



**REGIONAL WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
April 12, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Walter N. Regan, Chair  
Kelly Schnare, Vice Chair  
Russell Dmytriw  
Jennifer Rocard  
Penny Henneberry  
Derek Vallis  
Aaron Ezekiel  
Tim Boudreau

**STAFF:** Holly Richardson, Energy and Environment Acting Program Manager  
Peter Duncan, Manager of Infrastructure Planning  
Andrew Bone, Planner III  
Sharon Chase, 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 Watershed Advisory Board are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/rwab/170412rwab-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. and adjourned at 7:03 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Walter Regan called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. in the Maxine Tynes Room, 2nd floor, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 22, 2017**

A spelling error was noted to be corrected.

MOVED by Russell Dmytriw, seconded by Penny Henneberry

**THAT the minutes of February 22, 2017 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Addition:

Information Item 1 – Subdivision Transmittal Form PID#41357237, Montague Road, Montague Gold Mines

The Board asked that Information Item 1 be brought forward for discussion at their next meeting.

The agenda was approved.

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

The board sought an update on Sawmill River as requested at their February meeting.

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Case 21012: Application by WSP Canada Inc. on behalf of Hamton Holdings Limited to enter into a development agreement to permit the reduction from 100' to 50' of the environmental setback from a wetland near the corner of Duke Street and Damascus Road, Bedford**

The following was before the Board:

- A staff memorandum dated April 4, 2017

As per Administrative Order 57, Section 3 the Regional Watershed Advisory Board as the successor of the Bedford Watershed Advisory Committee has the authority to make recommendation on Case 21012 to North West Community Council.

The developer is requesting a reduction of the setback from 100' to 50' to allow for full access to the site by including a second access from Duke Street. Neil Fougere and Aven Cole were present representing WSP Canada Inc. and the developer.

Andrew Bone, Planner III, gave some background and context regarding the application to the board. This development is in the Bedford Common Area which has an industrial designation. The existing water retention area was manmade when Duke Street was built. Policy E-8 allows for this reduction subject to an environmental study which is provided in this package. The Nova Scotia Department of the Environment approves any wetland alterations. It was noted that any changes are tied to the property and not ownership based. Andrew Bone also reviewed the site plans, highlighting the boundaries, buildings and wetland area.

A discussion followed addressing specific aspects of the development agreement. It was noted that the Province has approved alteration with use of the proposed underground storage and water retention technology to maintain the existing capacity. As well, a compensation package is being considered using the 2:1 ratio standard for changes to a wetland through Ducks Unlimited. Board members commented that it would be nice if that wetland could be recreated in HRM. Bedford has unique setback requirements due to the progressive environmental regulations they introduced during the 1980's.

Staff and developers provided clarification and answers for board members on the technology being proposed and on some specific site details.

Board members wanted to be sure that the setback buffer would create no net loss and would like to see detailed specifications of the newly created buffer. It was agreed that a well-designed 50' was much better than a poorly designed 100'.

Halifax Water will take ownership and will monitor and maintain the system. They like this technology and see it as a test pilot for consideration to the overall infrastructure for Halifax Water in future. Monitoring and reports are scheduled for 5 years. Members asked that these be shared with the Board. Staff will look into whether this would be required or done informally.

The board noted the following points for consideration:

- Best management practices are followed by the developer where there are no negative impacts to the wetland
- The redesigned buffer enhances the ecological functions of the area creating an improved habitat
- The silt fence be removed when no longer needed
- A copy of the altered site map be referred to the board for review
- The 50' setback be landscaped by a registered landscape architect
- The re-establishment of the connectivity to Sucker Brook be considered
- Interpretative signage would be included as a way of educating the public about the technology being used

The board was not prepared to put forward a recommendation at this time as they needed additional clarification. This matter was deferred to their next meeting.

## **9.2 BOARD**

### **9.2.1 Regional Watershed Advisory Board work planning discussion**

The following was before the Board:

- A staff handout entitled Work Planning Discussion dated February 22, 2017

Members discussed the staff handout and comments were made that the terms of reference may have to be redefined to allow board feedback on a broader range of projects. There needs to be a change in how projects are directed to the board. Staff identified two approaches that could be considered. The board

could be given a list of current projects and specific projects would be chosen based on the board's interest or area of expertise. Another option would be that the board identify subject areas or policy initiatives where they can provide insight and feedback and work is generated based on these areas. It was noted that regular timely updates on projects are necessary to be effective. It is also key that institutional knowledge is shared and that the board understand the staff process and where they fit in. The board members bring diverse knowledge, skills and talent and provide a valuable resource. The board could be strengthened by having more members including a member of Council. Understanding how work comes to the board, receiving timely updates on projects and areas of interest, having clear direction and training on the board's mandate will allow the board to manage their time better and produce work that is valued and respected. Discussion surrounding the board's own internal processes centered on how decisions are reached with consensus while encouraging various viewpoints.

Holly Richardson, Energy and Environment Acting Program Manager suggested an outline that may help frame the planning discussion.

- The Board is a resource for staff and Council where they provide knowledge and expertise
- What are the plans and policy projects in HRM currently
- Do these fit in the board's terms of reference (do the terms of reference need to be changed?)

It was agreed that taking the time to review and re-group provides the board the opportunity to set the stage and move forward with a clear mandate. This work plan will clarify the board's position. Staff will be able to provide context and information of what is being worked on.

Holly Richardson indicated that a two-year business plan was just approved by Council. The planning and development section contains work that would be of interest to the board. A link to this document would be provided to members.

**10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- May 10, 2017 at 5:00p.m.** Maxine Tynes Room, Alderney Public Library, 80 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Sharon Chase  
Legislative Support