



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
April 8, 2015**

PRESENT: Mr. Allan Billard, Chair
Mr. Walter Regan, Vice Chair
Dr. Barry Thomas
Mr. Tom Mills
Mr. Peter Lund
Mr. Pierre Clement

REGRETS: Ms. Darlene Fenton
Dr. Iain Taylor

STAFF: Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer
Ms. Cailin MacDonald, 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/150428.php>

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. and adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. in the Helen Creighton Room, 2nd floor, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 11, 2015

MOVED by Mr. Lund, seconded by Dr. Thomas that the minutes of March 11, 2015 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions

8.1 Information Report from the Director of Planning dated February 18, 2015 re: *Model Community Plan Environmental Section*.

8.2 Tantallon, Musquodoboit and Porters Lake Watersheds Studies Staff Report.

Mr. Billard requested that the Information Item 1 Information Report from the Director of Planning dated February 18, 2015 re: *Model Community Plan Environmental Section* be added to the agenda for discussion.

Mr. Lund requested to provide an update on the Tantallon, Musquodoboit and Porters Lake Watersheds Studies.

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Clement asked when the RWAB would be receiving the stormwater management plan for review. The Board discussed this briefly and Mr. Clement requested that a status report of the stormwater management plan, and its regulatory policies and strategies, be provided to the Board when available.

Mr. Lund shared that the Harbour East and Marine Drive Community Council (HEMDCC) meeting scheduled for April 9, 2015 was cancelled and rescheduled for May 14, 2015. He reminded the Board that the HEMDCC will be discussing the Sawmill River staff report at this time. Mr. Billard requested that the upcoming Sawmill River staff report be circulated to the RWAB prior to their May 13, 2015 meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – None

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentation – None

7. REPORTS – NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

8.1 Summary Report Model Community Plan Environmental Section

Mr. Billard drew the Board's attention to the *Summary Report Model Community Plan Environmental Section* for review and discussion. Mr. Deacoff echoed that the report is a short summary of the Board's position on the policies as presented.

Mr. Billard encouraged the Board to look at the policies to ensure that the report reflects well the issue as well as their recommendation, and encouraged the Board to share their specific comments. Mr. Regan commented that previously the Board had no recommendations from pages 6 to 11.

Mr. Billard asked Mr. Deacoff what the timeframe was for the Board to review the report. Mr. Deacoff shared that staff hoped to receive the Board's comments either today or during their next meeting.

Mr. Mills noted some discrepancies within the report when it came to onsite sewage and its numbering. He identified that some of the policies seem to be numbered incorrectly and contradict the numbering for previous policies. Mr. Mills also noted a repeated policy; E-6 is listed initially in section 3.1 "Support as Worded" and is repeated again in section 3.2 *Specific Recommendations for Improvement*. The Board determined that E-6 should not appear in Table 5 - Amended Policies.

Mr. Regan noted that the measurements within the report switch between imperial and metric; he recommended that they be changed to metric for consistency. He further suggested that together the Board review each policy in section 3.2 *Specific Recommendations for Improvement* and briefly discuss policies which require any comments or further recommendations.

The Board proceeded to review each policy individually and discussed policies as a group in which there were concerns. The Board made the following recommendations:

In reference to E-20, the Board discussed how this policy applied to privately and publicly-owned land and determined that it was worded correctly.

In reference to E-26, the Board discussed the implications of applying periodic testing and asked to include both quantity and quality testing within the policy. The Board also had concerns with how the policy read and cited that it may actually be two separate statements within the one policy. Mr. Regan suggested that Mr. Deacoff amend the policy for the Board to review at their next meeting. Mr. Deacoff made note of the Board's concerns with policy E-26 and noted that he will review it and make changes as appropriate. Mr. Lund also noted that an initial baseline should be incorporated into the mandated periodic testing as applicable.

In reference to E-27, the Board recommended that "in the Lake Major Watershed" be removed.

In reference to E-40, the Board recommended that the term "new" be removed.

In reference to E-50, Mr. Billard noted that the policy does not specify a timeline and Mr. Regan asked that "planning" be added to clarify the "area" of reference.

In reference to E-59, the Board noted that it is not clear that E-23 refers to a policy in the Regional Plan and requested that for the benefit of readers this distinction be made.

In reference to E-79, the Board recommended that area specification, other than in reference to the minimum setback, be removed.

In reference to E-80, the Board recommended that area specification be removed and that the policy be modified to reflect all of HRM.

In reference to E-83, the Board recommended that the policy reference to the “Halifax County Storm Drainage Task Force” be removed.

In reference to E-87, the Board recommended that the term “alternatively” be removed as it changes the intent of the policy.

In reference to E-89, the Board recommended that the verbiage be changed to “...the Municipality shall undertake an assessment of the watershed to determine an appropriate course of action respecting current management and future land use development in the area.”

In reference to E-90, the Board recommended that “...near the lakes...” be changed to “...near lakes...”

8.2 Tantallon, Musquodoboit and Porters Lake Watersheds Studies Staff Report

Mr. Billard invited Mr. Lund to share an overview of the Tantallon, Musquodoboit and Porters Lake Watersheds Studies Staff Report as presented to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC) on April 2, 2015. Mr. Lund provided an overview of the Report and expressed his concerns with the staff recommendation. He encouraged the Board to review the Report as well as noted that he has emailed Councillor Dalrymple regarding the Report and is awaiting a reply. Mr. Billard requested that the Report be circulated to the Board for their review and suggested that Mr. Lund share his response from Councillor Dalrymple with Councillor Watts, Chair of the ESSC.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 13, 2015

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Cailin MacDonald
Legislative Support