

REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2013

PRESENT:

Allan Billard, Chair
Richard Hattin, Vice-Chair
Mark McLean
Pierre Clement
Timothy Hayman
Dr. Barry Thomas
Adam Fancy
Walter Regan
Dusan Soudek
Tom Mills
Peter Lund

STAFF:

Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer
Ms. Maureen Ryan, Senior Planner
Ms. Jane Crosby, Legislative Support

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: October 9, 2013	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE.....	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS	3
5.1	Urban Lakes Report (Deferred from Oct.9).....	3
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	3
6.1	Correspondence	3
6.1.1	Memo from Legislative Assistant re: RWAB Mandate	3
6.1.2	Correspondence from the Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax ...	4
7.	REPORTS/DISCUSSION.....	4
7.1	Porters Lake Watershed Servicing Study Report.....	4
7.2	Tantallon Watershed Servicing Study Report	6
8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 11, 2013.....	7
9.	ADJOURNMENT	7

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm at the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

Members of the Board expressed concern regarding the length of the reports in the agenda package. It was noted that it would have been beneficial to receive them earlier so that there would be sufficient time to review them.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: October 9, 2013

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Hayman that the minutes of August 14, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Hattin that the agenda, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Urban Lakes Report (Deferred from Oct.9)

It was suggested that this item be added to the December 11, 2013 meeting agenda. Mr. Cameron Deacoff provided the Board with a brief summary of the item. The Chair suggested that a refresher presentation on this item may be useful. Members of the Board requested that this report be re-sent to them for review.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Memo from Legislative Assistant re: RWAB Mandate

A memorandum from the Legislative Assistant dated November 5, 2013 was before the Board.

The Board expressed that they would like to hold a formal discussion with regards to the RWAB mandate and terms of reference during the January 2014 meeting.

- 6.1.2 Correspondence from the Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax**
- 6.1.2(i) Zoobenthos of Lakes (dated Aug. 27/13)**
 - 6.1.2(ii) Bell Lake, Dartmouth (dated Aug. 28/13)**
 - 6.1.2(iii) Total Phosphorus Comparison (dated Oct. 7/13)**
 - 6.1.2(iv) Phosphorus: Threshold/LCC Values of Lakes (dated Nov.3/13)**

The above noted correspondences were before the Board.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Dr. Soudek that due to time constraints, this correspondence be deferred to the December 11, 2013 meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

7.1 Porters Lake Watershed Servicing Study Report

A report dated October 21, 2013 was before the Board.

Ms. Maureen Ryan, Senior HRM Planner, provided a brief introduction of the Porters Lake Watershed Servicing Study Report and introduced Mr. Gordon Smith, Planner with CBCL. The study examines the impact of development on receiving waters and analyzes the features that mitigate the effects of development on these waters. It also provides recommendation for allocating development based on a land suitability analysis.

Ms. Ryan indicated that HRM staff are seeking recommendation on forwarding this study to the respective Community Council for final acceptance as background for future community planning.

Mr. Smith delivered a presentation on the study to the Board. He defined the purpose of the study and provided an outline of the study area and the watershed. Mr. Smith also discussed lake water quality and assimilative capacity. He indicated that a survey was conducted in the area to provide CBCL with a sense of what the community desired with regards to current water quality, use, and future water quality. An overview of the minimum objectives within the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) was presented to the Board. It was noted that any development should not change the trophic status of a body of water.

Mr. Smith provided an overview of the water quality objectives that were developed for the purposes of the study. He presented a map showing the locations of the “grab samples” that were taken to measure water quality. A graph outlining the trends within the area was presented and explained to the Board. Mr. Smith provided an overview of the existing status of Porters Lake.

Based on the assimilative capacity of the waters, a map showing the development capacity of the lands within the study area was presented to the Board. Based on the desired water quality objectives and the MPS objectives, further development would likely push Porters Lake into the next trophic level. Mr. Smith clarified that this is on the basis of today's development approaches. In response to a question from Mr. Clement, Mr. Smith indicated that oxygen levels were not looked at for the purposes of this particular study. Mr. Clement noted the importance of oxygen levels as an indicator and its impact on phosphorous.

Mr. Smith provided the Board an overview of factors affecting existing water quality. He presented some of the popular answers received in the community survey. Potential sources of phosphorous were also presented.

In response to a question from Dr. Soudek with regards to the effects of the tides, Mr. Smith explained that a study was conducted looking at the way water flows in and out of the lake. Mr. Deacoff added that CBCL conducted extensive modelling and thoroughly addressed the highly dynamic nature of the lake. Mr. Fancy asked about core sampling from the bottom of lake and Mr. Smith indicated that arm depth, or approximately one metre depth, was used for the study.

Mr. Smith presented the study's recommendations for Porters Lake. He discussed what should be done with existing development and what can be done with future development. Waste water management districts were noted as an option and it was discussed by the Board. Mr. Smith then provided an overview of areas for potential future development with various growth scenarios, and future development servicing objectives.

Mr. Smith concluded his presentation and the Board entered into further discussion. Ms. Ryan clarified that the steering committee responsible for this study has deemed this study complete. Mr. Hattin expressed concern over significant holes within the report. He added that he required further explanation on the costing analysis.

Mr. Lund, Mr. Clement and Mr. McLean also expressed that they require more time to review the report. Mr. Lund asked for clarification on the study's use for development. Ms. Ryan explained that it would be used as a reference for future development. In response to a question from Mr. McLean, Ms. Ryan explained that performance standards can be set.

The Board continued their discussion. The Board indicated that more time would be needed to properly review the study. The Chair noted that he understands the importance of the study moving forward; however he would like the Board to have more time to review and comment on the study. He suggests that this item be discussed at the December 2013 meeting. Ms. Ryan noted that questions regarding the report could be forwarded to her via the Chair.

MOVED by Mr. Hattin, seconded by Mr. Regan that the Regional Watershed Advisory Board defers recommendation on this item until the December 11, 2013 meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Tantallon Watershed Servicing Study Report

A report dated October 21, 2013 was before the Board.

Mr. Gordon Smith, Planner with CBCL, delivered a presentation on the Tantallon Watershed Servicing Study Report. The manner in which the study was conducted is very similar to the Porters Lake study.

Mr. Smith presented the Tantallon study area and noted the size of the watershed. It was noted that the community survey conducted had a low turnout on responses. The responses indicate that residents are concerned about water quality in the area. A map showing the locations of where the water quality samples were taken was presented to the Board. Mr. Smith provided an overview of the sample results.

Mr. Regan expressed concern over the way the watersheds were lumped together, in both this study and the Porters Lake study. Ms. Ryan explained that this was done due to cost and area of risk; focus was maintained on areas that were likely to be developed within the watershed.

Mr. Smith presented the assimilative capacity of the water bodies within the study area. Mr. Smith noted that in general the water bodies in the area are good for swimming but they are not great for fish and wildlife habitat. He also noted sedimentation in Whynacht's Cove. He presented an overview of the responses collected on factors affecting water quality and the potential sources of phosphorous.

Mr. Smith provided an overview of ways to reduce the negative impacts of development and an overview of future development and growth scenarios. Mr. Hattin expressed concern over the allocation of numbers within the potential growth scenarios. His concern is that the numbers may not be capturing the growth in the area.

Mr. Smith presented the study's recommendations and concluded his presentation. The Board entered into brief discussion. The Board expressed that they would like more time to review this study.

MOVED by Mr. Lund, seconded by Mr. Regan that the Regional Watershed Advisory Board defers recommendation on this item until the December 11, 2013 meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 11, 2013

The next meeting of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Public Library, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Jane Crosby
Legislative Support