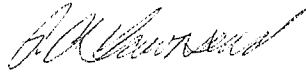


BRIEFING FORM

SUBMITTED TO: Harbour East Community Council

DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



DATE OF MEETING: July 7, 2011

SUBJECT: Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board – Levels in Lake
Banook & Lake Mic Mac

ORIGIN

June 9, 2011, Harbour East Community Council Meeting: Item #10.3.1

BACKGROUND

A report was presented to the Harbour East Community Council (HECC) on water levels in Lake Banook and Lake Micmac on June 9, 2011. HECC moved to defer this item until July 7 to request further information from staff. The purpose of this report is to provide Community Council with additional information.

DISCUSSION

The Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board (DLAB) maintains an active interest in the watercourses throughout Dartmouth. In February 2011, the Board received a presentation from Mr. Jamie Hannam, Director of Engineering at Halifax Water, regarding the management of the Shubenacadie Canal and Lake Banook system. An extract from the February 9, 2011, DLAB Minutes were presented to HECC at its previous meeting (June 9, 2011).

The presentation received by DLAB was made pursuant to the Chairman's Report, Item 7.1.1, in the December 1, 2010, minutes (Attachment 1). In this report, the Chairman remarked on recent fluctuations in lake water and lock levels and concern was expressed about how lake levels were monitored.

Further discussion was held amongst Board Members during the May 4, 2011, meeting (Attachment 2) regarding the earlier concerns and new information provided by Halifax Water during its February presentation. Board members expressed their concerns about maintaining minimum flow for hydrological and recreational purposes, the predictability of flow patterns and confidence in protection against the potential for shoreline property flooding. The Board's recommendation, that HECC request that Halifax Water consider a transparent and more technically rigorous model for managing lake levels in Lakes Banook and Micmac, reflects their belief that this model will address their concerns.

ALTERNATIVES AND ASSOCIATED RISKS:

None identified

IMPACT / BENEFITS:

None identified

COMMUNITY ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES:

There was no community engagement on this report.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: December 1, 2010 Minutes of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board (extract)

Attachment 2: May 4, 2011 Minutes of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board (extract)

KEY STAFF CONTACT: Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer, 490-1926

Attachment 1

Extract of the December 1, 2010 Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board meeting minutes

7.1.1 Shubenacadie Canal Water Levels

An e-mail dated November 19, 2010 from Mr. Allan Billard, Halifax Water, was circulated to the Board at this time.

Mr. Peter Connor advised the Board of a concern regarding the water levels on the Shubenacadie Canal during the recent heavy rainfall and noted that:

- the lock levels were up by about 2 feet which was a concern
- Mr. Allan Billard had a meeting with Mr. Carl Yates, General Manager of Halifax Water, in response to Mr. Connor's concern.
- Mr. Sheldon Parsons, Halifax Water, was monitoring this situation and is responsible for monitoring the levels especially during heavy weather events.
- Halifax Water is responsible for Lake Banook and Lake Mic Mac.

Dr. Mark Trevorrow raised some concerns about having one person monitoring these lakes and inquired as to what the backup plan is in case Mr. Parsons' was not available. He also asked if Halifax Water have a good hydraulic model for the lakes and watershed.

Discussion ensued regarding the type of hydraulic model Halifax Water has and what type of strategies they have in place for heavy weather events; it was then **MOVED by Mr. Pierre Clement, seconded by Dr. Mark Trevorrow that the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board invite a representative of Halifax Water to speak on their control strategies in regard to the water levels in Lake Banook, Lake Mic Mac and surrounding watershed within the Dartmouth area. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Attachment 2

Extract of the May 4, 2011 Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board meeting minutes

5.3 Current Target Levels – Shubenacadie Canal/Lake Banook System

The Chair noted that the Clerk's office has followed up with Jamie Hannam relative to this matter and are awaiting a reply.

Mr. Clement noted that a member of the Canoe Association has suggested that HRM utilize Canoe Association staff to monitor/control lake levels.

Members of the Committee expressed concern with the existing process of periodic monitoring by a staff person of lake levels. Members indicated that:

- a more technically rigorous management process to monitor the lake level is required
- it is necessary to ensure that management of the lake level reflects the needs of all users
- the key factor in management of lake levels is the health of the lake. Is there an ideal level or target? Would falling outside that level/target be detrimental to the lake.

MOVED by Mr. Clement, seconded by Mr. Trevorrow the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Committee recommend that Harbour East Community Council request Halifax Water consider a transparent and more technically rigorous manner of managing lake levels in Lakes Banook and Mic Mac. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.