



HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD

June 15, 2005

MINUTES

PRESENT: Dr. Wayne Stobo, Chair
Mr. Frank Hope
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Ross Evans
Dr. Sankar Ray
Ms. Janis Rod
Mr. Derrill Hynick
Dr. Spencer Lee
Councillor Linda Mosher

ABSENT: Ms. Ellinor Williams, Vice Chair (regrets)
Ms. Christine Smith
Mr. Gerry Samson
Dr. Barry Thomas

STAFF AND

OTHERS: Mr. Richard Harvey, Planner II
Mr. Andrew Bone, Planner
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Anna McCarron, Observer

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1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

The Chair advised that Shalom Mandaville submitted his resignation from the Board and that it appears the reason behind this is that he has issues with the Chair; in particular, he disagrees with the Chair's view on qualifications for Board membership; he believes there is not enough sound science to the advice the Board provides; and he did not approve of the manner in which the Chair was conducting meetings.

The Chair explained that before he proceeds with the meeting, he wanted to get feedback on Mr. Mandaville's concerns. He put forward the following questions and asked for the Boards comments:

1. Should the Board be developing some sort of job description for Board membership?

A brief discussion ensued, and it was noted that the Terms of Reference was revised at the Board's last meeting. The Board was in agreement that this would adequately address the issue of ensuring membership of individuals who had an interest and were knowledgeable in watershed issues.

2. Is there insufficient sound science being provided by the Board?

A discussion ensued and it was generally agreed that the advice the Board should give should combine scientific fact with pragmatic advice on development actions that may not have a large scientific component. It was also generally agreed that the Board could be more consistent in the phrasing of the recommendations which are often generic in nature. Ms. Rod indicated that she is preparing drafts of a number of those recommendations.

3. Does the Board feel the meetings are chaired appropriately?

The Board unanimously agreed the manner in which Dr. Stobo chaired the meetings was appropriate, and supported maintaining the status quo in this regard.

On a final note, the Chair pointed out that, unfortunately, Mr. Mandaville has indicated in his letter he intended to delete the HWAB's web page which he had set up on his own website.

A discussion ensued and Councillor Mosher suggested that perhaps HRM's Web Master could contact Mr. Mandaville and see if he would grant permission to have this information transferred over to an HRM web page.

2. Approval of the Agenda and Additions/Deletions

MOVED by Mr. Evans, seconded Mr. Mr. Regan the agenda as presented be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. Items to be added to Next Agenda

There were no items to be added to the next agenda

4. Approval of the Minutes

The Chair referred to pg. 3 of the May 18, 2005 minutes, item 5.1 WAB Guidelines, and advised that, in the second bulleted item, it should read ' . . . *waterways* to *watercourses*'; and on pg. 4, the sixth bulleted item should read, ". . . cover it off as source (in part) NSDOEL publication.

MOVED by Dr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Rod, the minutes as amended be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. Business Arising from Minutes/Deferred Items:

5.1 WAB Guidelines

- C A draft copy of the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board Guidelines, dated June 2005 was submitted.

The Chair advised that Ms. Williams updated the Guidelines as discussed at the last meeting, however, after the meeting they discussed it further and made some additional changes.

The Chair questioned if the Board wanted to proceed in reviewing the Guidelines or wait until the next meeting when Ms. Williams will be in attendance.

Ms. Rod pointed out that she had spoken with Ms. Williams and, in her absence, she would make any changes, should the Board want to review.

Mr. Harvey pointed out that there were certain aspects of the Guidelines he was to update, however, he did not have an opportunity to do so. He advised that he would definitely have this done for the next meeting.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed there was no need for further discussion on the Guidelines, and that with Mr. Harvey's addition and the definition of 'wetland' provided by Ms. Rod the Guideline revisions would be complete.

The Chair suggested that Mr. Harvey forward his information to Ms. Rod for completion; and then it can be passed on to the Legislative Assistant for the preparation of the final version.

The Chair requested the Legislative Assistant to ensure a date is included on each page.

Councillor Mosher referred to pg. 5 and suggested that the second check-marked item should remove reference to contacting the Provincial health officials, and include a reference to contacting the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour, **to which it was agreed.**

5.2 Board's Terms of Reference

- C A revised draft of the Board's Terms of Reference was submitted.
- C A draft letter to potential new Board Members was submitted.

Dr. Lee advised that he believed the issue of accountability was missing from the Terms of Reference and that it should be added.

A discussion ensued and **it was agreed** that a new item would be added as item 9.0, as follows:

9.0 REPORTING

The Board's recommendations will be submitted to the applicable HRM regulatory body, HRM staff, the proponent, and copy correspondence to other government departments as the Board deems appropriate.

On the suggestion of Mr. Hope, **it was agreed**, that all instances of *waterways* would be changed to *watercourses*.

The Chair advised that the Legislative Assistant will make the agreed upon changes and forward the revised Terms of Reference to Community Council for approval.

The Chair asked for comments with regard to the draft letter to potential new Board members. The Board accepted the letter as presented. The Chair advised that the Legislative Assistant would finalize the letter and send it to anyone inquiring about Board Membership.

6.2 Case 00617 Amendment to Districts 14 & 17 Plan and LUB for Aerotech Business Park

- C A memorandum dated June 7, 2005 from Andrew Bone, Planner was submitted.

In reviewing the proposal, Mr. Bone advised that it has been initiated by HRM Real Property and Asset Management to change Aerotech Business Park to more of a traditional type of industrial park. He added that this process has spiralled into other issues, a number of which, has water implications. He added that the application will probably be going to Council in early September for a hearing date; and that he was looking for comments from the Board on the application with regard to: the creation of a

conservation zone, new uses to be permitted, and changes to the boundaries of watershed areas.

Mr. Bone responded to questions.

The Board discussed the application briefly and the Chair advised that at next month's meeting, the Board would prepare comments on this application. Some of the comments on the application are as follows:

- S concern expressed about whether there was appropriate catchment for the chemical Glycol, which is used in de-icing planes.
- S the potential for an increasing need for water from Bennery Lake should be addressed in the planning strategy - there is the possibility of Grand Lake being pumped into Bennery Lake and this would put Grand Lake under duress.
- S Mr. Bone was asked to confirm the status of the treatment plant, and advise on what level of treatment is occurring

At 8:30 p.m. Councillor Mosher retired from the meeting.

- S Mr. Bone indicated that he would provide a more detailed map for the Board's next meeting.

The Board recessed at 8:45 p.m. and reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

5.3 Water Resources Management Study

Correspondence pertaining to this matter dated May 11, 2005 was submitted at the Board's May 18, 2005 meeting.

The Chair advised that, since the last meeting, he had an opportunity to review the information and it appears that nothing further is being requested from the Board and therefore this item is for information.

A brief discussion ensued and Mr. Harvey was requested to contact Mr. Tony Blouin to find out the status of the Water Resources Management Study, and whether there will be any further opportunities for discussion or to provide recommendations, and report back to the Board.

5.4 HWAB Recommendations on Development Agreements - Follow Up

The Chair advised that at the last meeting, it was agreed that Mr. Harvey would follow up on the list provided by Ms. Williams and Mr. Mandaville regarding Development Agreements on which the Board made recommendations.

Mr. Harvey advised that he followed up with HRM's Development staff and they are currently working on a response to a series of questions he asked; and he added that he hoped to be able to report back on these at the Board's next meeting.

A discussion ensued and the Chair advised that, at the next meeting, the Board will choose two Development Agreements on which it made recommendations; Mr. Harvey will obtain copies of these Agreements, and Mr. Derrill Hynick will analyse the Agreements with regard to whether they include the Board's recommendations, either in whole or in part.

6. New Business:

6.1 Endangered Species Introduction

A letter dated April 11, 2005 to the Chair of the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board from Shane F. O'Neil, Biologist, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Science Branch was submitted.

Referring to the submitted letter, the Chair advised that it pertained to a concern over the threatened and declining Atlantic Whitefish species and a recovery strategy prepared by a group called the Atlantic Whitefish Recovery Team. The Chair explained that the idea is to introduce the species in a confined environment which would be protected from human development and one such location is Anderson Lake. The Chair noted that the letter asked the Board if it wanted to comment on this project.

A discussion ensued and it was noted that Anderson Lake was probably in either the jurisdiction of Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board or Bedford Watershed Advisory Board and, therefore, it may be more appropriate to forward the letter on to that Board.

Following further discussion the Chair advised that the Legislative Assistant will find out which jurisdiction Anderson Lake falls within and forward the letter to that Watershed Advisory Board. Further, the Chair will ask Mr. Shane O'Neil to attend a future meeting of the Board to provide a presentation.

Concept Plans

The Chair advised that anyone wanting to raise issues about the concept plans circulated at the last meeting or this meeting, to raise this at the next meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting

July 20, 2005

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant