

REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2013

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

REGRETS: Mark McLean

STAFF: Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager Energy and Environment
Ms. Maureen Ryan, Senior Planner
Ms. Jane Crosby, Legislative Support

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: November 13, 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 October 9, 2013).....	3
5.2	Correspondence from the Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax.....	4
5.2.2(i)	Zoobenthos of Lakes (dated Aug. 27/13).....	4
5.2.2(ii)	Bell Lake, Dartmouth (dated Aug. 28/13).....	4
5.2.2(iii)	Total Phosphorus Comparison (dated Oct. 7/13).....	4
5.2.2(iv)	Phosphorus: Threshold/LCC Values of Lakes (dated Nov.3/13).....	4
5.3	Porters Lake Watershed Servicing Study Report.....	4
5.4	Tantallon Watershed Servicing Study Report.....	4
6.0	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS.....	6
6.1	Correspondence.....	6
6.1.1	Correspondence from the Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax.....	6
6.1.1(i)	Bissett Lake (dated October 30, 2013).....	6
6.1.1(ii)	Settle Lake (dated October 30, 2013).....	6
7.	REPORTS/DISCUSSION - None.....	6
8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 8, 2013 – Dartmouth Chambers.....	6
9.	ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.....	6

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm at the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - November 13, 2013

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Fancy, that the minutes of November 13, 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. Lund, 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 October 9, 2013)

A report dated February 20, 2013 was before the Board.

The Chair re-introduced the item to the Board. Mr. Regan expressed disappointment in not seeing the Sackville lakes considered within the report. He indicated that it would have been beneficial to have more information on stormwater treatment. In relation to this, he asked Mr. Richard MacLellan for an update on water quality assessments for HRM Lakes. Mr. MacLellan provided the Board with an update. Mr. Regan noted that in order to protect the lakes, there must be on-going testing.

Mr. Clement indicated that the sampling program is inadequate. He noted that testing three times a year at the lake surface is not enough to give a sense of a lake's water quality. He added that it simply does not give you enough data and information. He indicated that a more rigorous sampling program would be beneficial as it could allow for development of a model for each particular lake. Mr. Lund agreed with Mr. Clement's comments. He noted that sampling the inflows into a lake would be beneficial as it would allow one to estimate loading.

The Board entered into discussion and Mr. Deacoff and Mr. MacLellan responded to questions from Board members. Mr. Deacoff noted that staff would like to know where this report could be taken for future reference. The Chair indicated that the data is meaningful and the report is acceptable, however for land use planning within HRM more information is necessary.

Mr. Clement added that the information in the report is simply a snapshot in time. Mr. Mills noted the importance of dissolved oxygen. Mr. Lund indicated that aluminum is also very important consideration in the metal analysis. He also stressed the importance of turbidity on fish health. The Board continued their discussion and the following motion was put:

MOVED by Mr. Hattin, seconded by Mr. Clement, that the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board accepts the Analysis of the 2006-2011 program data; although the Board believes additional information is required as guidance for future land use planning projects. Specific suggestions for future water quality monitoring within urban lakes would include:

- Dissolved oxygen should be monitored at several depths at all sampling stations.
- More sampling stations should be identified for each lake; the number will vary on the bathymetry on a lake by lake basis, but be sufficient to develop a lake modeling tool.
- Samples should be collected more frequently than three times per year and include turbidity.
- Aluminum should be regularly monitored to assess the quality of fish habitat in association with a suite of metals.
- Monitoring should be conducted to identify point-specific sources of contamination and their impact on lakes.
- Lake monitoring should include rigorous sampling at inflows and outflows at a level sufficient to contribute to a lake model.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Board entered into discussion in regard to the correspondence received from the Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax. They discussed the concepts and information presented in the correspondence from the author Mr. Shalom Mandaville. The Board prepared a response to be sent to Mr. Mandaville.

- 5.3 Porters Lake Watershed Servicing Study Report (Deferred from Nov. 13/13)**

- 5.4 Tantallon Watershed Servicing Study Report (Deferred from Nov. 13/13)**

The following reports were before the Board:

- “Porters Lake Watershed Servicing Study Report” dated October 21, 2013
- “Tantallon Watershed Servicing Study Report” dated October 21, 2013

The Board agreed that, due to time constraints, they would discuss both the Porters Lake and Tantallon Watershed Servicing studies concurrently.

Ms. Maureen Ryan, Senior HRM Planner, re-introduced the studies to the Board and provided a brief overview. She indicated that these studies would be used for future community planning. Mr. Gordon Smith, Planner with CBCL, and author of the study was also introduced.

Mr. Clement initiated a discussion with regards to the information collected for Porters Lake. He noted that he was pleased to see that CBCL indicated that more information would be necessary to properly model Porters Lake. Mr. Smith responded to Mr. Clement's concerns with regards to the information gathered for the study.

Mr. Lund asked for clarification on groundwater supply and soil permeability. Mr. Smith indicated that the study reports sustainable groundwater supply as the main limiting factor, more so than septic suitability. Mr. Smith and Mr. Lund discussed the numbers used within the report. Mr. Smith added that because groundwater is a concern within Tantallon, CBCL adopted a slightly conservative approach with regards to lot size recommendations. Mr. Lund expressed concern with this approach and indicated that a conservative approach is wise when looking at subdivisions as a whole; however lots should be evaluated individually.

Mr. Hattin asked for clarification on what is driving the size of the recommended lots in Tantallon and Mr. Smith responded. Ms. Ryan explained that HRM planning evaluates lots on an individual basis. The number recommended for lot size in the CBCL study is for the Open Space design subdivisions and not for individual lots. Mr. Lund expressed concern about how the recommendation was conveyed in the study.

Dr. Soudek left the meeting at 6:29 pm.

Mr. Hattin expressed concern with the comments made in the report about dysfunctional septic systems. He noted that more data is required to confirm this and to get a better handle on septic system issues. Ms. Ryan indicated that homeowners were not allowing people on their properties for testing septic systems. Mr. Hattin also expressed concern over the effluent discharge at the sewage treatment plant at Exit 5 on Highway 103. He recommends that this area be looked at in detail.

Mr. Hattin added that he is concerned about the demographic predictions made within the study. He indicated that he believes the number expressed in the study for growth is too low. Mr. Hattin asked Mr. Smith why there was a preference for a clustered septic system. Ms. Ryan indicated that clustered systems are monitored by an authorized operator. She added that these systems also lead to better land efficiency and use.

Mr. Mills indicated the importance of managing waste water. He noted that there have been numerous studies completed by HRM over a number of years and many of them highlight the importance of managing waste water. He made reference to a study done

in 2005. He believes that HRM needs to act on this information collected and the recommendation made on waste water management. Mr. Regan agreed with Mr. Mills' comments.

The Board noted that they were impressed with the report and continued their discussion before the following motions were passed.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Clement, that the Regional Watershed Advisory Board recommend to the Harbour East and Marine Drive Community Council, that the Porters Lake Watershed Servicing Study Report be accepted as background for future community planning, subject to caveats coming in from individual members. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Fancy, that the Regional Watershed Advisory Board recommend to the Northwest Community Council, that the Tantallon Watershed Servicing Study Report be accepted as background for future community planning, subject to caveats coming in from individual members. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Correspondence from the Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax

6.1.1(i) Bissett Lake (dated October 30, 2013)

6.1.1(ii) Settle Lake (dated October 30, 2013)

This correspondence was considered earlier in the meeting under agenda item 5.2.

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION - None

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 8, 2013 – Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Due to the unavailability of meeting rooms in the Alderney Library on this date, the Board agreed to meet at 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth (via the rear, waterside entrance) for this meeting only.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Jane Crosby
Legislative Support

Information Items

1. HRM Council and Committee Reports of Interest to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board, September–November 2013