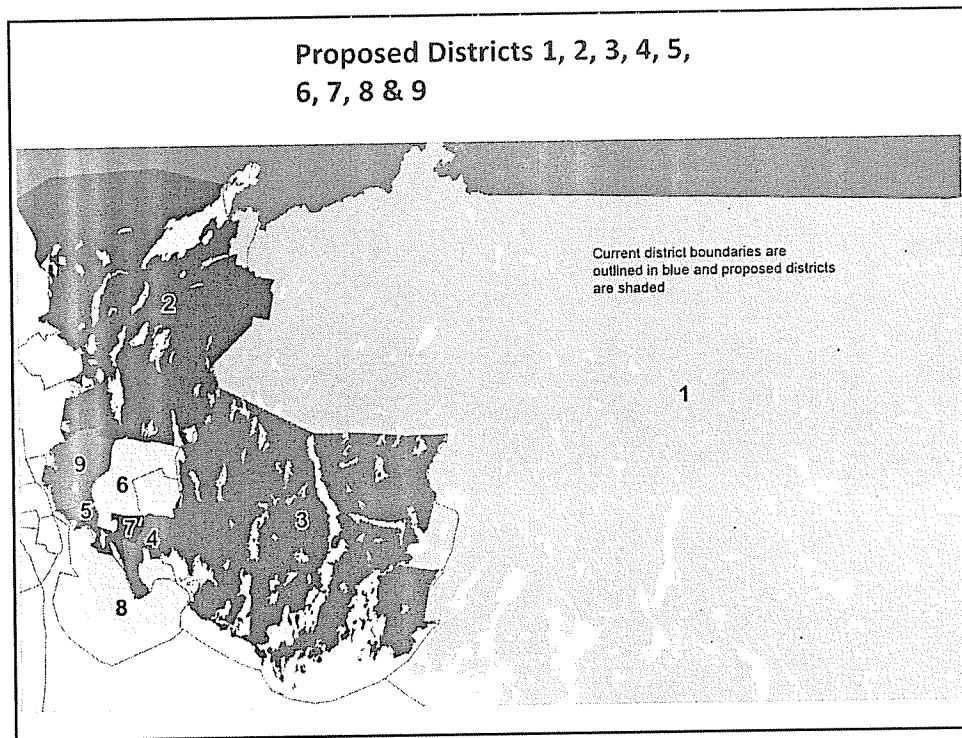
- Meet the NSUARB requirement to be within +/- 10% of district average voters

## Overview of the proposed polling district boundary changes



PLANS & POLLING BOUNDARY REVIEW

The following slides provide an overview of the proposed polling district boundary changes.



A small number of changes are proposed in Districts 1 through 9 in the Eastern section of HRM.

District 1 remains substantially the same except for the addition of Gaetz Brook and Enfield.

District 2 remains the same except for the area around Enfield.

District 3 remains the same except for the area around Gaetz Brook.

District 4 was one of the largest of the districts by voter population so a new district boundary has been struck running along Main Street and Highway 7.

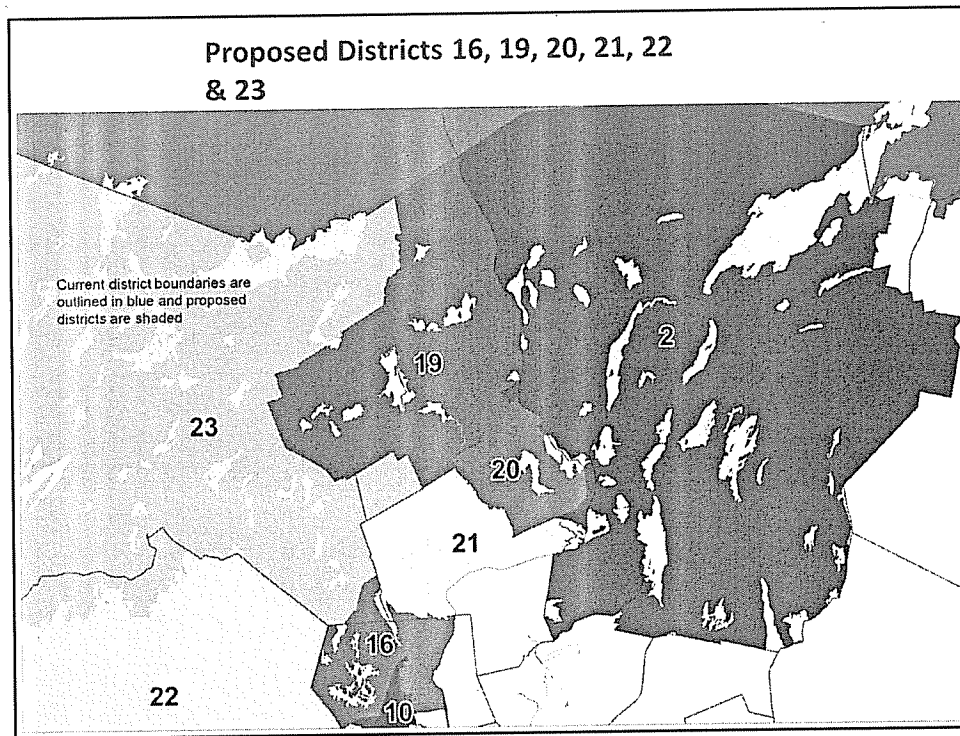
District 5 moves further along Pleasant Street to Prince Arthur Avenue and takes in the new development on Lakeshore Park Terrace.

District 6 adds the communities of Cherry Brook and Lake Loon.

The boundary between District 7 and District 4 is adjusted slightly to allow for further growth in the Russell Lake area.

District 8 moves further along Bissett Road and Gaston Road.

District 9 adds some residential areas off of Woodland Avenue and Horizon Court.



The Central regions of HRM have experienced some of the largest growth and, based on the Regional plan, is expected to continue to grow. That growth has to be taken into account with boundary changes.

District 16 is the polling district likely to experience the most growth and boundaries have been adjusted to take that growth into account.

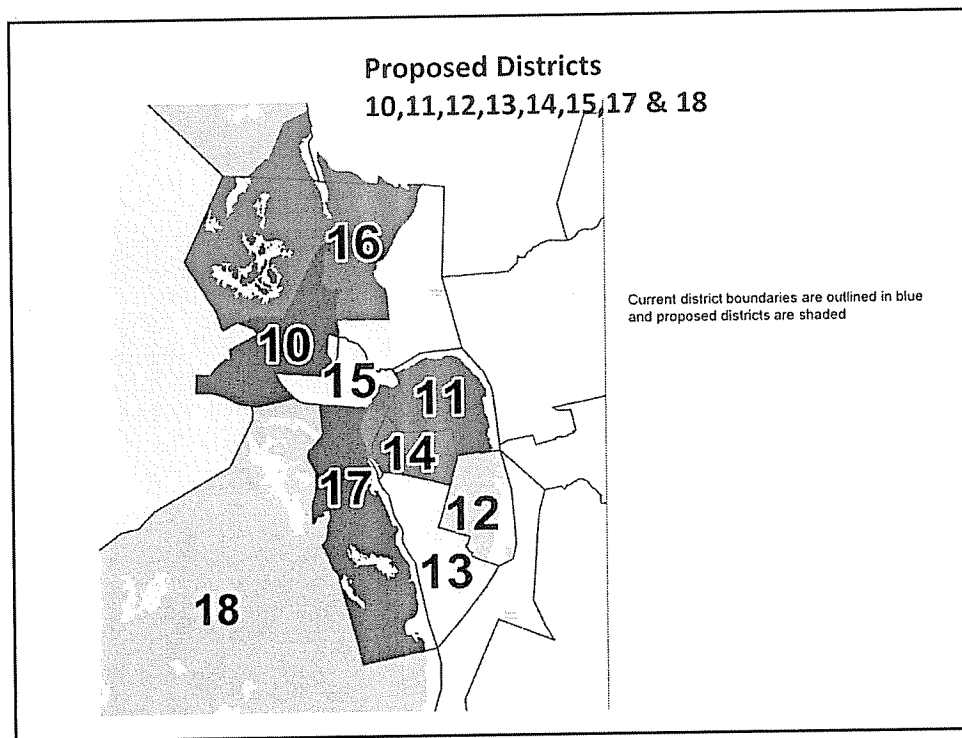
District 19 remains much the same but adds the communities of White Hills and Glen Arbour.

District 20 has been adjusted to include a portion of Lower Sackville running along the Beaver Bank Road.

District 21 remains substantially unchanged except for an adjustments to the boundary with District 16 so that parcels under development are not divided by the polling district boundary.

District 22 is slightly reduced in the areas of Five Island Lake area and Beechville Estates.

District 23 remains much the same except for the portion of White Hills and Glen Arbour that moved into District 19. The new boundary for District 23 keeps Kingswood together and adds voters around Five Island Lake.



There are a number of changes proposed to polling district boundaries in the Western region of HRM to ensure they comply with the requirement to achieve voter equity.

District 10 now includes Beechville Estates.

District 11 required additional voters and the proposed boundary follows the Halifax Plan area along Dutch Village Road.

District 12 remains substantially unchanged.

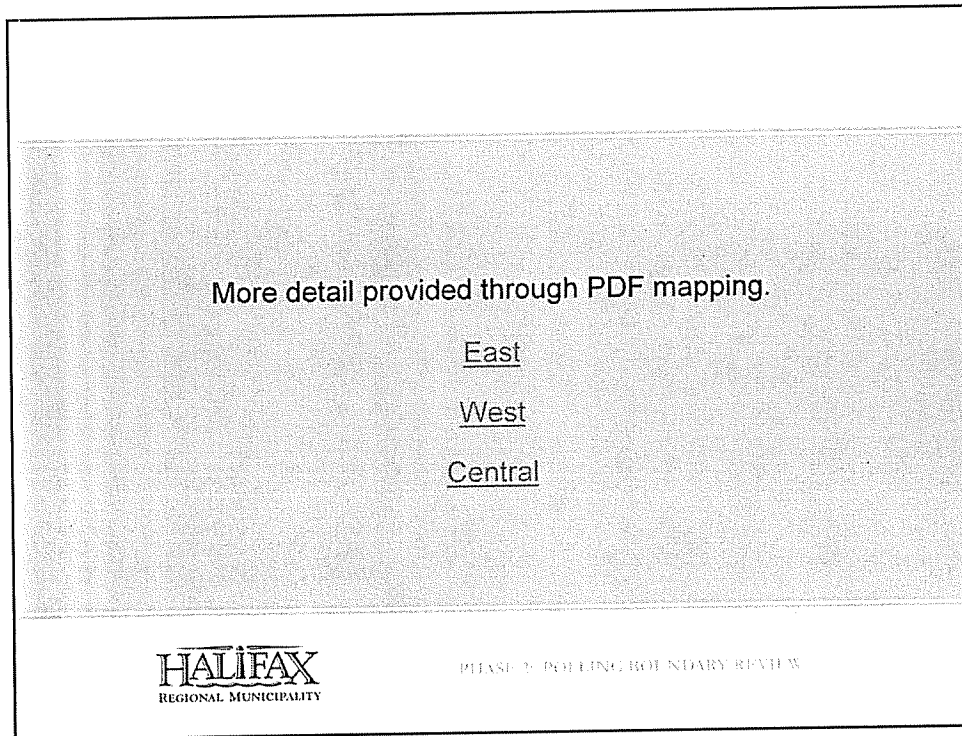
District 13 remains substantially unchanged.

District 14 also required additional voters and the proposed boundary has moved to Joseph Howe Drive.

District 15 has moved further down the Bedford Highway to take in the area around Mount St. Vincent University and some of the new growth area at the top of Willett Street.

District 17 required additional voters and has moved further along the lower side of Herring Cove Road past Williams Lake Road.

District 18 remains substantially unchanged except for the area moved to District 17.



More details on the proposed boundary changes is provided through the PDF maps to follow this presentation.



## 2012 Projected Voters per proposed District

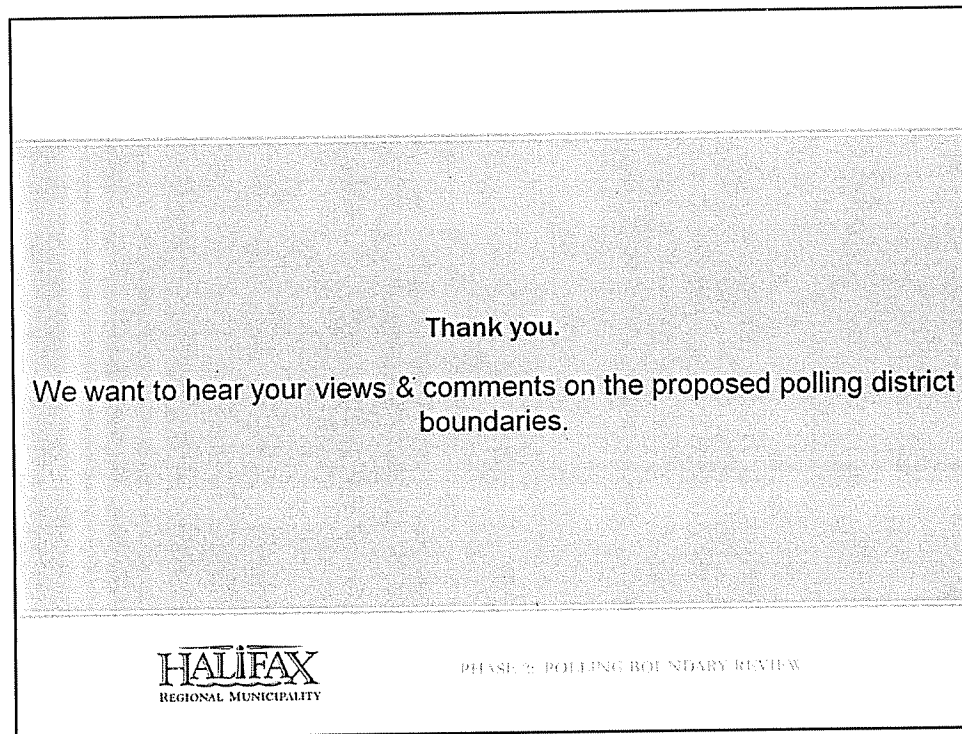
<b>Total Projected 2012 Voters*</b>	<b>327 613</b>
<b>Average Voters / District</b>	<b>14,244</b>
<b>10% Lower</b>	<b>12820</b>
<b>10% Higher</b>	<b>15668</b>
* from Environics Analytics report	

District	Voters 2012	Percentage Deviation
1	12,791	-10.2
2	15,978	12.2
3	15,285	7.3
4	15,763	10.7
5	13,861	-2.7
6	14,822	4.1
7	15,035	5.6
8	13,661	-4.1
9	13,513	-5.1
10	14,985	5.2
11	13,472	-5.4
12	12,836	-9.9
13	13,232	-7.1
14	13,716	-3.7
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21	14,349	0.7
22	15,136	6.3
23	14,361	0.8

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PHASE 2: POLLING BOUNDARY REVIEW

Based on the proposed boundary changes most of the districts (as proposed) fall within the required +/- 10% of the average voters per district or can be defended in terms of keeping communities of interest within one voting district.



Thank you for your time and attention. We would like to hear your views and comments on the polling district boundary changes being proposed.

**DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**November 3, 2010**

PRESENT: Mr. Roger Wells, Regional and Community Planning  
Ms. Kelly Denty, Planning Applications  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Shanan Pictou, Urban Design Technician

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Roger Wells called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Cafeteria of Halifax West School, 283 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive public feedback on polling district boundary changes prior to HRM's final submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSURB) by December 31, 2010.

Prior to beginning his presentation, Mr. Wells introduced staff members in attendance and noted that the following Councillors were present: Councillor Russell Walker, District 15; Councillor Mary Wile, District 10; Councillor Debbie Hum, District 16; and Councillor Reg Rankin, District 22.

## **2. PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Wells began his presentation by providing an overview of the boundary review process. He explained that every eight years, provincial legislation requires municipalities to undertake a review of voter distribution and polling district boundaries and, following this, the Municipality submits a recommendation to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board who will make a final decision.

He advised that Council has followed a two-phase process, with the first focused on the size of Council and the governance structures, and the second phase is to define the boundaries of the polling districts for the 2012 election. Mr. Wells noted that this process is being led by a Governance and Boundary Review Committee of Council, chaired by the Mayor and made up of a representative from each of the Community Councils.

Mr. Wells advised that Phase 1 of the process was completed on August 3, 2010 when Regional Council passed a motion to maintain the status quo of 23 districts and the Mayor's seat. The next phase, Phase 2, will consider the polling district boundaries and determine whether they need to be revised or redrawn. He pointed out that public consultation is an important component in the process and following a series of public meetings, the input from the public will go back to the Committee. The Committee will consider the feedback and revisions, if required and possible, will be made and a report will be presented to Regional Council. Mr. Wells noted that Regional Council has to make its submission to the NSURB prior to December 31, 2010.

Additional points noted in his presentation are as follows:

- HRM is required to propose districts that are within plus or minus 10 percent of the average voters per district, or make a very good case as to why that is not possible.
- HRM's population is growing – in 2010 it is expected to be over 410,000; therefore, the average number of voters will be up to an average 14,244 per district from a current average of 12,406.

- Growth in HRM is guided by the Regional Plan – the fastest growing areas are in Fall River, Tantallon, Morris Russell Lake area, Beechville Timberlea area and Wentworth, and Bedford West and Bedford South.
- If current polling district boundaries were maintained, then in 2012 11 of the 23 districts would be outside what the NSURB requires to maintain voter equity.
- The Governance and Boundary Review Committee adopted principles in regard to any revisions of polling districts as follows:
  - Take growth into account
  - Parity between districts
  - Keep changes to minimum
  - Keep communities and areas of interest with the same electoral district (where possible)
  - Use identifiable boundaries (e.g. highways, lakes, waterways)
  - Keep within the plus or minus 10% of district average voters

Noting that there were only several members of the public in attendance, Mr. Wells questioned if they wished to hear the proposed changes for all of the Municipality's districts or if they preferred the presentation to be focused on their own districts. The consensus among those in attendance was to limit the presentation to the specific districts of those present. Mr. Wells provided an overview of the proposed district polling boundary changes as follows:

- District 13 – a minor change to the boundary will take a small area within Green Street and place it in District 12.
- District 11 – the boundary will be moved out to the centre line along Dutch Village Road.
- District 14 – the boundary will move out to Joe Howe Drive and will include an area between the rail cut and Joe Howe Drive.

Mr. Wells noted that, in addition to providing voter equity, the changes will enable these district boundaries to coincide with the Municipal Planning Strategy planning boundaries and more truly reflect the actual boundary of Peninsula Halifax.

- District 15 – the boundary will be expanded at Bayview Road to include lands of Mount Saint Vincent University, and a slight bit to the west to include lands on Willett Street, west of Dunbrack Street.
- District 10 – a small area on Willett Street will be put into District 15; a portion of Parkland Drive, down to Kearney Lake Road will be moved into District 16 so all of Parkland Drive will be in District 16. District 10 will take in the Lovett Lake area and the Beechville Estates Subdivision.
- District 16 – Mount Saint Vincent University will be moved out of District 16 and put in District 15; the northern boundary line will now follow Larry Uteck Boulevard and its future extension to Kearney Lake Road – and include Kearney Lake Estates.
- District 17 – gains an area from District 18 along the Herring Cove Road from Mont Street to Williams Lake Road and then follows the McIntosh Run. It is currently in District 18.

Ms. Heather Whitehead, a resident of District 18, addressed the meeting and advised that the proposed change would put her in District 17. She expressed concern that the boundary lines in her area were not clear and it was distorting the integrity of the neighbourhood. She suggested that the boundary be moved from Mont Street back to Towerview Subdivision, which is closer to the border of Spryfield and Armdale, to the top of Cowie Hill. Ms. Whitehead noted that civic #130 Herring Cove is where the actual boundary of Spryfield lies, and that people are referring to the area, up to Mont Street, as Armdale, when it is actually Spryfield. Ms. Whitehead also suggested that the boundary line be moved to the far shore side of Colpitt Lake

Mr. Wells expressed appreciation for her feedback and advised that he would meet with her after the meeting to get further detail on her comments.

- District 18 – no other changes other than what was noted in District 17.
- District 22 – Beechville Estates Subdivision will move into District 10; and Five Island Lake/Three Brooks Subdivision will move to District 23.
- District 21 – the boundary remains substantially the same except for the changes along Larry Uteck Boulevard resulting from changes in District 16.

Mr. Wells responded to questions from members of the public in regard to the statistical sources of information the Committee has used, and in regard to Phase 1 of the boundary review process.

Councillor Rankin advised that he was a member of the Committee and he elaborated further on the question concerning Phase 1. The Councillor pointed out that the public will also have an opportunity to address the NSURB when they deal with this matter. He also noted that Councillors can address the NSURB on an individual basis as well.

Mr. Wells added that all the information the Committee has gathered will be included in the submission Regional Council makes to the NSURB.

A gentleman addressed the meeting and expressed concern that the proposed boundary changes may result in some people being put into a new tax rate.

Councillor Hum addressed the meeting and advised that she would be attending the NSURB when this matter is dealt with and will be making a submission with regard to her concerns over the process.

With regard to the presentation on the boundary changes, Councillor Hum advised that she was pleased to see the Kearney Lake area was kept together, as this is what the community wanted. She expressed concern about the MSVU lands being taken out of District 16 and being separated from its 'community of interest' of Rockingham. She noted that she would be contacting the University to see if they want to make a submission. Councillor Hum also suggested that the Committee give consideration to the idea of removing a district from Peninsula Halifax, where the numbers are low and there is a low growth forecast, and creating a district in the high growth suburban areas.

Councillor Hum pointed out that the forecasted future growth in the areas of Bedford South, Wentworth Estates, Hemlock Estates, and Bedford West is 40,000 people over the next five to ten years. She explained that this would be too much for any one district to assume and that the next boundary review will happen in eight years. Councillor Hum suggested that the Committee give consideration as to how this issue should be dealt with.

There were no further presentations. Mr. Wells thanked everyone for coming to this evening's meeting, and for their input.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Cathy J. Mellett  
Municipal Clerk



# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 3, 2010

PRESENT: Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk  
Gayle MacLean,  
Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. welcoming those present. She introduced members of staff and acknowledged Councillors Karsten and McCluskey, former Councillor Ron Cooper and Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor.

She went to note that this was a staff lead meeting although the Governance and District Boundary Committee had approved a motion that the proposed boundary changes go to the public for their input. She noted that the meeting would follow the rules of the public hearing/public meeting with each member of the public having five (5) minutes in which to make their presentation.

## **2. BOUNDARY REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENTS**

Ms. Mellett delivered a presentation entitled Public Consultation Phase 2: Polling District Boundary Review. Key highlights included:

- HRM is required by Provincial Legislation to review voter distribution and polling district boundaries every eight (8) years
- HRM is required to undertake a major review of the number of District in 2010
- HRM will make a submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board who have the final decision on both the number of districts and location of polling boundaries
- Phase 1 of the process, carried out earlier this year, was Governance and dealt with the number of districts, the role of district Councillors, and the authority and size of Community Councils
- Phase 2 is about reviewing the boundaries, proposing adjustments and seeking public input on those proposed adjustments
- Public consultation is an important part of the District Boundary Review Process
- HRM is provided direction through legislation (MGA) on setting boundaries
- Voter equity – the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) requires that HRM propose districts that are +/- 10% of the average number of voters per district
- Population – HRM is growing and will have a population of over 410,000 by 2012, which means that the average population per district will be 14,244
- Growth will not happen equally – growth in HRM is guided by the Regional Plan and there are areas of significant growth in Districts 2, 23, 7, 22 and District 15 and 21

Ms. Mellett went on to note that if the current boundaries were maintained, 11 of the 23 Districts would be outside what the UARB requires to maintain voter equity. Districts 1, 11, 14 and 17 would be below the +/- 10% of the average number of voters per district

and Districts 2,3,4,7,16,22 and 23 would be above the +/- 10 of the average number of voters per district.

The Governance and Boundary Review adopted the following principles to guide the revisions to the polling district boundaries which were being proposed:

- Take growth into account
- Parity between districts
- Keep communities and areas of interest with the same electoral district (where possible)
- Use identifiable boundaries
- Meet the NSUARB requirement to be within +/-10% of district average voters

Ms. Mellett then provided a brief overview of the polling district boundary changes for the Western and Central portions of HRM. She provided further detail on boundary changes relating to the Eastern area as this was the area of concern for members of the public attending. Ms. Mellett outlined the following proposed changes:

- District 1 remains substantially the same except for the addition of Gaetz Brook and Enfield
- District 2 remains the same except for the area around Enfield
- District 3 remains the same except for the area around Gaetz Brook
- District 4 was one of the largest districts by voter population so a new district boundary has been struck running along Main Street and Highway 7
- District 5 moves further along Pleasant Street to Prince Arthur Avenue and takes in the new development on Lakeshore Park Terrace
- District 6 adds the communities of Cherry Brook and Lake Loon
- The boundary between District 7 and District 4 is adjusted slight to allow for further growth in the Russell Lake area
- District 8 moves further along Bissett Road and Gaston Road
- District 9 adds some residential areas off of Woodland Avenue and Horizon Court.

Responding to questions, Ms. Mellett and Ms. MacLean utilized mapping technology, to provide further detail to members of the public of exactly where the boundaries would fall.

Ms. Mellett invited members of the public to comment with regard to the proposed boundary changes stressing the importance of public input in the process.

Ms. Holly Woodill, Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association (CHPTA), read from a prepared statement including the following key points:

- The Association has concerns relative to the boundary changes which impact two significant properties in Cole Harbour – the Cole Harbour Heritage Park and the former County Hospital on Bissett Road
- The Cole Harbour Heritage Park although Provincially owned is maintained by the Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association
- The park is primarily used by residents of Cole Harbour for various recreational, nature and historical experiences (i.e. the ongoing archeological dig at the Poors' Farm which is sponsored by CHPTA)
- The Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association is now sponsoring the building of a state of the art Environmental Resource Centre inside the big red barn on Bissett Road and in the Cole Harbour Heritage Park
- Moving this park out of District 4 will have no impact relative to achieving voter parity as there are no residents living within this area
- Based on the historical and community significance of this park to Cole Harbour, CHPTA would recommend that this property remain in the Cole Harbour District
- The former County Home site has a significant connection to the Cole Harbour Community.
- Phase 1 of the Bissett Lake Project, a trail system, has been completed. This trail will connect the communities of Colby Village and Forest Hills with the Cole Harbour Heritage Park and will emerge from the former County Home site
- A public hearing relative to future use of the lands is to be held, but the plans will allow a trail to be an integral part of the development
- A change of Councillors mid-stream will be detrimental to the project
- There have been preliminary discussions regarding the possibility of the Cole Harbour Heritage Park and the County Home lands forming a municipal park
- The proposed changes will result in the loss of heritage and view planes that have been key within Cole Harbour for more than 20 years. The proposed changes will physically remove the harbor from the community
- Residents of the community have also been dealing with a proposal by Nova Scotia Power to a major power line system through Cole Harbour which will impact both these properties.

Concluding her comments, Ms. Woodill noted that the Association very strongly recommends that these properties remain within Cole Harbour. A copy of Ms. Woodill's notes are on file.

Ms. Joan Eagle, Bissett Road, noted that she had lived on Bissett Road for more than 50 years. She commented on the more than 250 years of proud history which Cole Harbour enjoyed noting that Eastern Passage would also have a history. She expressed concern that if Cole Harbour is annexed to another community, it will become an appendage, no longer a part of the community. She went on to express concern about where the children of Cole Harbour would go to school and whether the

Councillor for the area would have the same interest in this area. She noted that if polling stations are moved, it will likely be harder to get people out to vote.

Ms. Mellett recognized Councillors Nicoll and Barkhouse who had joined the meeting.

Ms. Alma Johnston, Humber Park, brCherry Brook, Ms. Johnston referred to the last boundary review when Cherry Brbrook was included with District 3. She indicated that the community had spent thousands of dollars in legal costs to have Cherry Brook remain with Cole Harbour.

Ms. Johnston went on to note that Cherry Brook does not have a sense of community with District 6. She expressed concern that the children of Cherry Brook would no longer go to school in Cole Harbour. She commented that residents of Cherry Brook and Cole Harbour utilized the same recreation facilities. Ms. Johnston requested that the boundaries be adjusted to provide that Cherry Brook and Humber Park remain in District 4.

Ms. Mellett clarified that a change in polling district boundaries would not impact school districts.

Frank Conrad, Bissett Road, addressed the meeting stressed that Bissett Road is Cole Harbour. He went on to note that moving Bissett Road into Eastern Passage just does not make sense. He referred to the long history his family had with the County Home site indicating that his father had worked there for a great number of years and that he maintained the fields at the Home for a number of years. Mr. Conrad noted that he understood that the Home was to be demolished and suggested it should be used for a similar purpose in the future (i.e. nursing home, hospital). In closing, Mr. Conrad indicated that he hoped that Bissett Road would be retained in District 4.

Ann Matthews, Cole Harbour, requested clarification of the boundaries for Cole Harbour east towards Lawrencetown, to which staff responded. Ms. Matthews indicated that with the parks along Bissett Road there would not be a great increase in population in the area. She recommended that this area remain in Cole Harbour.

Val Conrad, Cole Harbour, noted that Nova Scotia Power has proposed a major utility line through Cole Harbour due to expansion and growth in Eastern Passage. She commented that the few homes on Bissett Road could not be considered expansion and would not make a significant difference in either District. Ms. Conrad noted that the area in question is very historical to Cole Harbour, in fact, it is Cole Harbour. This community is named after that harbour. She went on to indicate that the community of Cole Harbour is very proud of its commitment to the parks, to recreation and the harbour. Ms. Conrad expressed concern that this change in polling district boundary would lead to a change in school district boundaries. Ms. Conrad noted that the

community is now dealing with Nova Scotia Power and are surprised and concerned that this polling district boundary is being suggested.

Ron Cooper, Cole Harbour, a resident and member of the Historical Society addressed the meeting. In his opening comments he asked what the growth scenario in Eastern Passage and particularly when the sewage system capacity issue in Eastern Passage would be corrected. He noted that the power deficit will take some time to resolve.

Ms. Mellett, noting that she was the municipal clerk and not the Planning and Engineering departments, advised that the population figures provided for Eastern Passage were projected to 2012 and would not involve upgrades to the sewage system relative to capacity nor to the power lines.

Mr. Cooper indicated that until the deficits in Eastern Passage are addressed, the residents of Cole Harbour/Westphal will face the possibility of having areas of their communities moved into the Eastern Passage District in order to make up population. He suggested that the setting of boundaries would be easier if there were fewer Councillors.

Mr. Cooper further noted that the older areas of Halifax and Dartmouth are less than the average. He suggested that adjustments be made in these areas to bring them to the average thereby absorbing some of the impact on the newer, growing areas. Referring to the comments regarding the connection between Cherry Brook and Westphal, he suggested that there was no firmly established connection. He went on to note that the Cole Harbour/Cherry Brook Service Commission has worked together for a very long time to establish the fire department, their schools and recreation. Mr. Cooper stated that, in fact, the proposed changes tear sections of the community apart which should remain together.

Mr. Cooper pointed out that there are lands in the Westphal/Cole Harbour area (i.e. Water Commission) which will not be developed in the future. Every change made now or in the future will have a negative impact on two or three districts. He suggested that consideration be given to expanding the Cole Harbour District around Cole Harbour to Flying Point.

Regarding the two proposed changes, Mr. Cooper agreed with what has been said previously regarding the Bissett Road change. He went on to note that the Lake Loon/Cherry Brook area has been shuffled back and forth between Districts. Mr. Cooper urged that Lake Loon/Cherry Brook remain with Cole Harbour noting that these communities have paid the area rate and contributed to the facilities.

Jim Tudor, Cole Harbour, following up on Ms. Goodill's presentation, submitted the following documents:

1. Report prepared by Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects in association with O'Halloran Campbell Consultants Limited for the Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association re Bissett Brook/Bissett Lake Trail Active Transportation Plan dated March 31, 2008. Mr. Tudor noted that this projection, the Bissett Lake Project, is underway and in total is a 1.25 million dollar project
2. A draft document entitled 'Recycling the Barn the concept for The Titus Smith Environmental Resource Centre'. Mr. Tudor noted that the work to use the barn as a resource and interpretation centre is in the initial stages and the intent is to do this project without government funding.
3. A brochure entitled 'The Salt Marsh Trail and Shearwater Flyer'. Mr. Tudor noted that this is the second printing of 5000.

Bev Doman, representing Darrell Dexter, indicated that she has listened and agree with the comments of the previous speakers. Ms. Doman suggested that utilizing the provincial boundary may resolve this issue. Later in the meeting Ms. Doman clarified that she was attending the meeting on behalf of Darrell Dexter, however, her comments were her own.

Mr. John Harlow, Cole Harbour, addressed the meeting noting his concern that HRM is forcing this boundary change. He noted that dedicated volunteers from Cole Harbour, Lake Loon and Cherry Brook had worked hard to develop facilities in this area. Mr. Harlow pointed out that after a long hard fight with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, the ratepayers of Cherry Brook had won their fight to keep Cherry Brook within the Cole Harbour community through a Supreme Court decision. Mr. Harlow indicated that he totally opposed the proposal to move Lake Loon and Cherry Brook to District 6. Mr. Harlow then read his letter of November 3, 2010, a copy of which is on file.

Melvin Harris, Cole Harbour, noted that media articles have indicated that other larger municipalities have many fewer Councillors. Mr. Harris suggested that a reduction in Councillors and an increase in residents per district may be the necessary response to the situation before this meeting.

Janice Kirkright, an employee of Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society, echoed the comments of previous speakers. Ms. Kirkright noted that the land in question tonight is the last land available in Cole Harbour and it represents the last of Cole Harbour's natural history, it's environment, it's green space and the issues of those lands are Cole Harbour's issues.

Amy McNaughton, Cole Harbour, indicated that she is part of the Cole Harbour community. She noted that Bissett Lake Road is heritage rich. She suggested that some adjustment be made to Colby Village to accommodate Bissett Lake staying within Cole Harbour.



In response to a question from Ms. McNaughton regarding whether boundary review will occur again after 2012, Ms. Mellett indicated that it is definitely an issue for communities and one which Regional Council has indicated they have an interest in discussing with the NSUARB.

Gerrie Irwin, Colby Village, indicated that she did not want to see Colby Village separated. She believes that the districts should be made larger and the number of Councillors reduced. Ms. Irwin indicated she believed Bissett Lake Road should remain in Cole Harbour. She went on to note that at one time the entire area was referred to as the Westphal/Cole Harbour district and were one large community. Ms. Irwin indicated that she would be in favour of a return to this.

There being no further speakers, Ms. Mellett declared the public input portion of the meeting to be closed.

Ms. Mellett thanked everyone who had presented and noted again that the input was valuable and important to the process. The Committee will reach a recommendation on boundaries considering this input, Council will have the opportunity to review the input prior to making a final decision on boundaries. The NSUARB, who has the final decision making power, will also be privy to the minutes of this meeting. The NSUARB has broad powers to change the number of districts, the boundaries or to send HRM back to do more work. The Board will hand down their decision in the Spring of 2011 in time for the 2012 election. The matter will be before HRM Council either the last meeting in November or the first in December.

In response to a question, Ms. Mellett indicated that the last date for submissions with regard to this matter was November 18, 2010 and that the necessary contact information was on the handout provided this evening.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Cathy J. Mellett  
Municipal Clerk

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 4, 2010

PRESENT: Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk  
Paul Morgan, Planner  
Sarah Knight, Solicitor  
Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

November 4, 2010

The November 4, 2010 District Boundary Review Public Meeting, held in the Seniors Room, St. Andrew's Centre, 6955 Bayers Road, Halifax, was not called to order due to a lack of public in attendance. The following Councillors were in attendance: Jerry Blumenthal, Jennifer Watts and Linda Mosher.

Cathy J. Mellett  
Municipal Clerk

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 8, 2010

PRESENT: Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk  
Mr. Ken Lenihan, GIS Technologist, Geographic Information  
Systems & Services  
Ms. Thea Langille, Supervisor Planning Applications, Central  
Region  
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Basinview School in Bedford. She welcomed those in attendance and she introduced members of staff and acknowledged Councillor Harvey's attendance. Two members of the public and one Councillor, Councillor Harvey, were in attendance at the meeting.

She advised that this was a staff led meeting and she stated that the Governance and District Boundary Committee had approved a motion that the proposed boundary changes go to the public for their input.

## **2. BOUNDARY REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENTS**

Members of the public in attendance indicated that they were interested in the proposed boundary changes in the Central Region.

Ms. Mellett briefly spoke to the reasons why the Boundary Review is taking place and gave the background and highlights as noted:

- HRM is required by Provincial Legislation to review voter distribution and polling district boundaries every eight (8) years
- HRM is required to undertake a major review of the number of District in 2010
- HRM will make a submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board who have the final decision on both the number of districts and location of polling boundaries
- Phase 1 of the process, carried out earlier this year, was Governance and dealt with the number of districts, the role of district Councillors, and the authority and size of Community Councils
- Phase 2 is about reviewing the boundaries, proposing adjustments and seeking public input on those proposed adjustments
- Public consultation is an important part of the District Boundary Review Process
- HRM is provided direction through legislation (MGA) on setting boundaries
- Voter equity – the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) requires that HRM propose districts that are +/- 10% of the average number of voters per district
- Population – HRM is growing and will have a population or over 410,000 by 2012, which means that the average population per district will be 14,244

Ms. Mellett went on to note that if the current boundaries were maintained, 11 of the 23 Districts would be outside what the UARB requires to maintain voter equity.

The Governance and Boundary Review adopted the following principles to guide the revisions to the polling district boundaries which were being proposed:

- Take growth into account
- Parity between districts

- Keep communities and areas of interest with the same electoral district (where possible)
- Use identifiable boundaries
- Meet the NSUARB requirement to be within +/-10% of district average voters

Ms. Mellett then provided a brief overview of the polling district boundary changes for the Central Region of HRM. She stated that the Central regions of HRM have experienced some of the largest growth and, based on the Regional Plan, is expected to continue to grow. She added that growth has been taken into account with the proposed boundary changes. She outlined the following proposed changes to the Central Region:

- District 16 is the polling district likely to experience the most growth and boundaries have been adjusted to take that growth into account.
- District 19 remains much the same but adds the communities of White Hills and Glen Arbour.
- District 20 has been adjusted to include a portion of Lower Sackville running along Beaver Bank Road.
- District 21 remains substantially unchanged except for an adjustment to the boundary with District 16 so that parcels under development are not divided by the polling district boundary.
- District 22 is slightly reduced in the areas of Five Island Lake area and Beechville Estates.
- District 23 remains much the same except for the portion of White Hills and Glen Arbour that moved into District 19. The new boundary for District 23 keeps Kingswood together and adds voters around Five Island Lake.

Ms. Mellett invited members of the public to comment with regard to the proposed boundary once again stressing the importance of public input in the process.

**Mr. David F. Barrett, Beaver Bank**, stated that he is pleased that he and his business, Barrett Lumber, will be moving back into the Beaver Bank district. He added that he will be glad to see his tax dollars going to support Beaver Bank. He suggested that signage be placed to officially note the Beaver Bank boundary. Ms. Mellett advised that staff and HRM Civic addressing continue to work on this issue.

**Councillor Harvey, District 20**, advised that that the small section off the Beaver Bank Road has been in District 20 since 2004 and it should be left in District 20. He stated by adding Armcrest Drive and the surrounding area it makes a good fit and it fits the Provincial Boundary. He added that he would definitely put Dorothy Drive in District 20.

### 3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Cathy J. Mellett

- Keep communities and areas of interest with the same electoral district (where possible)
- Use identifiable boundaries
- Meet the NSUARB requirement to be within +/-10% of district average voters

Ms. Mellett then provided a brief overview of the polling district boundary changes for the Central Region of HRM. She stated that the Central regions of HRM have experienced some of the largest growth and, based on the Regional Plan, is expected to continue to grow. She added that growth has been taken into account with the proposed boundary changes. She outlined the following proposed changes to the Central Region:

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### 3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Cathy J. Mellett  
Municipal Clerk



# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**NOVEMBER 8, 2010**

PRESENT: Mr. Paul Morgan, Senior Planner  
Mr. Kurt Pyle, Acting Supervisor, Planning Applications  
Ms. Sharon Webber, Legislative Support

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1.	CALL TO ORDER .....	3
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Mr. Paul Morgan, Senior Planner, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Councillors Gloria McCluskey, Bill Karsten, Darren Fisher and Jim Smith were present in the audience.

## **2. BOUNDARY REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENTS**

Mr. Morgan delivered a presentation entitled Public Consultation Phase 2: Polling District Boundary Review. Key highlights included:

- HRM is required by Provincial Legislation to review voter distribution and polling district boundaries every eight (8) years
- HRM is required to undertake a major review of the number of District in 2010
- HRM will make a submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board who have the final decision on both the number of districts and location of polling boundaries
- Phase 1 of the process, carried out earlier this year, was Governance and dealt with the number of districts, the role of district Councillors, and the authority and size of Community Councils
- Phase 2 is about reviewing the boundaries, proposing adjustments and seeking public input on those proposed adjustments
- Public consultation is an important part of the District Boundary Review Process
- HRM is provided direction through legislation (MGA) on setting boundaries
- Voter equity – the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) requires that HRM propose districts that are +/- 10% of the average number of voters per district
- Population – HRM is growing and will have a population or over 410,000 by 2012, which means that the average population per district will be 14,244
- Growth will not happen equally – growth in HRM is guided by the Regional Plan and there are areas of significant growth in Districts 2, 3, 4, 7, 16, 22 and District 15 and 21

Mr. Morgan went on to note that if the current boundaries were maintained, 11 of the 23 Districts would be outside what the UARB requires to maintain voter equity. Districts 1, 11, 14 and 17 would be below the +/- 10% of the average number of voters per district and Districts 2, 3, 4, 7, 16, 22 and 23 would be above the +/- 10 of the average number of voters per district.

The Governance and Boundary Review adopted the following principles to guide the revisions to the polling district boundaries which were being proposed:

- Take growth into account
- Parity between districts
- Keep communities and areas of interest with the same electoral district (where possible)

- Use identifiable boundaries
- Meet the NSUARB requirement to be within +/-10% of district average voters

Mr. Morgan provided a brief overview of the proposed polling district boundary changes focusing on for Districts 4 to 9 as follows:

- District 4 was one of the largest districts by voter population so a new district boundary has been struck running along Main Street and Highway 7
- District 5 moves further along Pleasant Street to Prince Arthur Avenue and takes in the new development on Lakeshore Park Terrace
- District 6 adds the communities of Cherry Brook and Lake Loon
- The boundary between District 7 and District 4 is adjusted slightly to allow for further growth in the Russell Lake area
- District 8 moves further along Bissett Road and Gaston Road
- District 9 adds some residential areas off of Woodland Avenue and Horizon Court.

Mr. Morgan invited members of the public to comment with regard to the proposed boundary changes.

Dr. Christiana Gaspar, Vice-President, Can-Euro Investments, representing her father addressed the meeting. Dr. Gaspar indicated that Can-Euro is the owner of a building on Horizon Court, and the towers on Gunston and Adrianna Court and objected to having their building on Horizon Court transferred from district 5 to district 9 for several reasons.

- Woodland Avenue has a clear and strong natural and geographic order which influences the homogeneous development of the infrastructure around the Mic Mac Mall to downtown Dartmouth. Woodland Avenue cannot be easily crossed and it is hard to get from one side to the other. This geographic order should be respected.
- Can-Euro's buildings, and many other apartment buildings around the Mic Mac Mall and downtown Dartmouth, have similar characteristics and have similar structure of tenants with similar needs. For many years we have been growing together as a community and we feel protected in this community.
- Can-Euro owns buildings left and right of the Mic Mac Mall. If the Horizon Court building is transferred to district 9, the company would need to deal with two (2) Councillors, which would deeply hurt the operations of the company and would create inefficiencies and conflicts of interests. Additionally, many of the tenants have been living in this area for a number of years and they would be deeply irritated if they were required to vote in a different district.

Dr. Gaspar went on to note that the tenants of Horizon Court and Can-Euro are using the infrastructure of the Mic Mac Mall and downtown Dartmouth. These are factors to be considered before displacing such a large number of people to a district or community which is not their home.

Mr. Morgan thanked Dr. Gaspar for her comments and urged her to make a recommendation for an alternate boundary.

Mr. Morgan responded to questions from Mr. David Roy, Operations Manager, Can-Euro Investments, noting that the the boundaries tended to be either street or property lines or natural features such as a river. He further noted that there were sufficient voters in the area of Horizon Court proposed to be moved to District 9 to increase the voters in District 9 to the required +/-10 % of average.

Ms. Ursula Prossegger, Urchin Holdings addressed the meeting noting that her properties were not affected by the proposal. However, her company are partners in the same industry as Can-Euro. Ms. Possegger suggested that HRM has to reconsider the number of districts. She went on to note that she did not believe that the population in District 9 would be increasing any time soon and this problem will continue. Ms. Prossegger went on to suggest that at the very least some consideration could be given to putting all one company's buildings in one district.

Mr. Morgan called for any further speakers noting that the comments made this evening were being recorded and will be considered in the decision making. He noted that the public also has an opportunity to make a written submission which will be considered in the process.

Mr. Morgan thanked everyone who spoke noting that their input was important to the success of the process.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Cathy J. Mellett  
Municipal Clerk

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**NOVEMBER 10, 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin  
Councillor Peter Lund  
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Kelly Denty, Supervisor, Planning Applications  
Ms. Sara Knight, Solicitor  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in the St. Margaret's Centre. She welcomed those present, introduced members of staff and acknowledged Councillor Rankin who noted that Councillor Lund would be there shortly.

Ms. Mellett indicated that a record was being taken at each of the eight Phase 2 District Boundary Review public meetings to be submitted to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. She stated that this was a staff led meeting and that the Governance and District Boundary Committee had approved a motion that the proposed boundary changes go to the public for their input. She noted that the meeting would follow the rules for public hearings/public meetings with each member of the public being granted five minutes in which to make their presentation.

## **2. BOUNDARY REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENTS**

Ms. Mellett provided the presentation on Public Consultation Phase 2: Polling District Boundary Review. Highlights were as follows:

- Each Municipality across the Province is required by Provincial Legislation, the Municipal Government Act (MGA), to review voter distribution and polling district boundaries every eight years
- HRM is required to undertake their major review, including Districts, in 2010
- HRM must make a submission by the end of 2010 to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) who have the final decision on both the number of districts and location of polling boundaries
- Phase 1 of the process regarding Governance, which was carried out in the spring on 2010, dealt with the number of districts, the role of district Councillors, and the authority and size of Community Councils
- During Phase 1, Council made the decision to maintain the status quo of 23 councillors
- Phase 2 includes a review of the district boundaries, proposing adjustments and seeking public input on those proposed adjustments
- Public consultation is an important part of the District Boundary Review Process and legislatively required
- HRM is provided direction through legislation, the MGA, on setting boundaries
- With regards to voter equity – the NSUARB requires that HRM propose boundaries that obtain +/- 10% of the average number of voters per district
- With regards to population – HRM is growing and will have a population of over 410,000 by 2012, which means that the average population per district will be 14,244
- Growth will not happen equally – growth in HRM is guided by the Regional Plan and there are areas of significant growth in Districts 2, 7, 15, 21, 22 and 23



Ms. Mellett indicated that if the current boundaries were maintained, 11 of the 23 Districts would be outside what the UARB requires to maintain voter equity. Districts 1, 11, 14 and 17 would be below the +/- 10% of the average number of voters per district and Districts 2,3,4,7,16,22 and 23 would be above the +/- 10 of the average number of voters per district.

The Governance and Boundary Review Committee adopted the following principles to guide the revisions to the polling district boundaries which were being proposed:

- Growth be taken into account
- Ensure parity between districts
- Minimize the change to voters
- Attempt to keep communities and areas of interest within the same electoral district
- Use identifiable boundaries
- Meet the NSUARB requirement to be within +/-10% of district average voters or provide a good argument why this requirement cannot be met for a specific district

Ms. Mellett then provided a brief overview of the polling district boundary changes across HRM. She provided further detail on boundary changes relating to the Western area as this was the area of concern for members of the public attending. Utilizing technology to provide further detail regarding where the boundaries would fall, Ms. Mellett outlined the following proposed changes:

- District 1 remains substantially the same except for the addition of Gaetz Brook and Enfield
- District 2 remains the same except for the area around Enfield
- District 3 remains the same except for the area around Gaetz Brook
- District 4 was one of the largest districts by voter population so a new district boundary has been struck running along Main Street and Highway 7
- District 5 moves further along Pleasant Street to Prince Arthur Avenue and takes in the new development on Lakeshore Park Terrace
- District 6 adds the communities of Cherry Brook and Lake Loon
- The boundary between District 7 and District 4 is adjusted slight to allow for further growth in the Russell Lake area
- District 8 moves further along Bissett Road and Gaston Road
- District 9 adds some residential areas off of Woodland Avenue and Horizon Court.
- District 17 will move further out into Herring Cove
- District 10 will extend past Bayers Lake to Beechville Estates which will reduce the higher than +10% amount of voters in District 22
- The areas of Glen Arbour and White Hills will be moving into District 19

- These communities will be even more connected due to upcoming future development and the potential extensions of highway 113 and Margison Drive
- The community in Upper Hammonds Plains will remain in District 23
- Although the residents of Kingswood wished to be associated with the Bedford community, there were simply too many voters (2200 – 2300) to align them with that community
- The current division of Kingswood will be corrected and both sides of Kingswood will be included in District 23
- Three Brooks Subdivision will be moved from District 22 to 23

Ms. Mellett invited members of the public to comment on the proposed boundary changes, once again stressing the importance of public input in the process.

**Mr. Ross Evans**, Pockwock Road, wished to know what the largest growth area in HRM was currently.

Ms. Mellett stated that Bedford, Bedford South and Bedford West were currently the largest growth areas.

Mr. Evans requested to know if the Maplewood subdivision would remain in District 22 and if Councillor Rankin's home would remain in District 22.

Councillor Rankin indicated that, yes, Timberlea would remain in District 22.

Mr. Evans also requested to know how staff had accounted for growth in his area.

Ms. Mellett advised that staff had worked with the demographic firm, Environics Analytics, who had provided census growth expertise. She stated that HRM development staff had provided Environics with data on submitted permit applications and what developments may occur in the future. Ms. Mellett indicated that, based on the data provided, Environics was able to create a mathematical model for growth and these were the numbers staff were working from for their estimates.

Mr. Evans asked if Lucasville Road would run through two Districts with the proposed changes.

Ms. Mellett stated that this was correct.

**Ms. Joyce Evans**, Pockwock Road, stated that it was a good decision to maintain communities and areas of interest in the same electoral district.

**Mr. Dan Coffey**, President of the White Hills Residents Association, expressed concern that his community had more in common with the other Hammonds Plains subdivisions and less with those in Middle and Upper Sackville at this time. He expressed concern that the common interest between the White Hills community and surrounding areas

such as Maplewood and Glen Arbour may be lost if connected with the issues of Middle and Upper Sackville. Mr. Coffey requested to know what the voting population was for these three communities as opposed to all of District 19.

Ms. Mellett stated that the White Hills/Glen Arbour area had approximately 2500 voters; noting that they had a solid portion of voters for anyone representing them in their District.

Mr. Coffey requested to know if the proposed boundary changes were final.

Ms. Mellett advised that staff needed to find the balance between how to reduce the size of District 23 and increase the size of other districts. She stated that this was staff's proposal; however, they were taking public input seriously and were attempting maintain a community's ability to strongly represent itself.

Mr. Coffey expressed concern that if the White Hills/Glen Arbour/Maplewood communities became part of District 23, they would not get action on issues important to them.

Ms. Mellett stated that Mr. Coffey's concerns would be taken into account. She noted that there was no proposed change to the Western Region Community Council representation of Districts 18, 22 and 23.

Councillor Lund entered the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Councillor Rankin indicated that if the District 19 representative takes on part of Hammonds Plains, the argument could be made that they would then have the perspective of Hammonds Plains and that there would then be two Councillors with that common interest on Community Councils. Councillor Rankin advised the public that HRM's submission would go to the NSUARB at the end of December 2010 and that residents would have another opportunity to have their say during the NSUARB public hearings which would be taking place during 2011.

**Mr. Keith Ayling**, Masthead News, stated that it was his understanding that a road was under construction that would extend Kingswood North Road to Lucasville Road. He requested that it be taken into consideration that there will be population growth in the area once that extension occurs and further development ensues.

Ms. Mellett noted that such growth has been taken into account via the mathematical formula provided by Environics Analytics. She stated that the population numbers provided take into account projected growth into 2012 rather than the current voter population.

Regarding tolerances, Ms. Mellett advised that the NSUARB had allowed HRM District 1 to be outside of the +/-10% tolerance as the geographic area was so large. She stated

that District 2 had an approximately 12% tolerance as a result of the Beaverbank community; noting that it would skew any neighboring District based on the area's 5000 voters, therefore, Beaverbank had been permitted to remain in District 2.

**Mr. Reg McLauslin**, HRM Western Region, requested clarification on the terms 'population growth' and 'voter growth'. He wondered if there would be a difference in where the boundary lines were created if population rather than voter distribution had been used.

Ms. Mellett advised that there would be some difference; however, she noted that legislation required HRM to go by voter distribution only. She reiterated that staff had worked with Environics Analytics demographers to compile voter and population count estimates, and staff had also shared data with elections Nova Scotia, and used this information for their projections.

Mr. McLauslin stated that, based on this requirement, some districts would have a much higher population than others.

**Mr. Paul Williams**, White Birch Hills, requested to know if his area moving to District 19 would affect the community's say in matters such as schools, facilities and funding; noting that a resident from Sackville would have less of a chance of using and caring about facilities in his area than a resident from District 23 who lives closer. He expressed concern that White Birch Hills would no longer be a community with the community.

Ms. Mellett stated that the change would not impact regional facilities and it did not have to impact funding as there were a variety of ways in which a facility may be funded.

In response to concerns raised in reference to area rates, Councillor Lund stated that it is more about the service provided by a facility than the District where it is located.

Ms. Mellett noted that area rates and service boundaries were not necessarily dictated by the polling district.

Councillor Lund also stated that there were benefits to the proposed changes as he and Councillor Rankin work on similar issues together as they share adjacent Districts. He indicated that he had also joined North West Community Council since it was part of a different planning District and would be a benefit to his residents.

In closing, Ms. Mellett stated that all maps and the presentation were available online at [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca). She advised that further submissions would be taken by the Municipal Clerks Office until November 18, 2010 and encouraged further comments. She stated that this matter, including public input, would be taken to the District Boundary Review Committee on November 18, 2010, to Council on November 30, 2010 and then to the

NSUARB to undergo a Public Hearings process. She advised that the decision would be made prior to the 2012 election. Ms. Mellett thanked the public for their time.

**3.      ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Cathy J. Mellett  
Municipal Clerk

# **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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## **DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2010**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Paul Morgan, Senior Planner, Community Development  
Mr. Ken Lenihan, GIS Technologist, BPIM  
Mr. Alden Thurston, Planning Technician, Community Development  
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Paul Morgan, Senior Planner, Community Development called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room of the Gordon Snow Community Centre. Mr. Morgan welcomed those in attendance, including Councillor Dalrymple.

Councillor Dalrymple pointed out that the majority of the residents in attendance are from District 2 and are interested in hearing about the proposed changes for this district. Upon a general consensus, Mr. Morgan advised that he would provide an overview of the proposed boundary changes specific to District 2.

## 2. BOUNDARY REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Morgan delivered the presentation entitled Public Consultation Phase 2: Polling District Boundary Review. Highlights were as follows:

- HRM is required by Provincial Legislation to review voter distribution and polling districts boundaries every eight years
- HRM is required to undertake a major review of the number of districts in 2010
- Phase 1 – Governance dealt with the number of districts, the role of district Councillors and the authority and size of Community Councils
- Phase 1 was completed on August 3, 2010; Council passed a motion to maintain the status quo of 23 districts plus the Mayor
- Phase 2 is a review of the polling district boundaries, proposed adjustments and seeking public input on those proposed adjustments
- HRM is growing and will have a population of over 410,000 by 2012, which means that the average population per district will be 14,244; HRM's growth will not happen equally
- the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) requires HRM to propose districts that are within +/- 10% of the average number of voters per district or make a very good case as to why that is not possible
- based on the current polling districts boundaries, District 2 would be above the +/- 10% of the average number of voters per district
- public consultation is an important part of the District Boundary Review process; residents are encouraged to make their submissions to the Municipal Clerks Office prior to November 18<sup>th</sup>
- HRM must make a submission to the NSUARB by December 31, 2010; the NSUARB has the final decision on both the number of districts and location of polling boundaries

In response to a question raised by a member of the public, Mr. Ken Lenihan, GIS Technologist, BPIM, noted that a mini review was conducted in 2007/08 with minor changes made to areas such as Cherry Brook and Bedford.

Mr. Morgan went on to note the proposed boundary changes to District 2. The following points were noted:

- District 2 remains the same except for the area around Enfield
- District 1 is below the +/-10% of the average number of voters per district
- one property in Lake Fletcher will be added to District 2; as it follows the community boundary of Windsor Junction; this addition does not effect the number of eligible voters
- there are no proposed changes to the community of Lakeview

Mr. Morgan invited members of the public to comment in respect to the proposed boundary changes.

A general discussion was held with members of the public noting the following points:

- the river that runs off Rocky Lake used to be listed within the community of Lakeview

Mr. Morgan advised that it would be difficult to add to District 2 as it is already over the +/-10% average number of voters per district. Mr. Lenihan added that the Governance & District Boundary Review Committee (Committee) is trying to keep communities and areas of interest within the same electoral district, where possible.

**Mr. Jim Simon, 184 Third Avenue, Lakeview**, expressed concern on behalf of the residents of Lakeview, with the following points being made:

- Lakeview, or versions thereof, has been within Districts 14, 2, 17
- Lakeview is part of the Fall River/Windsor Junction community
- the community of interest is within District 2 (residents are members of the fire department, the children attend school in District 2)
- Lakeview is continuously being identified as part being of Sackville; the train tracks are used as the boundary line
- the residents of Lakeview are very pleased to see that there are no proposed changes and want to confirm that Lakeview stays within its community of interest (District 2)

Mr. Morgan provided further detail respecting the projection deviation of District 2 for 2012, reiterating that District 2 is still projected to be over the +/- 10% of the average number of voters per district. He further noted that HRM has the ability make a good case to the NSUARB as to why +/- 10% within District 2 is not possible.

**Councillor Barry Dalrymple, District 2**, submitted a letter on behalf of the Lakeview Homeowners Association requesting that Lakeview remain within District 2 and provided. He provided his comments in support of Lakeview remaining in District 2, commenting that the "L" in LWF stands for Lakeview. Councillor Dalrymple further



provided an overview of the Governance & District Boundary Review Committee's discussions in respect to the proposed boundary changes.

**Ms. Lorna Jackson, Lakeview**, commented that Beaver Bank was the last community to come into District 2.

Councillor Dalrymple indicated that Beaver Bank presents a unique issue; there are 5,000 voters within Beaver Bank/Kinsac area. Regardless of where Beaver Bank/Kinsac is moved to will immediately off set that District. The residents of Beaver Bank/Kinsac have also indicated that they want to remain within District 2.

In response to a request made by **Mr. Miguel Salgueiro, 100 Third Avenue, Lakeview**, respecting the percentage of residents in attendance from Lakeview, it was noted that all but one attendee were from Lakeview. The other attendee was from Waverley.

In response to questions raised by members of the public, staff provided the following responses:

- Mr. Lenihan provided an overview of the various options discussed during the Committee's review respecting boundary placement; including the option of moving Lakeview into District 20; districts surrounding District 2 area already on the high side of the +/-10% as well
- moving the community of Enfield into District 1 was a way to alleviate some of the numbers
- it would be difficult to divide the community of Beaver Bank/Kinsac into two because there is only one way in and one way out; there would be a domino effect to the surrounding districts

In response to a concern raised by **Mr. Keith McLean, Lakeview Road**, respecting previous changes to the electoral boundaries and signage issues, Mr. Lenihan suggested Mr. McLean contact Civic Addressing to address community signage issues. He further noted that electoral boundaries should not have any reflection on the community itself. Mr. McLean commented that Lakeview has been affiliated with the community of Windsor Junction and Fall River for so many year and questioned whether the community would have the first choice to stay within District 2 if they so desired. Mr. Lenihan indicated that it is not a matter of which community was in first, it comes down to addressing the +/-10% of the average number of voters per district.

Mr. Lenihan further indicated that Councillor Dalrymple was very vocal respecting the community of Lakeview remaining within District 2 during the Committee's discussions.

**Ms. Sara Moginot, Chair of the Lakeview Homeowners Association**, questioned why the Governance and District Boundary Review process even happens and why HRM moves the boundaries when people are living there and communities are established. She commented that she is not from Canada and has never seen anything

like this before. She questioned whether this process is across Canada or is specific to HRM.

Mr. Morgan advised that the Governance and District Boundary Review process is across Canada and reiterated that HRM is required to do this review under Provincial Legislation. He commented that it is an attempt to create equality among voters. It would be unfair to have one district larger/small than another.

Ms. Moginot suggested that instead of moving boundaries, one would think that there would be a different system in place, especially in a place with rapidly growing development. She indicated that this process must be costing a lot of money to HRM tax payers and commented that HRM should rethink this process as it continuously interrupts communities.

Councillor Dalrymple commented that the most frustrating part as a suburban/rural Councillor is representing approximately 21,000 citizens, whereas urban districts represent approximately 13-14,000; it is not fair representation.

**Mr. Bruce Wiggins, 90 Lakeview Road**, suggested merging the downtown core together (two smaller districts) and divide District 1 in half, so as to keep the same number of Councillors.

Mr. Lenihan indicated that District 1 is large in scale; however, in terms of population, there are gaps within the district where there is no population. The Committee reviewed the option of combining Districts 1 and 2 to obtain the voter numbers; however, the Committee felt this was not a true reflection of the community of interest. He further noted that the Committee tried to use minimal change, where possible, to voters. The Peninsula Halifax has approximately 50,000 voters between the four districts; to merge into three districts would not be possible.

Further discussion ensued with staff responding to questioned from the members of the public. The following points were noted by staff:

- decreasing to 20 Councillors would have created better parity for District 2 as voter percentages would have increased; the community of Enfield would probably have remained in District 2
- Districts 21 and 16 are smaller; however, based on the projections for 2012, District 21 and 16 are at 50% growth rate and the Committee has left some room in case the growth rate increases
- the NSUARB has the authority to turn down Council's recommendation and make changes to the total number of Councillors and the boundaries
- District 4 is slightly above the +/-10% average number of voters per district and is seeing significant changes made; if the boundaries were to remain exactly as they are to date, District 4 would be within the 14-15% range; Lake Loon, Cherry Brook and part of Bissett Road have been removed from District 4

- community boundaries do not follow district boundaries; typically, districts try to follow communities of interest but not in all cases
- the map follows the community boundary of Lakeview; residents may recognize Lakeview's boundary lines differently but it is how Lakeview is recognized by HRM

In response to a question raised by **Ms. Sandra Chard, Third Avenue, Lakeview**, respecting how the residents of Enfield feel about moving into District 1, Mr. Lenihan indicated that those residents were welcome to attend the public information meetings to voice their concerns. Councillor Dalrymple commented that he notified the residents of Enfield and they are not happy about moving districts; however, most have indicated that they understand the process.

**Mr. David Chard, Lakeview**, suggested the option of changing the voting structure instead of the boundaries. For every 5,000 voters the Councillor would have one vote in Council.

It was noted that this meeting received the second largest public turnout next to the public consultation meeting held in Cole Harbour on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Ms. Joanne Dwinell, Third Avenue, Lakeview**, indicated that she took part during the boundary review consultation eight years ago. The Lakeview Homeowners Association made a presentation to Council. She expressed concern that Lakeview has lost a lot during past reviews and she did not feel that there is any more room to loose any more. She commented that there is not too much development that can happen in Lakeview (lots, families, population) and asked that the Committee and Council keep this in mind. Ms. Dwinell provided examples of the history within community of Lakeview.

Mr. Lenihan reiterated that the Committee will be meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> to review the notes and submissions from the public consultation meetings. The Committee will be proceeding to Council in the near future with a recommendation. He further commented that it is not the Committee's intent to remove the community of Lakeview from District 2.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Cathy J. Mellett  
Municipal Clerk