

BEDFORD WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Richard Hattin, Chair
Councillor Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Mr. Lem Murphy, Vice Chair
Ms. Lynn Davis

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin
Councillor Matt Whitman
Councillor Russell Walker

STAFF: Mr. Paul Morgan, Senior Planner, Regional & Community
Planning
Mr. Scott LeBlanc, Planning Technician, Regional & Community
Planning
Mr. Darcy Warren, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS/PURPOSE OF MEETING

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. in the Board Room, Canada Games Center, 26 Thomas Raddal Drive, Halifax.

The Chair explained the purpose of the meeting was to review the draft final report for the Birch Cove Lakes Watershed Study. The Chair noted that the Bedford Watershed Advisory Board is looking for public input and comments on the work that the consultants from AECOM have done.

2. BIRCH COVE LAKES WATERSHED STUDY DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Mr. Paul Morgan, Senior Planner, informed those present the purpose of the public meeting to discuss the final draft report. Mr. Morgan also stated that anyone wishing to do so may submit comments to him by March 22, 2013. All comments will be forwarded to BWAB and Regional Council.

Mr. Morgan introduced Mr. Russell Dmytriw and Ms. Nora Donald, consultants with AECOM.

Mr. Dmytriw gave a presentation outlining the executive summary of the Watershed Study. AECOM was contracted by HRM in August 2011 to complete the Birch Cove Lakes Watershed Study in two phases:

1. Present a series of recommended Water Quality Objectives for key receiving water bodies within a preliminary report; and
2. Address the remaining objectives of the Regional Plan Policy E-17 in a final report.

Mr. Dmytriw advised that in order to establish water quality objectives and prevent any further deterioration in water quality, water quality data collected in the past six years was used to assess current conditions. AECOM completed additional limited water quality sampling at five locations on a quarterly basis over the course of this project.

Mr. Dmytriw reviewed the locations used for water quality data: Kearney Lake, Paper Mill Lake, Washmill Lake, Black Duck Brook, Quarrie Lake, Big Horse Shoe Lake and McQuade Lake. The water quality objectives are based upon scientific understanding of the Birch Cove Lakes watershed and widely accepted standards of water quality. These objectives will be used by HRM to establish acceptable standards that HRM and the public agree will achieve long term management goals for the Birch Cove Lakes Watershed. The management objective would be to meet or maintain the trophic status of a water body so the water quality objective for total phosphorus the upper limit of the total phosphorus range for each trophic state. The approach is consistent with the objectives of the Regional Plan. Four modeling scenarios were used in the study:

1. Existing Conditions

2. Approved and Planned Development Commitment (build-out of Bedford West and Bedford South)
3. Scenario 2 plus full build-out of Highway 102 West Corridor Lands
4. Scenario 3 minus Highway 102 West Corridor Lands within the Conceptual Park

Mr. Dmytriw explained the greatest impact on the lakes will occur under scenario 3 which includes impacts from the approved and planned developments of Bedford West and Bedford South combined with those of the Highway 102 West Corridor Lands. However, with full scale development and advanced stormwater management (80% higher for total suspended solids and 50% total phosphorus removal) under scenarios 2,3 and 4, all lakes are predicted to remain oligotrophic or, in the case of Kearney Lake and Paper Mill Lake, verge on mesotrophic (Scenario 3).

New development applications in the watershed should incorporate the measures detailed within HRM's Stormwater Management Guidelines to reduce or eliminate the impacts to water quality and quantity from development through the application of a subwatershed-specific or development-specific stormwater management plan.

The Chair opened the floor for those wishing to speak.

Ms. Mary Ann McGrath, Kearney Lake, Chair of Kearney Lake Residents Association, noted that the bigger issue with Kearney Lake is that sediment settles in the middle of the lake. She inquired what effect will run-off from the quarry have?

Mr. Dmytriw noted that only one sample was taken from Kearney Lake and that an increase in development activity and recreational use will have an effect on water quality.

Ms. Katie Campbell, Halifax, inquired with all the development in Bedford what effects will it have on the lakes and the Bedford Basin.

Mr. Dymtriw stated that so far there are no issues with run-off into the lakes. He clarified the Bedford Basin was not included in this study.

Mr. Bob MacDonald, Clayton Park West, expressed his thanks for the excellent report and presentation, and its recommendation that monitoring and water testing continue on the lakes.

Mr. Peter Lund, Tantallon, commended the consultants and the presenter for an excellent report. He noted that this report is precedent setting as to the depth of the study. He inquired, with regard to water quality objectives have all metals and minerals been studied and what are we trying to protect?

Mr. Morgan stated the recommendations were made in the preliminary report which were then included into the study.

Mr. Dmytriw noted that the objective is to protect water quality from further harm and to maintain current levels.

Mr. Bruce Smith, Clayton Park, noted McQuade Lake is fully populated, septic fields are degrading, yet under Scenario 1 water quality from McQuade would remain the same. It would make sense to capture down flow from Black Duck Brook.

The Honourable Diana Whalen, MLA, noted that Susie's Lake was excluded from the four scenarios. Is it possible that a separate study be done? Are there standards in place for stormwater management plan?

Mr. Morgan stated that the province or HRM have stormwater management practice standards in place.

The Chair noted that Best Management Practices are being used.

Ms. Debbie Hum, Rockingham, recommended a detailed study be done due to increased recreational usage on all the lakes. She also noted that in order to service the Kearney Lake area and removal of septic fields the cost would be exorbitant.

Mr. Ken McLeod, Kearney Lake, asked how long before Kearney Lake is no longer viable and what can be done to protect it?

Mr. Dmytriw responded by stating that management practices are in place and we treat the cause not the effect; recommendations are included in the report.

Mr. Andrew Bone, Senior Planner, HRM Planning Services, informed those present that before and Development Agreement is signed stormwater management plan must be in place.

Ms. Katie Campbell, Halifax, asked what can be done about septic run-off.

Mr. Dmytriw stated that Regulatory Controls are already in place.

Mr. Raymond Plourde, Dartmouth, noted that phosphorus was used as a surrogate in the water quality objectives.

Ms. Wendy MacDonald stated there was a lot of information and concerns for the lakes. She noted this was the last opportunity for input, and how important it is to continue to monitor the lakes.

Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin, questioned what will happen if the results of trophic ranges go over the recommendations.

Mr. Dymtriw gave a brief meaning of the different trophics and that it would be undesirable and subjective if trophic ranges go over recommendations.

Ms. Mary Ann McGrath, Kearney Lake, stated she would like to see HRM provide solutions and better protection for our lakes which in turn will provide better water quality. She also stated that maybe we need to get rid of the Halifax Water Commission.

Mr. Raymond Plourde, Dartmouth, questioned if the costs of stormwater management were included in the models used in the study.

Mr. Dymtriw stated that stormwater management costs were added in later.

3. CLOSING COMMENTS

The Chair thanked staff and members of the public for attending. The Chair also reminded everyone that they have until March 22, 2013 if they wish to submit any comments to Mr. Morgan.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other speakers, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Darcy Warren
Legislative Support