

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
HALIFAX COUNTY/HALIFAX MAINLAND WATERSHED ADVISORY BD.**

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6:30 p.m.  
Board Room 1  
2750 Dutch Village Road  
February 17, 1999

PRESENT: Dr. Wayne Stobo, Chair  
Mr. Keith Manchester  
Mr. David Dwyer  
Ms. Colleen McNeil  
Mr. Walter Regan  
Dr. Jack Burney  
Mr. Peter Shacklock  
Mr. Glen Williams  
Mr. David Haley  
Mr. William O'Toole  
Mr. Michael Guilcher  
Mr. Jim Holmes

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Susan Corser, Planner  
Lynne Le Boutillier, Assistant Municipal Clerk

REGRETS: Mr. Jim MacLean and Mr. Mack McMenemy

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1.0 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Moved up on the agenda:

Item 4.1 - Hemlock Ravine - Rick Gagne

Item 6.1 - Sub-Committee on Parameters for Water Quality Testing - Update on Progress

Added items:

Item 4.3 - Second Lake Sackville

Item 4.4 - North West PAC

Item 4.5 - New Watershed Groups

Deleted items:

Item 3.18 - Western Needs Study

The agenda, as amended, was adopted on motion of Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Williams.

(Later in the meeting, an additional item re North East Pipelines was added.)

2.0 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. O'Toole is incorrectly referred to as Michael rather than William in item 2.0, Page 3 of the January 20, 1999 minutes.

The minutes, as amended, were adopted on motion of Mr. Guilcher and Mr. Regan.

3.0 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

3.1 **PROTOCOL DISTRICT 2**

Mr. Williams provided a copy of the revised Protocol to the Clerk, which will be circulated to the members for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Williams outlined to the Board developments with regard to the protocol. He noted that a copy has been provided to Councillor Snow, the Planning Department and Sandy Cameron, Regional Supervisor, NSDOE.

3.2 **WATER QUALITY MONITORING - GLEN ARBOUR - RESPONSE OF PETER DUNCAN TO CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

Circulated with the agenda package was a copy of a letter from Peter Duncan dated January 27, 1999 regarding the Water Quality Monitoring Program - Development Agreement with Annapolis Basin in response to the Chair's correspondence of December 16, 1998. Enclosed with Mr. Duncan's correspondence had been a summary of the monitoring results for the period September 11, 1996 to May 14, 1998.

During the review of the response, the Chairman noted the data which accompanied the correspondence was less complete than the data provided by Mr. Regan. It was questioned whether HRM have a complete set of data in one location. The Board needs a complete package for its Web site.

It was proposed that perhaps Tony Blouin be designated to act as a repository for the data. Ms. Corser noted that his role with Planning Services has yet to be defined.

Ms. Corser noted that in the development agreement, no one was specified as recipient of data from Annapolis Basin. In future development agreements, she felt more specific directions could be incorporated.

It was decided the most expedient way to obtain this data was for Susan Corser to contact Mr. Soori of Annapolis Basin.

The Board also discussed the interpretation of the water quality data, as to whose responsibility it should be. It was Mr. Duncan's opinion that the developer's consultant should review the test results. He did not feel it was Regional Operations' role. The role of the Board in interpreting the results was discussed. Ms. Corser will speak with Mr. Blouin to clearly define the Board's role.

It was recognized there is a need to review the Development Agreement with Annapolis Basin. Mr. Guilcher and Mr. Regan volunteered to conduct the review and report back to the next meeting on what advise the Board might wish to give to HRM in this regard. Copies of the development agreement will be provided by the Clerk.

4.1 **HEMLOCK RAVINE - RICK GAGNE**

Rick Gagne, a hydro-geologist, was introduced to the members by David Haley. Mr. Haley noted that during review of the development plans for Hemlock Estates, several questions were raised by the Board, which no one was qualified to answer with respect to effect the development would have on ground water and thus the ecosystem of Hemlock Ravine Park.

Mr. Williams also sought comments from Mr. Gagne on the overall impact development will have on the whole area to be eventually developed.

Mr. Gagne discussed with the members the characteristics of the stream(s) which run through Hemlock Ravine. He explained why they would be classified intermittent streams. He also suggested the members visualize the aquifer as a sponge. Mr. Gagne pinpointed the recharge area for the Ravine in its upper reaches to the northwest and from the sides of the Ravine itself. He noted that by paving areas and channelling storm water from roofs and roads into the storm sewer system, the recharge potential will be decreased and Hemlock Ravine's brook could dry up. This would have a very detrimental affect on the Hemlock Ravine ecosystem.

Mr. Gagne noted there has been very little geological mapping of the area which would help in identifying the very complex underground features. A discussion followed on rock formations in the area and why faults versus glacial scours are evident. The resultant bedrock jointing, associated with cracks or fractures in the bedrock permits ground water to penetrate and eventually flow into Hemlock Ravine. Mr. Gagne emphasized that his comments are only hypothetical. It would be later noted that blasting in the area could either facilitate the flow of water by opening up fractures or impede its flow by shockwaves lodging debris in the fractures. There is no way this can be determined beforehand. The effect can only be monitored after the fact. Monitoring could be done by drilling some wells prior to blasting and using a pump test to quantify any changes. Mr. Gagne did advocate the use of smaller charges for blasting.

It was suggested by Mr. Gagne that one of the ways to lessen the negative impact on recharging is to allow the storm water from roofs and streets to disburse and spread rather than having it directed to storm sewers.

Mr. Regan recalled that the plans viewed by the Board identified the piping of stormwater to a pond, as a phase in the storm water retention control plans. It was identified that it will be important that the stormwater retention pond not be lined, to minimize the adverse effect on recharging.

Mr. Gagne predicted that as the development proceeds along the Bedford Highway in the direction of Bedford, more problems with area wells could be anticipated.

In summary, the following issues were identified:

- C effect of blasting on ground water recharge and local wells
- C the need to ensure that surface water isn't piped to a storm sewer, particularly the runoff from roofs and paved areas. The dispersal of water from roofs could be facilitated through the use of dry wells.

Referring to the effect development of the whole area will have, it was noted the situation could either be improved or worsened. This first phase could be used as a test site for the damage which might happen with development of the whole area.

It was concluded that it will be most important to minimize stormwater outflow from the project when the systems are being engineered.

Mr. Regan expressed concern regarding the loss of habitat if the pond is used for storm water retention. The pros and cons of loss of habitat versus its use to allow better infiltration were discussed.

During this discussion it was noted that if a lot of silt enters the pond, its ability to infiltrate will be reduced, thus the importance of a good Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.

Copies of an extract from today's minutes on the subject will be forwarded to Steve Feist, Planner, so he can alert the Armoyan Group of the concerns discussed by the Board today. A copy will also be provided to Richard Gagne. It would be beneficial if the developer takes these concerns into account early in the design phase.

The Chair thanked Mr. Gagne for attending this evening's meeting.

### 3.3 **INCLUSION OF PENINSULAR HALIFAX UNDER BOARD'S MANDATE**

Ms. McNeil had drafted the correspondence and forwarded it to the Chair as requested, but the item was deferred as the draft was not available. Later in the meeting, the Chair located a copy of the draft which will be circulated with the next agenda package.

### 3.4 **PARTNERSHIP IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE - UPDATE**

The Chair advised the abstract has been accepted and will be included in the publication being published for the Conference.

There will be no deferral of registration fees for presenters. The cost of the registration fee has not been determined.

### 3.5 GUIDELINES/LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS - CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. McNeil reported the list has been completed and the letters are ready for signature.

It was suggested by Ms. Corser that a copy of the letter and Guidelines be sent to Jacqueline Hamilton, Planner for inclusion on the Atlantic Planners Association Chat-line for dispersal to all its members.

### 3.7 CONCEPT PLANS - CORRESPONDENCE TO ACTING MANAGER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Circulated with the agenda package was a letter sent by the Chair to the Acting Manager of Development Services on the subject of Concept Plan Review.

It was suggested by Mr. Regan that perhaps the Board could enter the process when “as-of-right” developments are considered through the 5% parkland dedication requirement. Ms. Corser explained why she thought this would not be feasible. Mr. Regan will pursue the matter further with Peter Bigelow, General Manager, Recreation Facilities and report back to the next meeting.

### 3.8 SILT RETENTION DEVICE FOR PIPES

Ms. Corser reported that she still has not received the manufacturers information as requested from Regional Operations on the device used at Cole Harbour. She will send another reminder or provide Mr. Regan with the name of the individual to contact.

### 3.9 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN BEDFORD

Copies of letters in response to the Chair’s correspondence dated November 13, 1999 from Michel Samson, Minister Department of Environment and Donna Davis-Lohnes, General Manager - Planning Services were circulated with the agenda package.

Mr. Regan advised that he is a member of the Advisory Committee consisting of fifteen (15) people of which six are staff from Corrections and the Nova Scotia Hospital. One meeting has been held to date. Mr. Regan noted the tentative plans call for a 1.5 kilometres entrance to the site from the Hammond Plains Highway. Cabinet has directed the facility to be constructed on high ground in the vicinity of Jacks Lake. Of the 950 acres, 35 acres will be fenced, 100 acres fenced for privacy and the balance

deeded to HRM for park. Mr. Regan noted that in 1986 when the area was being considered for a landfill location, a full environmental impact study was conducted which was referred to when locating the facility.

It was suggested by Mr. Manchester that the Advisory Committee be requested to make a presentation to the Board. It was felt important that the Board be proactive and there is a need to dispel rumours and have an opportunity to explain the Board's role. The Chair will write to the Chairperson of the Committees care of the staff person, requesting a presentation for the March meeting. It was suggested by Dr. Burney that some engineering personnel from the firm contracted to do the design/build project also be invited. Mr. O'Toole indicated that Diamond Construction (Tidewater Construction) have been awarded the contract. He noted that a preliminary design was prepared by Lavalan, which should be available through Corrections. The Chair will also request a presentation on this design plan be given. However, if only the size and number of rooms, etc. are indicated, this is really not of concern to the Board. He felt the Board is more interested in alerting them to concerns the Board has for runoff, etc. from the site, so they will be more sensitive to such matters. Mr. Regan will provide the name and address to the Chair of the individual he should correspond with.

Referring to the response from the Minister of the Environment, the Chair advised that he has personally requested a meeting with Mr. Samson to discuss this correspondence. There was general consensus of the members that he should also speak on the Board's behalf.

## 6.0 SUB-COMMITTEE

### 6.1 SUB-COMMITTEE ON PARAMETERS FOR WATER QUALITY TESTING - UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Circulated with the agenda package were minutes of the sub-committee's January meeting. Dr. Burney reported that another meeting was held February 16 and Tony Blouin will provide minutes to the Clerk.

In his update he noted that Susan Corser had attended the January meeting to explain the interest the Planning Section has in the sub-committee's work.

He noted the Committee has been wrestling with its mandate and the issue of cost.

The NSDOE is very interested in the data which will result and perhaps a section of the DFO. Peter Hennigar has been liaising with them.

To date they have acquired a couple of names of consultants who could conduct the biological analysis.

The subject of having a central repository for documents associated with the Board's work was once again raised. At the last meeting, Ms. Corser had advised that she had secured space in the Dutch Village Road Building for this purpose. However, while this would be an appropriate location for maps to be used at meeting, access might be more difficult for documents. It was therefore proposed the HRM's Corporate Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Scotia Square, be utilized for this purpose.

At this evening's meeting the following materials were provided to the Clerk:

- C Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life
- C Sampling for Water Quality - Environment Canada (earlier requested by Mr. Hope)
- C Canadian Environmental Quality Guidelines
- C Monitoring Surface Water Quality - A Guide for Citizens, Students and Communities in Atlantic Canada.

Dr. Burney noted the sub-committee is trying to summarize existing environmental quality guidelines. He will endeavour to circulate the document by e-mail to the members for comment.

Dr. Burney noted that Bill Hart has identified eight parameters.

The next meeting is in five weeks. He noted that there are a tremendous number of issues to address and they are very controversial. The Chair confirmed that this is a very ambitious undertaking.

Mr. Haley suggested it would be worthwhile for the Board to acknowledge the participation of members from the Provincial Government. He felt the sub-committee was very fortunate to have these individuals participating. The Chair will write the various departments acknowledging the contribution and thanking them for their participation. Mr. Haley volunteered to draft the correspondence to the Deputy Minister (s) for the Chair's signature, with copies to the individual members.

It is anticipated that the end result will be extremely valuable and an additional spinoff is the liaisons being created.

Mr. Haley noted that during the subcommittee's discussions, the need for flexibility was recognized and being site specific.

One aspect lacking however was the input from a biological perspective. It was suggested that Anita Hamilton might be an asset in this regard. She is associated with DFO.

Mr. Regan noted that quite a bit of work has been done by Natural Resources in Ontario. Dr. Burney will follow-up with the address provided.

### 3.10 WATER COMMISSION PLANS

A draft letter to the Mayor regarding the Halifax Water Commission was circulated at the meeting for the members' review. As a result of the review, it was identified that the Halifax Water Commission should more correctly be referred to as the Halifax Regional Water Commission throughout the correspondence. The only editorial change required was in the last paragraph, first sentence. It was felt that reference should be made to a Council appointed watershed advisory group rather than simply a watershed advisory group, as the intent was not to have, for example, the Lake Major or Pockwock group review the plans.

The Chair welcomed any other suggestions regarding the draft correspondence via e-mail before Friday of next week.

As promised by the Halifax Regional Water Commission representatives, copies of their publication entitled "Downstream", an historical reflection of the Halifax water supply system were provided to the Chair. Copies were provided to those present. Only one copy was left, which will be made available through the Corporate Library, the Board's new information repository.

### 3.11 GREENRIDGE MOBILE HOME PARK, EASTERN PASSAGE

Copies of the correspondence Ms. McNeil sent to the proponent and recommendations were circulated with the agenda package, for information purposes only. It was suggested that a carbon copy of such correspondence be sent to the planner associated with such proposals. The Board was assured the planner received a separate letter in this regard.

Ms. Corser noted the staff report and draft agreement is being tabled with the HECC Planning Advisory Committee, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the report and draft agreement will be provided to the members.

### 3.12 WESTERN COMMONS STUDY (FORMER HALIFAX WATERSHED LANDS)

Copies of the Western Commons Study will be provided by Paul Morgan when available. The Clerk will e-mail him a reminder.

### 3.13 CASE #PA-ES(E)10-97 (VALDI PRIVATE ISLANDS)

Draft recommendations associated with the above noted application related to a private road subdivision in the Plan Area of Eastern Shore were circulated with the agenda package. The draft has been sent to Kevin Barrett, the Planner associated with the development, but there has been no response to date. Susan Corser will check into. She indicated that if a negative response was not received, it is likely okay.

It was recalled that this development is setting an important precedent, as a new Policy is being developed regarding private road developments.

### 3.14 **LOST CREEK GOLF COURSE**

Ms. Corser advised that she sent a letter to the golf course President related to the concerns raised at the January meeting regarding aspects of the expansion of this golf course. Attached to the correspondence were the Board's Guidelines. A copy to be provided to the Clerk for the files.

### 3.15 **HECC JURISDICTION**

Copies of a memorandum sent to the Chair of HECC dated January 1999, regarding a motion to appoint DLAB as an official advisory Board to the HECC, were circulated with the agenda package. The correspondence reiterated the Board's position in this regard.

The Chair read from draft minutes of HECC's February meeting, which demonstrated a misrepresentation of the Board's response to the previous motion on the same topic and a misunderstanding of the Board's position on that topic.

Ms. Corser noted that Donna Davis-Lohnes has requested that she draft a follow-up report, including a list of all lakes involved. The Chair noted that Mr. Mandaville had previously provided this information. Copies of the report will be provided to the members.

### 3.16 **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Chair referred to a letter he received from the Mayor's Office acknowledging receipt of the Board's correspondence of November 15, 1999 on the above noted subject. No further response has been received to date.

3.17 **N.S. WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD**

The Chair reported that he, Susan Corser, Jim Holmes, Walter Regan, Frank Hope and Glen Williams had attended the recent workshop. Those who participated were invited to give their reflections.

- C Susan Corser indicated that she will be interested in reading the written outcome of the report. Apparently reports have already been written on the visits to the various Boards. Two more workshops have yet to be held. Copies will be provided to the various groups visited.
- C Mr. Regan felt that workshop went very well and they are apparently seeking direction.
- C The Chair noted that on a number of occasions, this Board was identified as a model to follow.
- C Jim Holmes felt it was challenging to work with their terms of reference.
- C Glen Williams, noting that a lot of the proposal will be volunteer based. He felt a lot of work will be required.
- C The Chair felt it to be a great idea as the Province needs the initiative, but there are problems with the terms of reference, particularly if the Boards don't have the discretion to say 'no' to the Minister. He was confident it will go ahead, but is presently a work in progress and speculated that they will encounter problems with resourcing. There are a lot of things yet to be worked out.
- C Mr. Holmes felt it would be worthwhile if a history could be kept in a central location of what has worked or not worked in the past; accessible to all groups.
- C Mr. Williams felt it would be worthwhile if they included the resources available from local colleges and universities in this endeavour.

Mr. Dwyer outlined a situation faced in Petpeswick in which PIPOA is moribund and would like the Ratepayers Association to take over its funds and mandate. He foresaw similar situation arises in future with the Provincial Watershed Boards.

3.18 **WESTERN NEEDS STUDY**

Duplication, dealt with under 3.13, Western Commons Study.

4.0 **NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)**

4.2 **MR. ERNST - GOLF COURSE: IMPACT ON WATERCOURSES**

It was requested that this item be deferred until March, due to the unavailability of Mr. Ernest.

4.3 **SECOND LAKE SACKVILLE**

Mr. Regan was pleased to report that 755 acres of Housing Commission lands in the vicinity of Second Lake have been made into a provincial park reserve through a transfer to Natural Resources. He circulated a newspaper clipping on the subject and displayed a map to the Board, which identified the area in question.

4.4 **NORTH WEST PAC**

An e-mail from Susan Corser extending an invitation from the Northwest PAC for the Chair or an alternate to attend their April or May meeting was read. They meet the first Wednesday of the month. The PAC wishes to discuss the Board's mandate and expectations. The Chair advised that he will be available to attend either date, or Ms. McNeil. Ms. Corser will advise the PAC Coordinator. Ms. Corser will endeavour to firm up the date and provide more details of their expectations.

4.5 **NEW WATERSHED GROUPS**

Mr. Regan advised that following a small presentation he had made to a university group, Pat Manuel, who is associated with the Williams Lake group, sought information on how an individual or representative of the Williams Lake group could become a member of the Board. Reference was made to the advertisement HRM puts out for volunteers. The Chair referred to the Board's terms of reference and the fact that representatives of waters related groups can join the board at any time. Reference was made in the terms of reference to appointments taking effect November 1, with appointments made by Community Councils.

Some clarification of the process will have to be done by staff, given Chebucto Community Council has now disbanded. Appointments may be required through HRM Council. Once the process has been clarified, the Clerk will contact Ms. Manuel.

It was also noted that a woman representing the Chezzetcook Inlet Association had earlier expressed

interest in joining the Board. Ms. Corser noted that she had been provided with information on the process sometime ago. It was felt the information should be resent to Kelly Taylor, 323 Petam Station Road, West Chezzetcook, N.S. B0J 1N0.

### **NORTH EAST PIPELINES**

Mr. Manchester noted that North East Pipelines is making a presentation to the Shubenacadie Canal Commission tomorrow as their pipeline will be going under the Canal in August. He felt it would be worthwhile for the Company to make a presentation to the Board.

Due to the heavy agenda for the March meeting, it was decided to request they give a presentation in April. Mr. Manchester will try to determine if they would be available.

Referring to the potential number of members who could attend the Board meetings and presenters, Mr. Williams felt that an alternative location should be considered. The Charles Fenerty Room, Acadia School and LeBrun Centre were suggested as possible new locations. In the interim, the Clerk will try to book the old Council Chambers, Dutch Village Road for the March meeting. She will try to retain the Conference Room booking as well for the balance of the meeting.

### 7.0 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, March 17, 1999.

### 8.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 p.m. on motion of Glen Williams and David Haley.

Dr. Wayne Stobo  
Chairman

Lynne Le Boutillier  
Assistant Municipal Clerk

(March9/99)

