



**HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD**  
**July 20, 2005**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Dr. Wayne Stobo, Chair  
Ms. Ellinor Williams, Vice Chair  
Mr. Walter Regan  
Mr. Derrill Hynick  
Dr. Spencer Lee  
Dr. Barry Thomas  
Mr. Frank Hope  
Ms. Christine Smith

**ABSENT:** Mr. Ross Evans (regrets)  
Dr. Sankar Ray (regrets)  
Ms. Janis Rod (regrets)

**STAFF AND OTHERS:** Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant  
Mr. Richard Harvey, Planner II  
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.

**2. Approval of the Agenda and Additions/Deletions**

The agenda was accepted as presented with no additions or deletions.

**3. Items to be added to Next Agenda**

The Chair referred to the submitted information item from Keith Manchester concerning Meridian Technology and noted that it had a website address for anyone wanting further information. He advised that if anyone wanted to discuss this item, to advise the Legislative Assistant in time to be included on the next agenda.

The Chair advised that he received a copy of an executive summary entitled, *At a Watershed: Ecological Governance and Sustainable Water Management in Canada* from the Polis Project on Ecological Governance, which is out of University of Victoria. He advised that the Legislative Assistant will include copy in the next agenda package and the item will be on the agenda for discussion.

Referring to the Water Quality Report for Hail Pond which was circulated this evening, the Chair requested the members to review it and he advised that it will be on the agenda for the next meeting should anyone want to discuss it.

Referring to information pertaining to Bennery Lake Watershed Committee Meeting (submitted by Keith Manchester), the Chair noted that Mr. Manchester sat on this Committee on behalf of HWAB. He added that Mr. Manchester has indicated he is willing to continue in this capacity, even though he did not re-offer to serve on HWAB when his term expired last November. The Chair advised that he will invite Mr. Manchester to the Board's next meeting to provide an update.

**4. Approval of the Minutes**

Dr. Lee noted a typographical error on page six of the minutes. With this correction it was **MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. Williams, the minutes of June 15, 2005 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. Business Arising from Minutes/Deferred Items:**

**5.1 WAB Guidelines**

A final version (dated July 2005) of the WAB Guidelines was submitted.

A discussion ensued and revisions to the Guidelines were noted as follows:

- pg. 4, under the category, Wetlands including Saltmarshes; sixth line down, include the word 'for' before the word 'aquifer'. Also, remove the words, 'in summer and winter' from the end of same sentence.
- The preamble on the front page was revised to read as follows:

*The Watershed Advisory Board reviews development applications submitted to the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) with the focus on protecting water quality and quantity as well as the quality of life associated with our water resources. While development is inevitable, some developments have an adverse influence on our water resources that detracts from quality of life. The following guidelines are designed to protect freshwater, estuarine and marine environment by suggesting ecological responsible methods and practices for land use planning and development in HRM.*

The Chair advised that Ms. Williams would make the revisions to the guidelines and forward to the Legislative Assistant.

Prior to concluding discussion on this matter **it was agreed** that, in future, the Board would periodically update the guidelines.

## **5.2 Water Resources Management Study (Update)**

Mr. Harvey advised that Mr. Tony Blouin intends to report back soon to the Board. He explained that staff is devising a list of individual water bodies and are going to the WAB's to ask if they represent the areas that should be tested. Mr. Harvey indicated that he believed in September, staff will be providing details of the program of the watercourses selected for testing; and then the Board will be asked if this reflects the highest of priorities.

## **5.3 HWAB Recommendations on Development Agreements**

A discussion ensued concerning whether the Board wanted to pursue investigating if its recommendations had been included in various Development Agreements or wait until Ms. Anna McCarron (Observer) concluded her thesis since her thesis research would involve much the same research.

In response to the Chair's request, Ms. McCarron addressed the Board. She explained that part of her thesis is to determine the effectiveness of the HWAB and one way of doing this is to select case studies to determine whether the Board's recommendations to Community Council made it into the Development Agreements, or rezonings, etc. Ms. McCarron briefly explained her methodology for determining which items she will choose as case studies.

Mr. Harvey advised that he reviewed previous minutes of the Board—going back to 1999—and he found 21 instances where the Board made recommendations on Development Agreements. He suggested the Board could review these to determine if the recommendations were incorporated, and then take approximately six and give them a thorough analysis.

A discussion ensued and **it was agreed** that the Board would put this matter on hold until Ms. McCarron has finished her thesis. Ms. McCarron indicated that she expected to have a first draft by December.

#### **5.4 Case 00617 Amendment to Districts 14 & 17 Plan and LUB for Aerotech Business Park**

A report pertaining to this matter had been submitted at the last meeting, at which time, staff gave a presentation.

The Chair noted that Mr. Bone, Planner, had submitted a topographical map of the area in question, as requested by the Board. He indicated he would leave this with the Legislative Assistant should anyone want to review it.

In reference to the report, the Chair noted that he did not feel sufficient information was before the Board to make anything other than very general comments

A discussion ensued and **it was agreed** that this matter would be deferred to the Board's next meeting, giving the members more opportunity to review the report.

#### **5.5 Endangered Species Introduction**

The Chair advised that at the last meeting, he had provided information on a proposal by Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding the Whitefish species and, at that time he indicated he would contact DFO staff and request a presentation at this meeting. The Chair noted that since this, the project has moved ahead to the point that any input by the Board would not have an impact.

#### **5.6 Pinehill Brook Flow into Little Sackville River**

A draft copy of a letter, with attached photos, addressed to Mayor Peter Kelly regarding sediment into Pinehill Brook and erosion in the Lower Sackville River was submitted.

The Chair noted that a few months ago the Board provided recommendations on a development on Sackville Drive and during the course of discussion, the issue of ongoing erosion across from Pinehill Street arose, and the Board decided to deal with this as a separate letter to the Mayor. He asked the Board to review and comment on the letter.

There being no substantial changes, the Chair advised that the Legislative Assistant would revise and forward the letter to Community Council and copy Mayor Kelly and Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Environmental Management Services.

#### **5.7 Water Testing Results Review**

- A document entitled, *Water Testing Results Requested by HWAB*, prepared by Ms. Ellinor Williams was submitted.

In reference to the submitted document, Ms. Williams pointed out that the projects listed were ones the Board had asked to receive water testing results. She suggested the Board review the list and determine if there were any cases worthwhile to pursue.

A discussion ensued and Mr. Harvey noted his earlier comments on finding that there

were 21 Development Agreements over the past several years on which the Board made recommendations. He advised that he could review these, specifically looking for water testing recommendations. If it has not been included then that is something Ms. McCarron could investigate, and if a water testing recommendation was included but the Board has not received anything, then that was something the Board could follow up.

The Chair pointed out that if the Board eventually obtains this information, those reports could be turned over to HRM's Environmental Management Services and they can maintain them on file so that, in future, if a pollution problem arises they have information to access.

A brief discussion ensued and Ms. Williams pointed out that she does not want the Board to lose sight of the fact that the HWAB asked to see the testing results in order that the Board can review them.

Mr. Harvey suggested that going through this process can be a learning experience for all, and that perhaps, in future, the Board could get copies of the Development Agreements it makes recommendations on.

Further to this, the Chair suggested that the planner involved with the development agreement could send a letter advising if the recommendations were included in the Development Agreement or not; and if so, note the recommendations that were included.

## **6. New Business:**

### **6.1 Baseline Sampling Program Results**

- A copy of an e-mail dated June 20, 2005 from the Chair to Alexa Karlicki pertaining to the Receiving Waters Baseline Sampling Program Results - April 2005 was submitted.

The Chair noted that the submitted e-mail was an information item only.

A brief discussion ensued and the Chair advised that he would send Ms. Karlicki an e-mail suggesting that she forward the results to the Nova Scotia Department of Environment.

### **6.2 Concept Plans**

- Concept Plans regarding Glen Arbour Phase 8; and Old Post Road Estates were submitted as information items at the June meeting.

The Chair asked if the Board wanted to provide comment to staff on the concept plans.

With regard to the concept plan for Old Post Road Estates **the Board recommended** that, in accordance with its guidelines, an undisturbed 30 ft. buffer be included. It was also agreed that some sort of corridor for public access be included in the concept plan.

The Board was in agreement that the Chair would forward the comments on to staff.

With regard to the concept plan for Glen Arbour Phase 8 it was noted that the subdivision will border on McCabe Lake. **It was agreed** that Mr. Regan would draft a proposed letter in regard to this and bring it back to the Board's next meeting.

Mr. Harvey questioned if the Board was advised of timelines by staff for commenting on concept plans. He briefly reviewed the formal process staff goes through with concept plans, and noted that perhaps if the Concept Plan Meeting has occurred prior to receiving the Board's comments, then the comments may be moot. Mr. Harvey advised that, if the Board concurred, he would look into this further and report back.

The Chair indicated that it would be beneficial to have Mr. Harvey get further information on this process, to ensure that the Board is not spending time on matters of which decisions have already been made.

#### **7. Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair advised that he will not be able to attend the scheduled August 17, 2005 meeting.

#### **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant