

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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BEDFORD WATERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JANUARY 9, 2002

PRESENT: Mr. Don Lowther, Chair  
Mr. Brad Gibb  
Councillor Goucher  
Mr. Victor Li  
Dr. Don Fox  
Mr. Richard Hattin  
Dr. S. Ray  
Mr. Lawrence White  
Mr. Kevin Dean

ALSO PRESENT: Angus Schaffenburg, Planner  
Lynne Le Boutillier, Assistant Municipal Clerk

REGRETS: Mr. Bob Kerr, Ms. Stephanie McNeil, Mr. Will Matheson

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## 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the LeBrun Centre, Bedford.

## 3.0 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

As there were presenters for item 7.1, Strescon (stormceptors) this item was moved to the top of the agenda, followed by item 2.0 Election of Officers and 5.4, Infilling of Moirs Pond - January 14, 2002, Public Consultation Meeting. Under New Business item 7.2 was added re a Joint Meeting re C & D Disposal.

## 7.0 **NEW BUSINESS**

### 7.1 **STRESCON - STORMCEPTOR**

Mr. Lawrence White introduced to the members Mr. John Mack and Mr. Andrew Levatte, Strescon Limited.

The members were provided with a brochure on Stormceptor, the engineered solution for stormwater quality improvement. A power point presentation was given on how the various Stormceptor units are designed. Examples of the effectiveness of the units in various locations were provided.

A question and answer session followed. Councillor Goucher reflecting on the presentation, questioned whether any of the systems installed locally had been tested. He was advised that they have not been tested, although Strescon felt it would be beneficial to be able to provide test results of local installations. The cost is however prohibitive at approximately \$150,000 for the series of testing required.

There was a discussion related to maintenance of the units. Without maintenance of the installation you eventually end up with a bypass system. In the older units, it has been observed that only about ten per cent are being properly maintained. The representatives noted that owners manuals are provided. They encouraged the Committee when making recommendations associated with stormceptor installation to also require the provision of annual maintenance certificates.

Questions were posed regarding the cost of the units and installation. It was indicated that for a four to five acre site, two or three units would be required costing \$30,000 plus approximately 10% for installation.

## 2.0 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Schaffenburg called three times for nominations for Chair. Mr. Dean's nomination of Mr. Lowther was seconded by Mr. Li. There being no further nominations, Mr. Don Lowther was declared Chair.

Mr. Lowther called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Mr. Dean nomination of Mr. White was seconded by Mr. Lowther. There being no further nominations, Mr. Lawrence White was declared Vice-Chair.

## 5.0 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### 5.4 **INFILLING OF MOIRS POND - PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING JANUARY 14, 2002**

Mr. Victor Li introduced Mr. Roger Albright, Environment Canada. Also in attendance for this item were Glen Boone, Sobeys; Sue Belford and Dr. Stephen Armstrong, Jacques Whitford.

Mr. Albright related information to the members regarding studies and his personal observations related to the disposal of acid bearing rock. How exposure to air and water, both salt and fresh, affects the rate of acid rock drainage was discussed. Examples used included problems associated with Bayer Lake Business Park, the Halifax International Airport and infilling of Bedford Basin by the Waterfront Development Corporation. Why the chemical process can be slowed by disposing of acid bearing rock under water was explained. He concluded that underwater disposal is one of the best methods utilized.

While Mr. Hattin indicated he was comfortable with the disposal of acid slate in the Bedford Basin's salt water environment, he explained why he had concerns with disposing of such materials in Moirs Pond, as there is a substantial influx of freshwater. He felt the mixing action as a result of turbulence, resulting in increased oxygenation will affect the chemical process.

Mr. Albright explained to the members why he did not feel this would present a problem. For example, if the area in question was used for a parking lot, it will be covered by a number of feet of fill. Mr. Albright also noted that studies don't differentiate between fresh or salt water disposal. Ms. Belford explained how much oxygen is contained in both salt and fresh water. Mr. Boone also noted that only a small percentage of the fill will contain pyritic slate from the Fall River site.

Dr. Fox felt the issues associated with the infilling of Moirs Pond, to allow for the expansion of the Sobeys site, will not be solved by science. Aspects of aesthetics will be cited more than technical issues. In discussing some of the technical issues, he noted that studies related to the disposal of mine tailings in very deep water, an anoerobic environment, can't really be used as illustrations in this instance, when disposal would be in essentially shallow water, which contains oxygen as demonstrated by the existence of fish. He concluded it was nevertheless the lesser of two evils to dispose of the acid slate in this fashion, versus leaving it to be exposed to air.

Dr. Ray felt it would be worthwhile to know the salinity and oxygen levels where the brook from Paper Mill Lake enters Moirs Pond.

The balance of the discussion concentrated on the format of the public consultation meeting being planned by the Infilling and Sewage Treatment sub-committee consisting of Rick Hattin and Brad Gibb. It was envisaged that the meeting chaired by Councillor Walker, would include presentations from BWAC and Sobeys, followed by a session to respond to questions from the public.

Councillor Goucher reiterated that the Federal Environment Assessment process allowed for no public comment. It was essentially technical in nature. He advised that he has requested that the Minister of Environment evoke Section 18 (3). He felt it critically important for the people of the community and Sobeys that the public has an opportunity to hear what the process is about and make comment in a public forum attended by the Federal MLA and Provincial MP, etc. In particular, he felt it critical that Sobeys know the feelings of the community.

A discussion followed on the fishway proposed to Paper Mill Lake.

Reference was made to a Supplementary Report Sobeys is preparing. The report contains comments from the public who attended the November meeting and Sobeys response. Mr. Boone noted that there are a lot of aesthetic and planning issues contained in the report, i.e. desire for low buildings, trails and landscaping.

Mr. White proposed an alternative of Sobeys dumping the acid slate into Bedford Basin as part of the Waterfront Development infilling. Mr. Hattin outlined the circumstances by which this could be done, but Mr. Boone noted that the disposal of the acid slate is only one component of the proposal. The issue of the waterlot is not a new issue.

Mr. Boone felt that nonetheless despite going through the DFO process which resulted in the Open House on November 22, 2001, there was public input. Forty (40) people had attended, asked questions and stayed a considerable amount of time.

The subject of the condition of the dams, particularly Paper Mill Lake and the temporary license for a one year period was raised by Councillor Goucher.

4.0 **APPROVAL MINUTES**

Approval of the December 12, 2001 minutes was deferred.

5.0 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES/STATUS SHEET (cont'd)**

5.1 **WATER TESTING - PAPER MILL LAKE - TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Although there was not time to deal with the above item this evening, copies of the evaluation of data collected from Paper Mill Lake were provided to the members.

5.2 **LIST OF ONGOING AND NEW PROJECTS**

5.3 **KEARNEY, QUARRY AND PAPER MILL LAKE DAMS - UPDATE**

Deferred.

5.5 **TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW**

Deferred.

5.6 **MEMBERSHIP - UPDATE RE WILLIAM MATHESON**

Deferred in absence of Mr. Kerr.

6.0 **UPDATE FROM PAPER MILL LAKE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Copies of the October 10, 2001 minutes circulated in the agenda package.

7.0 **NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)**

7.2 **JOINT MEETING OF WABS RE C & D DISPOSAL**

Mr. Schaffenburg advised that a joint meeting of the three waters advisory committees to hear a presentation from Kurt Pyle has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Library. Materials will be provided to the members prior to the meeting. The purpose is to seek advice from the

committees. The Secretary was of the understanding that there may be a need for a quorum for each committee to pass a motion to Regional Council following the presentation. Mr. White volunteered to contact the BWAC members to remind them of this meeting.

8.0 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2002.

9.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Lynne Le Boutillier  
Assistant Municipal Clerk