

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX/HALIFAX COUNTY WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2003

PRESENT: Dr. Wayne Stobo, Chair
Mr. David Dwyer
Mr. Bill Ernst
Mr. Walter Regan
Ms. Ellinor Williams
Ms. Christine Smith
Dr. Spencer Lee
Mr. Ross Evans
Mr. Glen Williams
Mr. Frank Hope
Dr. S. Ray
Dr. Barry Thomas
Mr. Lawrence White
Mr. Peter Murray
Mr. Shalom Mandaville

ABSENT: Mr. Keith Manchester (regrets)
Mr. Jim Holmes
Ms. Janis Rod (regrets)
Ms. Susan Corser (regrets)

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Lynne Le Boutillier, Legislative Assistant

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0.1 **PRESENTATION**

Mr. Shalom Mandaville, on behalf of the Soil and Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax, presented a plaque to Dr. Stobo in recognition of his contributions.

0.2 **NEW MEMBER**

Dr. Spencer Lee was welcomed to his first meeting as a member of the Board.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Item 4.5 - Springfield Lake, Middle Sackville was deferred until the April meeting.

Added to the agenda were the following items under New Business:

- Item 3.2 Method of Doing Business (Mr. Williams)
- Item 3.3 Sewage Outfall - Five Islands Lake (Mr. Hope)
- Item 3.4 Limnology - Mr. Mandaville
- Item 3.5 Concept Plans
- Item 3.6 Halifax Harbour Watershed Coalition (Mr. Regan)
- Item 3.7 Nova Scotia Lake Hypolimnion Project - (Mr. Hope)

Under Business Arising:

Item 4.7 - Assisted Care Residence - Lower Sackville

Ms. Smith requested that a item related to development in general in Halifax and the overall impact on watersheds in the area be added to an agenda. It was recalled that she had brought up this issue at the joint meeting of WABs related to the Water Resource Management Strategy. Ms. Smith did not feel it was addressed in a comprehensive enough manner at that time. She will make a presentation at the next meeting.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED BY Mr. Regan and seconded by Ms. Williams that the minutes of the January 15, 2003 meeting be adopted, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND CARRIED

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

3.1 **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

Mr. Regan nominated Dr. Stobo for Chair. Motion seconded by Dr. Ray. There being no further nominations, it was moved that nominations cease. **Dr. Stobo was declared Chair.**

Nominations were called for Vice-Chair. Mr. Mandaville nominated Ms. Williams. Nomination seconded by Mr. Murray. There being no further nominations, it was moved nominations cease and **Ms. Williams was declared Vice-Chair.**

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES/STATUS SHEET**

4.1 **WATER SERVICE DISTRICT BOUNDARY AMENDMENTS FOR FALL RIVER**

The Board continued its review of the draft report prepared by Ms. Smith. The following changes were made:

Point 4, last sentence - end sentence at 'or another facility'. Add 'measure TP to 1 microgram per litre sensitivity'.

Point 6, recommendation (a) add the words 'by HRM'.

Point 8, insert the word 'when' before the word 'conduit' and the words 'are filled in, the infilling include periodic placement of clay plugs' after the word 'excavations'.....so that soil matrix....

In the Site Description, third line insert the words 'may include' before the word 'pyritic'.

Ms. Smith will make the above noted changes and provide to the Secretary for signature of the Chair.

4.2 **GLEN ARBOUR (SANDY LAKE)**

The Chair requested that Ms. Corser check with the Planner associated with this case to see if any information on the remaining phases is available at this point in time.

Mr. Evans related to the Board that he has confirmed that Glen Arbour obtained an Audubon rating. He is in the process of trying to find out exactly what the process involves to get this status.

4.3 **STATUS SHEET**

DRAFT LETTER RE WATER TEST RESULTS FILING/ARCHIVING

Dr. Thomas had provided a draft letter which was the subject of a lengthy discussion. The Secretary reported that Ms. Corser has offered to make arrangements to have the information housed in the Planning and Development Services library, Alderney Gate. Ms. Le Boutillier noted that it was also the feeling of the Municipal Clerk that the Planning and Development Services Business Unit would be the appropriate place to file/archive materials. The Secretary noted that such materials are only filed/archived for one Committee by the Municipal Clerk due to a requirement under provincial legislation. The Corporate Library did not feel it was appropriate to store such materials.

The main concern of the Board is that their materials are accessible and indexed.

The Board discussed the following:

- C Which materials they would like archived, i.e. agendas, minutes, recommendations and water test results? It was concluded that agendas were not necessary. It was noted that commencing 2003, agendas are put on the web site for upcoming meetings. In addition to recommendations, it was desired that henceforth advisory letters also would be archived.
- C Which materials should be filed in hard copy and/or electronically?
- C Whether the process would be retroactive or not?

It was noted that approved minutes are readily available as they have been kept in binders since amalgamation. The Secretary was requested to provide copies of these to Ms. Corser. Approved minutes are on the HRM Web site commencing 1999.

The members discussed whether standard recommendations pertaining to development agreements, etc. are desired archived or letters to the Mayor, etc. Recommendations in hard copy and electronically were desired. It was recognized that it may, in some instances, be difficult to determine which is the final copy. It was suggested that in order to facilitate compiling the recommendations, the members review their files, pull out recommendations and provide to staff. These then could be scanned and put on the Web.

Mr. Mandaville outlined to the Board what is already on the Soil and Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax's web page for the Board, ie. recommendations related to major developments but not less significant ones.

Mr. Ernst supported sending the letter off, stating what the Board's needs and priorities are and letting staff decide what can be provided.

As an alternative to writing the letter, the Secretary and Ms. Corser were asked to discuss how much they were willing to take on. Staff was asked to come up with a proposal, ie. what can be done on a go forward basis and retroactively.

It was concluded that it would not be practical to file water testing results electronically or archive responses of proponents to the various recommendations. When test results are received and the Board comments, it was desired that these comments be archived.

4.4 **WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

- C Copies of the report dated December 2002 had been provided in either hard copy and/or disk.
- C Draft minutes of the Joint Watershed Advisory Board meeting held January 16, 2003 circulated in the agenda package. At the meeting a revised last page was circulated reflecting an error on page 10, 3rd paragraph.
- C Recommendations/comments from the Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax

The Board discussed how they wished to proceed with the review. It was noted that a response is required by March 31st. Responses from the three boards to be consolidated by staff.

It was decided that there was not enough time at the regular meeting to deal with this item. A special meeting will be held Monday, March 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in Halifax Hall. In the interim, the members were encouraged to submit their comments, etc., via e-mail or fax to the Municipal Clerks Office. Someone will gather the responses, in the absence of the Secretary, and mail out an agenda package Tuesday, February 25th, together with the Board's response to Ann Muecke dated September 26, 2002. Mr. Mandaville requested a hard copy be made available in the Municipal Clerks office for him to pick up.

The report from the Soil and Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax could be appended to the Board's report as background information. Mr. Regan noted that the Sackville Rivers Association will also be making a separate submission.

The members were encouraged to make their comments specific and concise. Any duplicates will be extracted from the final list of Board recommendations. Recommendations of higher priority will be identified.

4.5 **SPRINGFIELD LAKE, MIDDLE SACKVILLE**

This item was deferred to the April meeting.

4.6 **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

In addition to Dr. Lee and Ms. Smith being appointed to the Board, a third member, Janis Rod, was appointed the Secretary advised.

The Chair advised that it is Mr. Dwyer's intention to resign after the March meeting. Mr. Dwyer, referring to his seven years on the Board, noted that he has learned a lot from his involvement.

4.7 **ASSISTED CARE RESIDENCE - SACKVILLE**

Referring to last month's review of this case brought to the Board by Andrew Bone, the Chair recalled that unless the parking issue can be resolved, it need not be brought back to the Board. The Secretary indicated Mr. Bone has been provided with an extract from the draft minutes. The Chair felt Mr. Bone should know that the Board will not discuss the case again until the parking lot issue is resolved.

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

3.2 **METHOD OF DOING BUSINESS**

The Board discussed various ways to make their meetings more effective given the time constraints. The following suggestions were made:

- C Identify a different meeting location so the Board can meet past 9:30 p.m. The majority of the members liked the current location. Dr. Stobo will contact the Mayor's office to determine if the building could remain open later.
- C Start the meeting earlier. This option was determined to be not practical.
- C Not permit agenda items to be added the night of the meeting. They must be in the hands of the Secretary ten days before the meeting or notice will be given for the following meeting. An item will be set up on the agenda for this purpose. The exception would be items from staff which require immediate attention.
- C Time limit on presentations from proponents. Focus of planners and proponents should be on environmental issues. This message will have to be conveyed to the Planners that presentations are to be restricted to a half hour.
- C Time limits be set for individual items, enforced by perhaps the Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair will endeavour to set time limits on the various items.
- C The meetings follow formal rules, requiring an individual wanting to speak to raise their hand and be acknowledged by the Chair.
- C No portion of the meeting should exceed two hours, without a break.

C Self-discipline of members when debating in relation to both time and focus.

3.3 **SEWAGE OUTFALL - FIVE ISLANDS LAKE**

Mr. Hope briefly described the proposed installation of a new sewage treatment process for the Sir John A MacDonald High School. He was not sure if the plan fell outside the Board's jurisdiction. The Board felt the item should be discussed but due to time constraints, it was decided to defer the item until the March meeting, during which time the report and map will be copied and provided to the members.

In the interim, Mr. Hope will draft recommendations for the Board's consideration.

3.4 **LIMNOLOGY**

Mr. Mandaville addressed this information item briefly. As of December 10, 2003 the N.S. Department of Environment & Labour requires that any development, of any size, which drains directly, or indirectly into a lake, has to be studied by a qualified limnologist.

3.5 **CONCEPT PLANS**

Deferred at the request of the Chair.

3.6 **HALIFAX HARBOUR WATERSHED COALITION**

Minutes of February 11, 2003 meeting were circulated to the members. Mr. Regan was asked to explain exactly what the Coalition intends to do. Mr. Regan noted that a \$90,000 grant has been received from environmental agencies to come up with an action plan for restoration of Halifax Harbour and surrounding watersheds. Half of these funds can be used towards a pilot project(s). The coalition is endeavouring to have individuals and groups submit projects to address various aspects of remediation.

He noted that two resolutions were passed related to defining the area of the Harbour and in addition to remediating freshwater watersheds, marine areas will also be included.

Ms. Williams stressed that the importance of the watershed aspects not be forgotten, given the predominance of individuals whose focus is on the Harbour.

Ms. Smith wondered if there was any discussion of conservation of areas associated with watersheds and the Harbour. Mr. Regan indicated he asked for such an inclusion, but no one has yet spoken on the subject.

3.7 **NOVA SCOTIA LAKE HYPOLIMNION PROJECT**

This will be an item on the March agenda. In the interim, Shalom Mandaville and Walter Regan requested a copy. Additional copies will only be provided to members requesting a copy at the March meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Given all the members have access to the Web, the Secretary proposed discontinuing provided hard copies of approved BWAC and DLAB minutes. While there was agreement, Dr. Stobo and Mr. Regan indicated they would still prefer to receive a hard copy.
2. Meeting Schedule
3. Response from Minister of Dept. Of Natural Resources regarding Wildlife Habitat and Watercourse Protection Regulations - Mr. Dwyer expressed disappointment in the response from Mr. Olive, Minister, Department of Natural Resources. Reflecting on his tenure with the Board, he felt it concentrated too much on urban, suburban areas, not enough on the larger areas which contains the watersheds. He explained that it is his belief that there is no ecologically sensitive forestry taking place. The Chair proposed that perhaps the Board would like to counter respond to the Minister.
4. Mr. Regan announced a meeting to be held Saturday, February 22nd at the Nova Scotia Museum regarding restoration of Freshwater Brook.

5. **CONCEPT PLANS**

None.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is to be held Monday, March 3rd. The next regularly scheduled meeting, Wednesday, March 19, 2003.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Lynne Le Boutillier

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
HALIFAX/HALIFAX COUNTY WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD 10 February 19, 2003

Legislative Assistant