



HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD
February 16, 2005
MINUTES

PRESENT: Dr. Wayne Stobo, Chair
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Shalom Mandaville
Mr. Ross Evans
Dr. Barry Thomas
Ms. Janis Rod
Mr. Derrill Hynick
Dr. Spencer Lee
Councillor Linda Mosher (6:40 p.m)

ABSENT: Mr. Frank Hope (regrets)
Ms. Ellinor Williams (regrets)
Ms. Christine Smith
Mr. Gerry Samson

STAFF: Ms. Susan Corser, Planner II
and OTHERS: Mr. Richard Harvey, Planner II
Mr. John Sheppard, P. Eng. Manager, Environmental Engineering
Services
Mr. Charles Lloyd, Sr. Environmental Engineer, EMS
Mr. Tony Blouin, Manager, Environmental Policy, EMS
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Anna McCarron, Observer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Call to Order	3
2.	Approval of the Agenda and Additions/Deletions	3
3.	Items to be added to Next Agenda	3
4.	Approval of the Minutes	3
5.	Business Arising from Minutes	3
6.	New Business:	
6.1	Presentation - John Sheppard, Manager, Environmental Services	4
6.2	Presentation - Regional Planning, Susan Corser	5
6.3	WAB Guidelines	6
6.4	Board Membership - Councillor Mosher	6
6.5	Baseline Sampling Results	4
6.6	Local Limnological Issues	6
7.	Date fo Next Meeting	6
8.	Adjournment	6

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the media room, City Hall. He welcomed Mr. Richard Harvey, Planner II, advising that he was now the Board's staff liaison.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair advised that late this afternoon he received a phone call from Sharon Bond concerning the Board's request for her to respond to its January 1999 letter RE review of Subdivision bylaws. He noted that she indicated she would have a response soon.

2. Approval of the Agenda and Additions/Deletions

At the request of Ms. Ellinor Williams, who could not attend this evening's meeting, **the Board agreed to defer item 7.3, WAB Guidelines to its next meeting.**

Announcement

Mr. Walter Regan advised of a meeting on March 3, 7:00 p.m. at the Sackville Community Centre, which the Sackville Rivers Association is hosting. He explained that the meeting is in regard to siltation issues, and he extended an invitation to members and their respective groups to attend. Mr. Regan noted that several guest speakers have been invited and that, Dr. Stobo would be speaking on behalf of the Board.

3. Items to be added to Next Agenda

- 3.1 Shalom Mandaville - Opinion from HRM 's Legal Services on what constitutes a conflict of interest for Board members.

The Chair advised that he would send letter to Mr. Wayne Anstey, City Solicitor, requesting comment.

4. Approval of the Minutes

It was noted that page 3, item 2, should read that Ellinor Williams was nominated for *Vice* Chair.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Evans that the minutes of January 16, 2005 be approved as circulated and as noted above. MOTION PASSED.

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

None.

6. New Business:

6.1 Presentation - John Sheppard, Manager, Environmental Services

(a) Overview of Stormwater and Wastewater in HRM

(b) July 2001 Discussion Paper for the Province of Nova Scotia on Sewage Management

Mr. John Sheppard, Manager, Environmental Services addressed the Board and introduced Mr. Charles Lloyd, Sr. Environmental Engineer, and Mr. Tony Blouin, Manager of Environmental Policy.

Mr. Sheppard distributed copies of a staff report dated January 14, 2005 which had been submitted to Halifax Regional Council at its January 25, 2005 meeting, entitled 25 Year Stormwater and Wastewater Forecast. He also distributed copies of a presentation on Stormwater and Wastewater in Halifax Regional Municipality.

In his presentation, Mr. Sheppard reviewed HRM-owned stormwater and wastewater infrastructure, the replacement value of the infrastructure, and the 25 year forecast of project prioritization. He noted that the cost estimate for project work over the next 25 years is \$540 million, however, he advised that he expects this number will increase over time. Mr. Sheppard reviewed the Priority Rating Process as outlined in the submitted staff report and elaborated on the stormwater and wastewater initiatives specific to the Board's area of jurisdiction.

Mr. Tony Blouin provided a brief update to the Board on the water resource management program.

A lengthy discussion ensued with Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Blouin, and Mr. Lloyd responding to questions from the Board.

Councillor Mosher noted the importance of the water sampling program to the Board and suggested a letter go to Council endorsing this program.

Following a discussion, **it was agreed** the Chair would write a letter of support for the water quality sampling program as well as the resources necessary to review and analyse the data collected.

6.5 Baseline Sampling Results

With Mr. Sheppard present, Mr. Mandaville suggested, and the Chair concurred, it would be an opportune time to ask staff to comment on baseline sampling results.

Mr. Sheppard provided background information on the origin of the baseline sampling program and elaborated on the areas where baseline sampling of lakes is conducted. He noted that this is done in consultation with the Province's Health Officer and staff use the data to determine any chronic problems and monitor to see if there are patterns.

Mr. Regan note he was appreciative of the program and added that he hoped it would be expanded to include sites along the Sackville River.

The Chair thanked Mr. Sheppard and his staff for their attendance and presentation.

At 8:15 p.m. the Board recessed.

At 8:20 p.m. the Board reconvened.

6.2 Presentation - Regional Planning - Susan Corser

Ms. Susan Corser, Planner II, was in attendance to give a presentation on the Regional Plan. In her remarks she noted that in December, Regional Council approved a proposal for growth patterns in the Municipality for the next 25 years. She explained that the growth patterns are essentially a hybrid of compact settlement patterns (or centres) and dispersed settlement patterns, and is based on transit linked communities.

Ms. Corser elaborated on the Plan's benefit with regard to the environment, transportation, economic, and settlement. She concluded by advising that staff were in the process of drawing up the policy and hope to have the completed plan presented to Council at the end of April. She noted that, after this, there will be a six month formal adoption process which concludes with a public hearing wherein there would be formal adoption of the Plan. Ms. Corser advised that as the policy continues to develop she would like to consult with the three Watershed Advisory Boards to get their input, and was looking at early to mid-May.

Ms. Corser responded to questions and with regard to feedback, the following points were noted:

- C suggestion that policies be performance-oriented.
- C the Regional Plan should address the issue of phosphorus release into watercourses
- C support of the concept of septic cluster systems.
- C question asked as to how the Plan will get away from urban sprawl which occurred in Halifax in the past, given that infrastructure development at that time was also concentrated into a number of specific areas.
- C State of Maine looks after its own septic systems; suggestion that HRM do same.
- C in the Regional Plan HRM should address the issue of major development being approved in HRM by other levels of government without HRM input

(e.g. permitting quarry expansion).

The Chair thanked Ms. Corser for her presentation. It was noted that further consultation with regard to input on policy development would be best handled on an individual Board basis, rather than a joint meeting of the three WAB's.

Dr. Lee pointed out that the two presentations the Board heard this evening were very informative and he suggested the Chair forward a letter of appreciation to Ms. Corser and Mr. Sheppard for their presentations.

6.3 WAB Guidelines

It was agreed at the approval of the agenda that this item would be deferred to the Board's next meeting.

6.4 Board Membership - Councillor Mosher

Councillor Mosher noted that previously she suggested the Board should set aside some time to discuss its terms of reference as it relates to membership. She indicated that according to the Terms, the number of members who could serve on the Board could be almost limitless. Councillor Mosher added that through Chebucto Community Council she's received several requests for membership on the Board, however, she felt the addition of new members should be put on hold until the Board has an opportunity to thoroughly discuss the matter.

A brief discussion ensued, and the Chair advised that this matter would be placed on the agenda of the Board's April meeting.

6.6 Local Limnological Issues

Due to the late hour, **it was agreed to defer** this matter to next month's agenda.

7. Date of Next Meeting

March 16, 2005

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Legislative Assistant