

**Halifax Watershed Advisory Board
MINUTES**

April 19, 2006

PRESENT: Dr. Wayne Stobo, Chair
Ms. Ellinor Williams, Vice Chair
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Derrill Hynick
Mr. Nathaniel Smith
Mr. David Ripley
Dr. Barry Thomas

ABSENT: Mr. Ross Evans
Dr. Sankar Ray
Councillor Mary Wile (regrets)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Richard Harvey, Senior 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 introduced Mr. Nathaniel Smith, advising that he was recently appointed to the Board by Chebucto Community Council.

2. Approval of the Agenda and Additions/Deletions

Noting that there were three presentations scheduled for this evening, the Chair suggested, and **it was agreed**, that items 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3 would be moved up on the agenda and dealt with as the first items of business.

3. Items to be added to Next Agenda

- Watershed Based Planning Information Session - Derrill Hynick
- Concept Plan Discussion - Chair
- Soil and Water Conservation Society Memorandums of March 17 and March 20.

4. Approval of the Minutes

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. Williams that the minutes of March 15, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair advised that the next regular meeting of the Board falls within the same week Regional Council will be hold the public hearing for the Regional Plan. He added that the Clerk's Office has advised that all other meetings are to be cancelled during this week. He asked the Board members if they wished to cancel or reschedule the May meeting.

The Board agreed to reschedule the May 17 meeting to May 24, 2006.

6 New Business:

6.1 Daylighting of Rivers - Draft Policy - Tony Blouin, Manager, Environmental Performance

A staff report dated January 31, 2006, prepared for the February 7, 2006 Regional Council meeting was submitted for the Board's information.

Mr. Tony Blouin, Manager, Environmental Performance addressed the Board and advised that last February, staff presented a draft policy to Regional Council on daylighting of rivers and Council directed staff take the policy to the Watershed Advisory Boards for consultation. He added that after the consultations, staff will return to Council for final approval, and once it has been adopted it will become an operating policy.

Mr. Blouin explained the concept of daylighting was, essentially, bringing a river or stream back into daylight. He elaborated on the advantages of doing this and the safety and liability issues that would be considered when daylighting a river or stream.

Mr. Blouin indicated that resources are limited for staff and that the Policy contains three conditions by which daylighting will be considered. They are as follows:

- Where existing HRM stormwater collection infrastructure must undergo significant repair or replacement.
- Where practical and legal considerations could permit a feasible daylighting project, HRM will consider the cost of daylighting as opposed to costs for repair or replacement of existing infrastructure.
- Where community interests or groups advocate daylighting of a particular enclosed watercourse, HRM will consider the project in light of the two previous conditions.

Mr. Blouin advised that he would appreciate receiving any feedback from the Board on the Policy.

A discussion ensued and Mr. Blouin responded to questions.

The following comments were put forward as suggested changes to include in the Daylighting Policy:

- prevent enclosure of rivers and streams in the first place.
- replace culverts with bridges or a three-sided culvert wherever possible rather than straight pipe.
- daylighting should have an environmental friendly face, i.e. ensure it is environmentally compatible with the surrounding area.

MOVED by Dr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Regan that Halifax Watershed Advisory Board supports the proposed Daylighting Policy with the following suggested changes: prevent enclosure of rivers and streams in the first place; replace culverts with bridges or a three-sided culvert wherever possible rather than straight pipe; and daylighting should have an environmental friendly face, i.e. ensure it is environmentally compatible with the surrounding area. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 Stormwater and Wastewater in HRM - Presentation by Barbara MacLean, P.Eng. Environmental Engineer and Charles Lloyd, P.Eng. Sr. Environmental Engineer, HRM Environmental Engineering Services

A presentation on Stormwater and Wastewater in HRM (2006) was circulated.

Mr. Charles Lloyd, Senior Environmental Engineer and Ms. Barbara MacLean, Environmental Engineer were in attendance to provide an update in regard to stormwater and wastewater services in HRM.

Mr. Lloyd began his remarks by outlining the recent reorganization of the HRM Business Units and, in particular, as it pertains to Environmental Management Services.

Mr. Lloyd's presentation reviewed the sources for funding and the expenditures; the department's priorities and issues, and some current projects. Highlight's of his remarks are as follows:

- HRM has approximately \$1.1 billion in infrastructure assets.

- Current annual budget is approximately \$42.57 million.
- Funding sources are wastewater rates, sewer redevelopment charges, and the Municipality's capital budget.
- Expenditures include the Harbour Solutions project, collection system operations, wastewater treatment plant operations, and infrastructure planning and delivery.
- Priorities and Issues are categorized under one of the following: Legal Liability Issues, Compliance, Operational Efficiency, Sewer Extensions and Non-HRM Issues.
- \$600 million over the next 25 years is required; to deal with the first two priority items (i.e. current legal and legislated obligations); an estimated capital reinvestment of \$24 million annually is required and after deducting the current level of capital funding, \$3.4 million, a shortfall of \$20.6 remains.
- Senior staff is working with Regional Council to address the shortfall in funding.

Mr. Lloyd and Ms. MacLean responded to questions.

The Chair thanked Mr. Lloyd and Ms. MacLean and advised that the Board appreciated receiving the annual update from staff.

5. Business Arising from Minutes/Deferred Items:

5.1 Concept Plan - Kingswood North Phases 4, 5, 6 and 7, Hammonds Plains (draft recommendations)

A copy of draft recommendations pertaining to the concept plan were submitted.

A discussion ensued concerning the effectiveness of including recommendations of a general nature as opposed to only making recommendations specific to the application.

Mr. Harvey indicated that it may be more beneficial for staff who receive the Board's recommendations, to have the recommendations deal specifically with the application, and that recommendations the Board has in regard to planning issues that are general to all applications may be best addressed in correspondence to planning staff at a more senior level.

The Board agreed to the following revisions:

- remove the last line of #2 and replace it with the following sentence: "The importance of the brooks for spawning also increases the need for rigorous erosion and sedimentation plans which are continuously monitored and maintained.
- remove the last line of # 4 and include the following: "HRM should ensure new development does not exacerbate the problem."
- remove #7
- remove #9
- move recommendation 5 to become recommendation 3

Ms. Williams advised that she would make the revisions as discussed.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:35 p.m.

6.3 Presentation by Ms. Anna McCarron

The Chair advised that Ms. McCarron was nearing completion of her Masters thesis and was prepared to give a presentation to the Board on the information she has to date. For the information of those new members, the Chair advised that Ms. McCarron has been attending the Board's meetings for the past couple of years as an observer.

Ms. McCarron addressed the Board and reviewed the work she compiled to date and noted that she anticipated being completed by the end of the month. In her comments, she advised that as part of her research she reviewed the Board's minutes from 1996 to 2005. She also noted that her thesis statement was The Role and Influence of the Watershed Advisory Board in Affecting Change in Land Development Practices; and that the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board was her thesis subject, with the goal being to determine the effectiveness of the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board in influencing development within the WAB boundaries.

The Chair thanked Ms. McCarron for her presentation.

Due to the late hour the Chair advised that the remaining items on the agenda would be deferred to the next regular meeting. With regard to items 5.2 and 5.3 he asked Ms. Williams and Mr. Regan to review their draft recommendations, giving consideration to re-working them to focus the recommendations more on the specific application, as opposed to making any general recommendations.

5.2 Concept Plan - Midland Hills Estates, Hammonds Plains *(draft recommendations)*

Deferred.

5.3 Concept Plan - Pascal Court, Middle Sackville *(draft recommendations)*

Deferred.

5.4 Concept Plan - Berggren Lands - Phase 2, Mount Uniacke

Deferred.

6.4 Concept Plan - Leeward Phase 2 and 3, Highland Park, Hammonds Plains

Deferred.

6.5 Concept Plan, Carriagewood Estates, Phase 1

Deferred.

6.6 Concept Plan, Colville Heights, Beaver Bank Road, Lots 1 - 12

Deferred.

6.7 Concept Plan - Leeward Phase 4, Highland Park, Hammonds Plains

Deferred.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting was scheduled for May 24, 2006.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant