

REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2013

PRESENT: Allan Billard, Chair

Pierre Clement
Timothy Hayman
Dr. Barry Thomas
Adam Fancy
Walter Regan
Peter Lund
Dusan Soudek
Tom Mills

REGRETS: David Lombardi
Richard Hattin, Vice-Chair
Mark McLean

STAFF: Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager Energy and Environment
Ms. Sherrill Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Mr. Darcy Warren, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Jane Crosby, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Interim Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01pm at the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

2.1 Election of the Chair

Ms. Crosby, Legislative Support, called for nominations for Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Lund that Mr. Billard be nominated to serve as Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board for 2013- January 2014.

Mr. Billard accepted the nomination.

Ms. Crosby called a second time for nominations.

Ms. Crosby called a third time and final time for nominations and, hearing no further nominations, called for the vote on Mr. Billard's nomination.

MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

Ms. Crosby turned the conduct of the meeting to Mr. Billard, Chair.

Mr. Billard called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

MOVED by Mr. Lund, seconded by Mr. Regan that Richard Hattin be nominated to serve as Vice-Chair of Regional Watersheds Advisory Board for 2013 – January 2014.

Mr. Hattin was not present for the meeting and therefore could not accept the nomination. Ms. Murphy, Deputy Clerk, advised that he could be elected Vice-Chair conditional upon acceptance.

The Chair called a second time for nominations.

The Chair called a third and final time for nominations and, hearing no further nominations, called for the vote on Mr. Hattin's nomination.

MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: July 24th 2013

It was noted that a number of names under Item 8 had been misspelled. The names should have read as Dr. Wayne Stobo, Bill Josenhans, and Audrey Manzer.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Dr. Thomas that the minutes of July 24, 2013 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

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

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS– NONE

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

Mr. Fancy and Mr. Mills entered the meeting at 5:10pm.

The Chair asked for a brief round-table of introductions as there were members present at this month's meeting who were unable to attend Regional Watersheds Advisory Board's first meeting in July 2013.

**7.1 Stormwater Management & Lot Grading By-Law – Richard MacLellan
Manager Energy and Environment**

Staff report dated April 26, 2013 and June 11, 2013 were before the Board.

Mr. MacLellan, Manager, Energy and Environment began his presentation on Stormwater Management & Lot Grading By-Law. He indicated that Regional Council directed him to work on consultations around developing a new Stormwater management and lot grading by-law.

He noted that in February of 2013 he was directed, by Council, to develop an Integrated Stormwater policy with Halifax Water Commission. He anticipates that the Project Charter for that work will go to the Environment Committee in October 2013.

Mr. MacLellan gave an overview of the current by-laws. He noted that there are currently 5 lot grading by-laws and 22 by-laws that touch upon Stormwater management. He explained the consultation process that has unfolded to date.

Mr. MacLellan explained the consultation set-up for this evening's meeting and noted that he is looking to obtain information and ideas from RWAB members on the following:

- What are the key objectives and key outcomes from this?
- What works well in the existing regulatory bundle
- What doesn't work well
- What is missing
- Are there regulations outside HRM that you like?
- What is the key behavior change we need to achieve outcomes?
- Key comments not addressed in the above categories.

Mr. MacLellan facilitated a round-table discussion and encouraged all members to contribute ideas and comments. The following ideas and comments were discussed:

What are the key objectives and key outcomes from this?

- Environmental protection
- Minimize sediment impacts
- Absorb post development water / recharge aquifers
- Protection of down slope from flooding impacts
- Clear jurisdiction and roles and responsibilities
- Information sharing
- Maintain natural water balance

What works well in existing regulatory bundle?

- We have a lot grading bylaw

What doesn't work well?

- Jurisdiction
- Erosion & Sedimentation Control Measures
- Cohesion between developers and variances
- Too many riparian exemptions
- Remove grandfathering rights
- Not all lots covered
- No Stormwater Treatment
- Enforcement
- Silt not a contaminant
- Source Accountability (who discharged?)

What is missing?

- Training/Education
- Green roofs
- Bonds should also apply to individual lots
- Timing- reflective of different seasons, i.e. fall rains
- Permeable surfaces, not allow runoff
- Riparian zone protection
- Erosion / Sedimentation control laws
- During construction: Sediment ponds need to be better
- Stormwater pumping plan during construction
- All lots should not be clear cut
- Parking Lot alternatives
- Ditching policy
- Apply to HRM and HW
- Vegetation retention
- Incentives to get beyond minimum
- Information / monitoring feedback
- Reporting metrics
- Improve drainage: can we buy capacity / sell capacity
- Slopes – clarification of approved tolerances

Are there regulations outside of HRM that you like?

- British Columbia
- East Hants

What is the key behaviour change we need to achieve outcomes?

- More infiltration of water on site
- Maintain natural flow / water balance
- Development / Construction – improved sedimentation control

Key comments not addressed elsewhere

- Top soil quality
- Power to insist on permeable lots
- No visible silt
- No impacts down stream
- Retain existing recharge in retention ponds
- Lots of different geology
- Placement of building on properties
- Ugly retention ponds (prefer natural wetlands)
- Need for floodplain maps
- Halifax Water 3% grade creates moonscaping
- Peak / Post flow: doesn't touch on total volume
- Volume control could achieve environmental objectives

- Sometimes want to increase flow (i.e mucky pond)
- Challenge with infill lots
- Vacant sites – stormwater
- Should have master watershed SW plan
- Downspouts / French drains
- Pools – how and where to drain them
- Public Education
- Builders need to be trained on Erosion and Sedimentation control
- Should allow innovation

Mr. MacLellan thanked the Board for their comments and ideas. The Chair asked if there is possibility of opposition to the comments and ideas above. Mr. MacLellan indicated that the comments and ideas should be well received but noted that efficacy and consistency is important. It was noted that many of the ideas and comments discussed were similar to those discussed with the Home Builder's group. Mr. Regan added that there should be a focus group involving some of the local Non-Government Organizations who would likely provide good input.

Mr. MacLellan explained that there would also be a public hearing or engagement. He added that there may be a draft ready for RWAB's review in October 2013.

The Chair and the Board thanked Mr. MacLellan for the consultation session.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 11, 2013

The next meeting will be held on September 11, 2013 at the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Jane Crosby
Legislative Support