



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
JULY 9, 2014**

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

REGRETS: Tom Mills

STAFF: Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure
Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer
Jane Crosby, Legislative Support

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/rwab/index.php>

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m., and the Board adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Maxine Tynes Room, 2nd floor, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

Mr. Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure with HRM, introduced himself. He indicated that he was assigned the Integrated Stormwater Management file which he received from Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Energy and Environment.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 11, 2014

A typographical error was noted on page 4.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Lund, that the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board minutes of June 11, 2014, be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Mr. Lund indicated that he attended the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meeting and he would like to report on the outcome of RWAB's recommendations to the ESSC (ESSC) on the Porters Lake, Musquodoboit Harbour and Tantallon watershed studies.

The Chair and Mr. Clement would also like to discuss the public meeting on the overgrowth of weeds in Lake Banook.

MOVED by Mr. Hattin, seconded by Mr. Regan, that the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

7. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

7.1 Model Community Plan Environmental Section

The following items were before the Board:

- Staff report dated October 4, 2013
- Genivar report dated October 2, 2013
- Item 7.1 from June 11, 2014 RWAB Meeting: Environmental Policies for Inclusion in New Community Plans – Selection for RWAB Consideration

The Chair introduced the item and initiated the discussion on the policies related to Central Services. He noted that it includes nineteen policies.

Dr. Soudek entered the meeting at 5:15pm.

The Chair discussed Policy E-1 and asked the Board members if they had any comments on the existing policy. Several members noted that they were satisfied with E-1; however Mr. Lund indicated that some of these privately operated systems are not controlled and not monitored. The Board discussed the intent of the policy and the intent of the Environmental section for new Community Plans. Mr. Hattin commented that this policy is a way to restrict development to the development districts around Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford. He noted that he is concerned with the word “discourage” in the current policy. He expressed that HRM shouldn’t discourage the construction of privately operated systems but they should monitor and control these systems. The Board continued their discussion noting the relationship between policy E-1 and E-4. The Board agreed that Policies E-4, E-5, E-6 and E-7 were acceptable.

Policy E-8 was discussed and Mr. Regan referred to the problems that occurred in Beaver Bank. He explained that lots were being subdivided and developed. This created a problem with more sewage going into the system than it could accommodate. The Chair commented that Policy E-8 may not work and Policy E-9 would likely upset people as it relates to connection charges. Mr. Regan explained the problem in Beaver Bank with residents selling part of their lot to pay for connection. Mr. Regan and Mr. Hattin discussed densification and how it relates to handling sewage. The Board then discussed Policy E-10 and E-11 indicating that they were satisfied with them, however it was noted that for Policy E-10 there was an issue with capacity and that it is not noted in the policy.

The Board reviewed Policy E-12 and noted that this policy may not really be their area of expertise as it relates to the location of water towers. Mr. MacLean noted that this is more of an aesthetic issue, not an environmental or watershed issue. Policy E-13 was reviewed and it was noted that this should perhaps be deleted as it no longer applies. Mr. Regan indicated that this may be applicable if HRM is working with the Municipality of East Hants. The Board reviewed Policy E-14 and Mr. Hattin indicated that it seems to concentrate on sewage and believes this is controlled by lot size and drainage areas. Mr. Duncan and Mr. Deacoff provided the Board with some history on the policy.

The relevancy of Policy E-15 was briefly discussed. Mr. Duncan provided background information on the policy and noted that the assistance program may still be in place. The Board discussed that this may be applicable to those who may have cabins or camps on some of the outlying areas of the Municipality. With regards to Policy E-18 the Board agreed on the intent but noted that it requires some changes to the wording. The Board agreed that Policy E-19 was acceptable.

In response to a question from Mr. Hattin, Mr. Deacoff explained to the Board that these policies are not by-laws. He explained that if they are adopted by the municipality, they are policies that could be used by the planning division for application to future secondary planning. Mr. Duncan noted that any changes made to the wording of the policies would be brought to the legal department for review.

The Board concluded their discussion and policy review. The Chair noted that they would be discussing the policies on Potable Water next month. Staff suggested several ways to improve the process to better capture the Board’s thoughts on each policy. Mr. MacLean noted a process used by the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board.

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

8.1 ESSC Response to RWAB’s Recommendations

Mr. Lund reported that he attended the ESSC’s meeting last week and noted the RWAB’s recommendations were positively received. He indicated that he was pleased with the outcome and wanted to share this with the Board.

8.2 Lake Banook – Weed Overgrowth

The Board briefly discussed the public meeting that took place with regards to the weeds in Lake Banook. Mr. Clement asked that Mr. Deacoff provide a brief update. Mr. Deacoff indicated that no further steps have been defined and they are waiting to hear from Council. He added that he is not aware of the timeline on this matter. Several Board members indicated that this is an issue they would like to discuss and would like to see a presentation on the problem in Lake Banook. The Chair indicated that he would compose a letter to the Chair of the ESSC to request that RWAB have this item added to their agenda.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - August 13, 2014, 5:00pm, Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

Jane Crosby
Legislative Support