



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2014**

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

REGRETS: Mr. Walter N. Regan

STAFF: Mr. Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure  
Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer  
Ms. Katie Neale, Planning Intern  
Mr. Andrew Reid, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. 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 Board are available online:  
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/rwab/140910rwab-Agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m., and the Board adjourned at 7:24 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Helen Creighton Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

Mr. Jerry Taylor, Chair of the East Preston Clean Water and Land Development Committee, introduced himself and indicated that he was there to observe the presentation from AECOM on the Sandy Lake and Preston Area watershed studies. Mr. Tim Bachiu, Professional Geologist and Mr. Steve Murphy, Project Manager, from AECOM introduced themselves and indicated that they would be presenting the studies to the Board.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 13, 2014**

Typographical errors were noted.

**MOVED by Mr. Lund, seconded by Dr. Thomas, that the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board minutes of August 13, 2014, be approved as amended.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Mr. Lund and Mr. Mills indicated that they had some items for discussion arising out of the minutes and the policy review template.

**MOVED by Dr. Soudek, seconded by Mr. Lund, that the agenda be approved as amended.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

Mr. Hattin inquired about the letter to the ESSC regarding the Lake Banook herbicide issue. The Chair noted that he has spoken to the Clerk's Office and it is outside their terms of reference to address the issue.

Mr. Lund indicated that he would like to discuss the template used for the Model Community Plan Environmental Section Review and how the changes are being recorded. He inquired as to whether the Board would be reviewing the template from the beginning as he had some minor clarifications he would like to discuss. The Chair suggested they could review these concerns when they reach this item on the agenda.

Mr. Mills noted that he was not present at the August 2014 meeting but he would like to review Policy E-26 as he believes it requires clarification. He brought material relating to this item and distributed it to the Board members. He inquired as to where the information on registered water suppliers is. Mr. Deacoff indicated that the testing the municipality conducts on its registered suppliers is maintained by the Facilities Maintenance Department. Mr. Mills indicated that since taxes are paying for this testing then the data should be available. He added that it's a matter of the information being sent through the proper channels. The Chair requested that Mr. Mills put his thoughts on Policy E-26 in writing and that

the Board could discuss it at the next meeting and change their recommendation on the policy if necessary.

Mr. Mills added that there is an issue with redundancy to policy to e-36 and that there should be an on-site sewage pumping by-law. He noted that faulty septic systems are the biggest contaminant on the watersheds and pump outs should be mandatory. The Board discussed the policy and Mr. Duncan provided the Board with some information on the Regional Plan.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – None**

**7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**7.1 Preston Area Sandy Lake Watershed Studies –**

The following information was before the Board:

- A copy of AECOM's Presentation
- Information Report
- Attachment 1 – Map of Preston Study Area
- Attachment 2 – Map of Sandy Lake Study Area
- Attachment 3 – Study Objectives excerpted from RFP

Mr. Deacoff provided the Board with a brief introduction, noting that the presentation was a high level overview of the draft final report. He added that this was an opportunity for the Board to provide final comments to staff and to the AECOM team before the reports are adopted by each community.

Mr. Tim Bachiu, Professional Geologist, AECOM, presented the Sandy Lake watershed study first. He provided the Board with an overview of the study area, noting areas that were developed and areas that were forested. He also noted the treatment sites and where there are services. He then presented the objectives of the study:

- What are the existing lake water quality conditions?
- What are the potential impacts of future development on lake water quality?
- What areas are suitable/not-suitable for development?

Mr. Bachiu presented the existing conditions. Mr. Mills asked if samples had been taken near Farmers Dairy. Mr. Bachiu was not able to answer the question. Mr. Deacoff added that data used refers to the HRM samples taken at the deep station of the lake. This sample location isn't close to Farmers Dairy, but it isn't too far away from it. He added that there is a map online that identifies the sampling locations.

Mr. Bachiu then presented the Sandy Lake – Lakeshore Capacity Model and explained how they were able to get an average. He noted some of the uncertainties with the model and that many assumptions were made. The four modeling scenarios were presented:

- Existing conditions;
- Future Developments;
- Future Development plus; and

- Future Developments with advanced stormwater management.

Predicted phosphorous levels for Sandy and Marsh Lake were presented under the different modeling scenarios. Mr. Hattin inquired as to where Sandy Lake flows. Mr. Bachiu responded that Sandy flows into Marsh Lake which in turn flows in the Sackville River. Mr. Hattin asked if they were proposing to monitor at the end of Marsh Lake. Mr. Bachiu explained that the monitoring they are recommending for this is very robust. Mr. Bachiu also confirmed that for the modelling, the assumption was made that all the septic systems were operating at the moment. A brief discussion was held on this matter and possible scenarios.

Mr. Bachiu then presented the constraints map noting type 1 areas where development should not occur and type 2 areas where development could occur but there may be some specific conditions that should be addressed with development. Mr. Bachiu then provided a brief summary noting that future development will impact water quality and suggested that mitigation measures include septic and waste water treatment facilities to municipal waste water, and advanced stormwater management.

Mr. Bachiu concluded his presentation and the Board entered into discussion. Mr. Mills inquired about the new developments occurring near the Timber Trails Park, off Lucasville Road. He asked if this development was considered during the study. Mr. Bachiu responded that figures were created from very recent mapping from the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Taylor inquired if Lucasville was considered for the purposes of the study. Mr. Deacoff responded that it was not considered as it is not part of the study area.

Mr. Clement noted the gap of sampling in 2012 and 2013 due to HRM cancelling their water monitoring. He added that this is a major gap and that it would have been good to have that information there for the study. He also asked about the water quality objectives and where that information came from. Mr. Bachiu responded that it was the median of the data set. Mr. McLean asked if there was any data on Uplands Park. Mr. Bachiu responded that they were able to take flow and concentration averages from that site. Mr. Lund expressed concern at the deep station sample collected in May of 2010 as this is the turnover time. Dr. Deacoff responded and explained the terminology of deep station. He added that if turnover was detected surface samples would have been collected. It was also noted that in 2010 phosphorous was up across all HRM due to the seasonal conditions. The Board also indicated that it should be noted that fishing and swimming occur in Sandy Lake.

Mr. Lund expressed concern about the outline of the golf course on the map. He explained that he doesn't feel it is properly represented. He added that it's important to distinguish this because of pesticide run off and it should be acknowledged. Mr. Lund inquired as to whether they would be making recommendations based on the presentation or on the final report. Mr. Deacoff responded that comments could be provided primarily on the basis of this presentation, but that comments are being accepted until the end of day on October 13, 2014. The Board discussed if they should look at the final report prior to making their recommendations. Mr. Deacoff noted that the final reports for both Sandy Lake and Preston were available online, and noted that the Board's next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2014. The Board concluded that they would review the final reports and discuss their recommendations at the next meeting. The Chair requested that AECOM provide their presentation on the Preston Area watershed.

Mr. Bachiu began his presentation of the Preston Area watershed noting that the study area is made up of two watersheds; Little Salmon River and Partridge River. He noted the development clustered in the Southern portion. Mr. Bachiu indicated that some sampling was taken outside the study area at the request of the public. Mr. Bachiu also indicated there may be increased pressure in those sampling areas, due to development. Mr. Bachiu then presented the objectives of the study:

- What are the conditions of the surface water?
- Are there groundwater issues in areas that rely on groundwater?

He added that there are not many plans for development in the area; therefore it was more of a background study identifying current conditions and issues. The water quality data was presented and Mr. Bachiu indicated the areas where AECOM had collected samples. Results from the Salmon River watershed and the Partridge River watershed were presented.

Mr. Clement inquired about the North Preston wastewater treatment facility and the range of data at the outlet. Mr. Bachiu noted that the numbers at this outlet were much higher but he could not quote that information off-hand. Mr. Deacoff indicated that there are engineered wetlands at that site that are designed to help treat the wastewater. Mr. Bachiu made note of elevated levels of phosphorous in Frog and Eagle Lakes. He then presented the Preston area residential well survey, highlighting some of the issues in the various sites including arsenic in the drilled wells and bacteria in the dug wells.

Mr. Fancy left the meeting at 6:26pm.

The potential health risks resulting from these issues were briefly discussed. Dr. Thomas suggested that UV treatment systems be standard on dug wells. Mr. Clement commented on the graph style and how it could be better presented. Mr. Taylor inquired if the sampling results had been shared with homeowners. Mr. Bachiu responded that they had been shared with homeowners, along with a well certificate and with educational material on how to improve their water quality.

Mr. Taylor inquired about the levels of bacteria in the dug wells and whether that is a normal occurrence, or if it is a problem. Mr. Bachiu responded that the presence of coliforms can present a health risk and they use total coliforms to measure bacteria. Mr. McLean asked if there had been an improvement in the water quality for Whynder Lake as he believes there was an upgrade to the water treatment facility there. Mr. Bachiu responded that he wasn't aware of any improvement and would have to look into the data set to see if it can evaluate that.

The Board concluded their discussion and The Chair asked members for any recommendations or comments for AECOM and Staff. Mr. Clement suggested that they all read the final reports and write down their recommendations in preparation for the next meeting. Mr. Reid suggested that members circulate their comments prior to the next meeting. The Chair thanked Mr. Bachiu and Mr. Murphy for their presentation.

## **7.2 Model Community Plan Environmental Section Update – Storm Water Management and Floodplains Protection**

The Chair noted that due to time constraints the Board would focus on Policies E-79 to E-85: Floodplains Protection. Several members noted there was some repetition in the policies. Mr. Duncan introduced the policies and noted they were similar. They speak to the need to prohibit development and construction in a one and twenty year floodplain. He noted that many were written specifically for the Sackville and Little Sackville Rivers.

### **Policy E-79**

The Board expressed that this policy should be amended to be more restrictive. They stated that prohibiting on the 1:20 year floodplain should be changed to 1:50 year. They added that development should be restricted on the 1:100 year floodplain rather than the 1:50 year. Developments that occur within any type of floodplain should not have a septic system.

### **Policy E-80**

The Board agreed that they support this policy. Mr. Duncan noted that the Board is likely agreeing with the policy rationale. Mr. Hattin added that the designation should be changed to 1:50 floodplains from 1:20.

**Policy E-81**

The Board agreed that this policy should be rolled into Policy E-80.

Mr. McLean left the meeting at 7:01pm.

**Policy E-82**

The Board agreed that where it reads 1:20 year floodplain should be changed to 1:50 year floodplain. Mr. Hattin noted the cost of flood mitigation measures. The Board agreed that they are skeptical about adequate floodproofing measures.

**Policy E-83**

The Board agreed that their concerns with “floodproofing” measures apply to this policy as well. They are not convinced that adequate measures exist, even in a 1:100 floodplain. In addition, they suggested that there be no septic fields anywhere within a floodplain.

**Policy E-84**

The Board noted that this is the same as E-80 and the two policies can be combined.

**Policy E-85**

The Board agreed that this policy is the same as E-83.

**Policy E-86**

The Board noted that 1:20 year floodway should be changed to 1:50 year.

**8. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

- 9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – October 8, 2014, 5:00pm, Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Jane Crosby  
Legislative Support

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**INFORMATION ITEMS**  
~None~

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