

REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2013

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

REGRETS: Adam Fancy
David Lombardi
Mark McLean

STAFF Mr. Paul Morgan, Planner, HRM
Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Energy and Environment
Ms. Jane Crosby, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm in the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

The Chair discussed the Terms of Reference for the Board and noted that members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings without providing regrets, or without being excused by the Board shall be deemed to have resigned from the Board. The Chair suggested that to maintain the appointment of Mr. Lombardi, who has been unable to attend any meetings as of yet, the Board excuse Mr. Lombardi until he is able to attend.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Mills that David Lombardi be excused from the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - September 11, 2013

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded Dr. Soudek that the minutes of September 11, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Lund arrived at 5:08 pm.

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

Mr. Clement requested clarification from the Clerk on whether or not the added item 6.1 from last month's meeting regarding leachate at the Sackville landfill could be commented on by the Regional Watershed Advisory Board.

The Board agreed that this is something they would like to see on the November 14, 2013 agenda. Mr. Lund noted that there is a report from CBCL that provides background information regarding this issue and a link to this report could be sent around.

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 - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - Memorandum from Municipal Clerk

The Board briefly discussed the memorandum and members were appreciative of the list of reports added as Information Item 2.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Hattin, to receive and file the memorandum. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

7.1 Shubenacadie Lakes Sub-watershed Study Report

A staff report dated September 20, 2013 was before the Board. Mr. Russell Dmytriw, Project Manager from AECOM delivered a presentation on the Shubenacadie Lakes Sub-watershed Study Report. He noted that the study was initiated by the property owners of Port Wallace lands. The intent is that the study will become a planning tool to make informed decisions about land use planning.

Mr. Dmytriw presented the watershed boundary and noted that it is a very large watershed. He noted the various flows of the watershed on the map and the various lakes that make up the Shubenacadie watershed. He briefly presented the steps that were undertaken to complete the study and noted how they approached the establishment of water quality objectives. Mr. Dmytriw added that AECOM considered various modelling scenarios to look at effects of various levels of land use development.

On the watershed map, Mr. Dmytriw noted the various sites from which water quality samples were taken. He stated that overall water quality is good to excellent; however human induced impacts have been noted. In addition to establishing Water Quality Objectives, AECOM also set some early warning values so that lakes can be targeted for specific management measures. Mr. Dmytriw noted that lakes within the watershed should be managed at their current levels. Three lake capacity modeling scenarios were presented showing various levels of development. Mr. Dmytriw made note of the developments that would be serviced by HRM and those that would be un-serviced. The impacts of the various scenarios were presented to the Board.

Mr. Dmytriw presented the primary recommendations made within the study which include:

1. Continue with water quality monitoring, as there is no other way to diagnose problems that arise.
2. High level of Stormwater management is recommended for new developments
3. Opportunities to upgrade or replace ageing septic system with communal systems or sewers should be pursued.

The Board entered into discussion with regards to the presented study and Mr. Dmytriw and staff responded to questions from Board members.

Mr. Clement asked about source water for the samples. He added that many of the sites don't take the whole lake into account. Mr. Dmytriw responded that the watershed is very large making it challenging to collect a large amount of samples.

Mr. Mills expressed concern about presenting the early warning signs as an absolute number. He suggested that perhaps these be presented as a percentage increase, so that trends could be observed. Mr. Dmytriw stated that this is something that could be addressed. Mr. Mills added that he would like to see potable water added as an additional use for some of the lakes within the report. Mr. Dmytriw responded that this would involve collecting and looking at large amounts of data.

Mr. Lund asked if there was any indication that clear cutting would contribute to these impacts. Mr. Dmytriw responded that clear cutting would most definitely contribute to these impacts and noted that, within the study, clear cutting was perceived under land use development and not under resource development.

Mr. Regan commented on the importance of stream gauging and Mr. Dmytriw agreed that this would help refine the scenario modeling. Mr. Regan also commented on the importance of HRM enforcing septic tank pump-outs and noted that he was pleased to see this as a recommendation within the study.

Mr. Hattin asked if AECOM has allocated capacity to each lake, rather than the watershed as a whole. Mr. Dmytriw responded that it is very difficult to allocate capacity to each lake as any inputs into one lake can be exported into another. He noted it would be a very complex balancing formula that may not give you meaningful results.

Following further discussion from staff and the Board, the following motion was put:

MOVED by Mr. Lund, seconded by Dr. Thomas that the Regional Watershed Advisory Board recommend to the Harbour East Community Council, that Shubenacadie Lakes Sub-watershed Study Report (AECOM) be accepted as background for future community planning and further that advanced stormwater management practices be included in the Port Wallace development with the objective of not increasing peak flow of stormwater quantity and no decrease in stormwater quality. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

After further discussion it was **MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Mills that the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board recommends permanent stream gauging and flood plain mapping of the entire watershed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

7.2 Halifax Regional Municipality Water Quality Analysis – October 2012

Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer with HRM presented the HRM Water Quality Analysis. He noted that this presentation would be preliminary as this item would be discussed in more detail an upcoming meeting of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

Mr. Deacoff presented a map of the regional centre lakes and provided the Board with an overview of the HRM Lakes Water Quality Monitoring Program data. He discussed the type of analysis that was done on the water and when samples were taken. He briefly presented Stantec's study using the data that was collected and noted that various index's and ranges that were used within the study.

Mr. Deacoff provided a brief overview of the CCME Water Quality Index Basis and he also presented the WQI Scoring Summary. He reviewed the data for six lakes within the regional centre. Trends were discussed; however Mr. Deacoff noted that the causes of trends were not identified. The study summation was briefly presented.

The Chair thanked Mr. Deacoff for the presentation and noted that the Board looks forward to discussing this item in the future.

7.3 Urban Lakes Recommendation Report - February 20, 2013

Due to time restrictions, Mr. MacLellan briefly discussed the Environmental and Sustainability Standing Committee's recommendation report before the Board. He stated that with the assembled data from the HRM Lakes Water Quality Monitoring Program, the next steps would be to initiate discussions and comments that would inform future planning and policy projects.

The Board briefly discussed the item and Mr. MacLellan responded to questions. Mr. MacLellan suggested that the approach to this project be discussed at the next meeting.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 13, 2013

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 5:00 pm in the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Jane Crosby
Legislative Support