

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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**HALIFAX WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
August 20, 2003**

**PRESENT:** Dr. Wayne Stobo, Chair  
Mr. Walter Regan  
Ms. Ellinor Williams  
Dr. Sankar Ray  
Mr. Frank Hope  
Mr. Ross Evans  
Mr. Lawrence White  
Dr. Spencer Lee  
Mr. Keith Manchester  
Dr. Barry Thomas

**REGRETS:** Ms. Christine Anne Smith  
Ms. Janis Rod

**STAFF:** Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

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Dr. Stobo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**6. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA**

The Committee addressed items to be added to the next agenda at this time. The following items were requested to be added to the September agenda:

- C Amendment to Guidelines for Flood Plains (Ms. Williams agreed to draft some appropriate wording and forward it to Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant, to be included in the next agenda package.)
- C Terms of Reference - Item #7 (Mr. Regan)

The following time was added to this meeting's agenda:

- 4.7 Fish Passage under Highway 103

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Evans, that the agenda be approved.  
MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JULY 16, 2003**

Dr. Thomas noted his name should be included in list of those present at the July 16, 2003 meeting.

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Manchester, that the minutes be approved,  
as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

In review of the July 16, 2003, minutes, Dr. Stobo provided the following updates:

- C **Regional Planning Presentation** - Staff are currently in the process of presenting a general framework to Regional Council to ensure Council is online with the overall concept before coming to Boards and Committees. Therefore, Item 3.1 on this meeting's agenda (Regional Planning Presentation) will be deferred to a later date
- C **Twining of Highway 103** - A draft letter regarding the fish passage under Highway 103 was added to the agenda as Item 4.7.
- C **Community-University Research Alliance Request for Support** - An email was sent to Annamarie Hatcher indicating the Board's position as per the July 16, 2003

minutes.

- C **Sewage Treatment - Sir John A. MacDonald High School** - In discussions with the Chair, Mr. John Sheppard, Manager, Environmental Services, indicated that the Province is bringing in new water resource management regulations and policies and HRM is also developing its own. He stated he would like to see these move forward to some degree to see how they work before starting serious discussions regarding any potential jurisdictional issues. Dr. Stobo advised Mr. Sheppard that the Board felt the proposed septic system was inadequate for the environmental mitigation, and they wanted to bring it to staff's attention to ensure better consultation takes place in the future. Mr. Sheppard responded that staff will take the Board's comments under advisement. Mr. Hope stated the School Board is responsible for monitoring the affluent discharge, and, therefore, he believes it does fall back into HRM's jurisdiction.
- C **Joint Meeting on HRM Water Resource Management Study** - Mr. Evans provided the Committee with an update on the meeting noting the issue of providing the public with information before the public meetings was raised. He noted it is the intent to have some public meetings in September.

### 3. **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 3.1 **Regional Planning Presentation**

Under Approval of the Minutes, it was noted that this has been deferred to a later date.

#### 3.2 **Highway 103 Twinning - Summary of Proposal "Aquatic Monitoring Program"**

Dr. Stobo noted he received an email from Ms. Rod questioning if there was a need to do any review on this given the Board's decision on commenting on scientific projects. Dr. Stobo commented that his understanding was the Board had asked Ms. Rod, Mr. Regan and Mr. Hope to examine the documentation from the point of view of whether or not the Board felt it should make a comment to HRM on potential environmental impacts and whether HRM should be trying to mitigate them in some way. The Board generally concurred that this was the direction to be taken. Several copies of the Proposal were made available to Board members, and it was agreed that a copy should also be sent to Ms. Rod.

Mr. Hope reviewed the WRWEO proposal to the Department of Transportation and Public Works for an aquatic monitoring program for the Highway 103 twinning project. He stated the group is seeking the Board's support, in principle, of the proposal, and they are not seeking funding from the Board. With regard to the study, the group is concerned with the impact of

the twinning of Highway 103 as several lakes and twelve wetlands in the immediate vicinity of the project will be impacted. Some of the wetlands will be lost forever, while others will be decreased in size, and there is a significant in-filling planned of Cranberry Lake. Mr. Hope stated the proposed project has not been subject to an environmental study by either the federal or provincial government. The Department has produced a survey conducted by Dillon Consulting on species at risk, but no environmental assessment. Mr. Hope noted the study mostly lists the species that might be considered to be at risk in the region, and there is very little time spent on surveying, other than the comment that none of the species considered to be potentially at risk have been found in the area. However, he noted there is not much adequate documentation to support that contention. Mr. Hope clarified the WRWEO is not seeking to push for an environmental assessment at this late juncture, however, they are seeking to collaborate with the departments involved in getting some good baseline data so the impact can be measured and recommendations made on actions to mitigate the damage caused. He noted the WRWEO is offering a considerable resource in personnel time and equipment.

Mr. Hope listed the objectives of the study which were as follows:

- (1) to develop a pre-construction baseline of the water and sediment quality data of the lakes that will be potentially impacted by the twinning of Highway 103 between Exits 3 and 5;
- (2) to monitor water and sediment quality of the same water bodies throughout the construction of the highway and during one year of operation;
- (3) to characterize the benthic and planktonic communities of the study lakes as living integrators of environmental quality;
- (4) to conduct a macrophyte survey of the lake shorelines;
- (5) to monitor downstream control lakes for a limited set of parameters before, during, and after construction;
- (6) to ensure that the highway project does not negatively affect the ongoing restoration efforts to reoxygenate Sheldrake Lake with hypolimnetic aeration;
- (7) to use an Ecosystem Approach to evaluate the role of the expanded highway in the Woodens River Watershed specifically and the Chebucto Peninsula generally with a view of long term environmental enhancement;
- (8) to involve and liaison with local residents and to assist them in understanding the highway project within their watershed; and,
- (9) to report periodically on progress of the monitoring program, with an annual report containing all data to DTPW, WRWEO, the local residents and other watershed associations. Each annual report will be also made available to the public in the Five Bridge Trust Reference Section at the Tantallon Library.

With the Board's endorsement, Mr. Hope stated the group could move ahead and convince other sponsors to raise the funds necessary to make this proposal happen.

Dr. Stobo stated the Board could address areas in terms of potential impact of the twinning of the 103 that can be documented, such as the impact on wetlands and Cranberry Lake. The Board could also indicate that there is a need for baseline information to be collected so the impact can be evaluated and subsequent monitoring conducted to document what changes have occurred. He suggested this would provide the endorsement being sought by the WRWEO. In the context of the twinning, and the position the Board has historically taken, the Board has routinely stated baseline studies and monitoring should be conducted. Dr. Stobo suggested some of the items pointed out in the objectives could become draft recommendations, and the Board could decide which need to be modified, changed or accepted and move forward. He noted the description of the impact of the twinning on the wetlands could provide some background information used in any recommendation developed by the Board. Dr. Stobo also suggested that Mr. Regan and Ms. Rod look over the proposal and from the view of issues the Board would be advising HRM that it should be concerned about regarding environmental impacts.

The Committee agreed that this item be put on next month's agenda for further discussion. At that time, Mr. Regan and Ms. Rod could provide their comments as well as any other Board members who so wish. The Board will then formulate recommendations related to this development. Mr. Hope also agreed to forward something in writing for inclusion in the September agenda package.

**3.3 Environmental Management Services - Overview of the Business Unit - Brad Anguish, Director, and Tony Blouin**

It was noted that this item was intended for the September meeting, and, therefore, will be carried over to the next agenda.

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

**4.1 Westgate - Sewage Treatment Plant**

C A draft letter from the Chair to Ms. Kelly Denty, Development Officer, regarding the above, was circulated to the Board.

In review of the draft letter, the Chair inquired of the Board if this type of letter was something that the Board should be sending to HRM. The general consensus of the Board was it was as it addresses the prevention of a potential future problem.

It was agreed that the last line in the first paragraph should be amended to read "... *the mitigation proposed found to be generally satisfactory with some minor modifications that the Board has recommended.*"

With regard to the second paragraph, it was noted that the last sentence was incomplete. The Chair agreed a phrase needed to be added. He explained that the intent was to word something to keep BODs per litre of effluent at levels comparable to those prior to plant expansion. The Board agreed that the Chair would redraft this portion of the letter.

In the third paragraph, it was noted the word "initiation" should read "initiate."

Mr. Regan stated it was his understanding from the last meeting that he was to read the Dillon Report and make a report on it to the Board. He asked if his report could be postponed to allow him time for further research and suggested that the letter should be deferred until that time. As there appeared to be some confusion regarding the request for such a review, the Chair inquired if the Board wished to defer the letter until Mr. Regan provides his report to see if there is something that should be addressed. It was agreed that Mr. Regan and the Chair could meet to review Mr. Regan's report and if, as a result, there are issues they want to bring forward related to this sewage treatment plant beyond what is contained in the letter, an additional paragraph or so will be drafted. The final version of the letter will be deferred until after next month's meeting.

#### **4.2 Baseline Fecal Coliforms**

C A draft letter from the Chair to Mayor Peter Kelly, regarding the above, was circulated to the Board.

In review of the draft letter, it was agreed that the last sentence in the first paragraph should be split into two separate sentences as follows: *In 2001, 2002 and 2003 the HRM sampled 60 lakes in each of spring, summer and fall. Apparently, the future of the program is currently under review.*"

There being no further changes, it was agreed that the Chair would amend the letter and forward the final version to the Legislative Assistant to sign and mail out on his behalf.

#### **4.3 Presentation re: Available of Drinking Water in HRM, Focusing on Pockwock and Lake Major**

It was noted Ms. Smith sent Regrets for this meeting and asked that this item be deferred to September. The Board agreed.

#### **4.4 Glen Arbour Golf Course - Audubon Program**

Dr. Thomas reported that he received a phone call from Glen Arbour Golf Course confirming that they have full Audubon certification in all six categories, including water quality. The Chair noted a lot of these certifications are based on the documentation of the management

plan. As requested by the Board, Dr. Thomas prepared a draft letter to Audubon which he reviewed. The Chair suggested "*for which we have responsibility*" be deleted and a second sentence added in the first paragraph similar to "*The Board has a responsibility to advise HRM on new development with regarding to potential impact on the Municipality's lakes, rivers, waterways and coastal inlets.*"

Mr. Regan suggested an attachment should be added to the letter to provide evidence regarding Sandy Lake. The Chair asked that Committee members check their files to see if a clean copy of the graph showing the increase in phosphorus in Sandy Lake can be obtained and brought to the next meeting or forwarded to Ms. Halliday. The Chair also suggested a copy of the original recommendations relating to the golf course should be included along with a statement such as "*The Watershed Advisory Board had provided recommendations to mitigate impacts on the lakes within this development. Subsequent to the development, Sandy Lake has become eutrophic.*" It was also suggested the last paragraph be changed to "*The Halifax Watershed Advisory Board would like to know what action do you normally take in response to situations of this nature.*"

It was agreed that Dr. Thomas would redraft the letter and bring it back to the next meeting. The Board agreed the letter should be directed to Audubon with copies to Glen Arbour Golf Course; Brad Anguish, Director, HRM Environmental Management Services; and Mayor Peter Kelly. This item will also be added to the Status Sheet.

#### **4.5 Joint Meeting on HRM Water Resource Management Study**

This item was addressed under Approval of the Minutes.

#### **4.6 Making Oil out of Garbage**

Mr. Evans reported to the Committee on a conversation he had with Mr. Matt Kerrigan, Assistant to the Mayor, regarding this issue. Mr. Kerrigan agreed to look into the involvement of Wilson Fuels with respect to this matter. Mr. Evans stated he is hoping to have Mayor Kelly to write a letter to the company asking for a brochure and up-to-date information of what they are doing so he can provide it to the Board. The Board agreed to the approach being taken and that this item be moved to the Status Sheet. Mr. Evans will keep the Board up-to-date as the matter evolves.

#### **4.7 Fish Passage under Highway 103**

C A draft letter from the Chair to Mayor Kelly, regarding the above, was circulated to the Committee.

In review of the letter, it was agreed that the letter should be copied to the Minister of Transportation and the Minister of Environment and Labour.

**5. CONCEPT PLANS**

None.

**6. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO NEXT AGENDA**

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be September 17, 2003.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Patti Halliday  
Legislative Assistant