



**Regional Watershed Advisory Board
MINUTES
May 10, 2017**

PRESENT: Walter N. Regan, Chair
Kelly Schnare, Vice Chair
Russell Dmytriw
Jennifer Rocard
Penny Henneberry
Derek Vallis
Tim Boudreau
Rose Featherstone
Kevin Hooper

REGRETS: Aaron Ezekiel

STAFF: Holly Richardson, Energy and Environment Acting Program Manager
Andrew Bone, Planner III
Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer
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/170510rwab-agenda.php>

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Walter Regan called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. in the Maxine Tynes Room, 2nd floor, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 12, 2017

It was noted that Peter Duncan's title should read "Manager of Infrastructure Planning".

MOVED by Kevin Hooper, seconded by Russell Dmytriw

THAT the minutes of April 12, 2017 be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

The Board clarified that they would like a Sawmill River update for information purposes as it is an area of interest. Staff will follow up and see what information can be shared for this purpose.

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – April 12, 2017

6.1 STAFF

6.1.1 Case 21012: Application by WSP Canada Inc. on behalf of Hamton Holdings Limited to enter in to 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:

- An extract of the Board's draft minutes dated April 12, 2017

MOVED by Russell Dmytriw, seconded by Penny Henneberry

THAT the Regional Watershed Advisory Board has reviewed 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 and recommends to North West Community Council the approval of the application as outlined in the memorandum and attachments with consideration to the following:

- Best management construction and sediment control practices are followed by the developer to minimize any negative impacts to the wetland; and
- The redesigned buffer enhances the ecological functions of the area, encourages ground water recharge and creates a viable riparian habitat.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Board would ask that the following be stipulated by staff when replying to this planning application:

- The silt fence is removed when no longer needed.

- A copy of the application to Nova Scotia Environment for wetland alteration is referred to the board for review.
- The 50' setback is landscaped by a registered landscape architect.
- The re-establishment of the connectivity to Sucker Brook be considered.
- Interpretive signage would be included as a way of educating the public about the technology being used and the value of wetland maintenance.
- If possible, reduce the number of parking spots and keep less permeable hard surfaces to a minimum.
- That the landscaped buffer is planted with native bushes, trees and plants; grass areas are minimized with a large amount of mulch and perhaps a rain garden with beach stone installed.
- Snow removal is away from and not stored on the buffer area.
- The Board would like to follow this project and asks that they have an opportunity to review the monitoring process that will be used by Halifax Water.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – April 12, 2017

8.1 Subdivision Transmittal Form PID#41357237, Montague Road, Montague Gold Mines

The Chair confirmed that this was for information purposes and if any member would like further information they should contact Dean MacDougall, Planner I.

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 BOARD

9.1.1 Regional Watershed Advisory Board Work Planning

The following was before the Board:

- A handout entitled: Planning and Development 17/18- 18/19 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan

Kelly Schnare, Vice Chair began the discussion by noting that it would be helpful for the Board to have a work schedule for three months at a time with a monthly list of agenda items allowing plenty of notice for reading and researching ahead of the monthly meetings. Holly Richardson, Energy and Environment Acting Program Manager suggested that a starting point in the creation of this list could be staff's planning and development business plan. The Board understood that their work comes from staff and as directed by the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC). They inquired about how individuals and boards might initiate work. Staff will investigate and report back to the Board.

Holly Richardson then led the Board through the business plan highlighting areas which would be of interest to the board in their work planning. There are four key areas under Healthy Livable Communities which would be a good fit for this Board:

- Flood Risk Assessments and By-law development
- Green Network Plan development
- LiDAR data acquisition and processing
- Watershed Management and Water Quality Monitoring

In each of these areas there is an opportunity for the Board to have discussions and provide input on development and implementation.

The Board identified two broad subject areas and within each area four topics of interest:

- Policy Development: Green Network, Watershed Management, LiDAR
- Climate Change Projects: Sawmill Creek, Bedford West, Port Wallis/Lake Charles and Shubenacadie

Staff offered to collaborate with planning managers on behalf of the Board and encouraged them to focus on the policy and planning areas; this offer was appreciated.

The Chair moved the discussion to the relationship between the Board and ESSC. It was suggested that the Board review ESSC minutes as a best practice. This might be done by having it as a standing agenda item. The logistics of this was explored. Working within the constraints of one monthly two hour meeting it was agreed that having a three to six month list of current topics/projects would help in focusing the work of the Board. It may be necessary to revisit or rework the Board's mandate at a future date.

Holly Richardson suggested the Board begin with looking at The Green Network Plan. Staff could make a presentation at the June meeting and would frame up some specific questions to facilitate a discussion at July's meeting to receive the Board's input. At this time there are two documents that can be provided to the Board for their review: The Primer Report and a background document State of the Landscape. Both electronic and hard copies will be made available. Holly provided the Board with a handout listing the dates for Halifax Green Network Plan Community Engagement meetings.

The Board and staff discussed how to make the best use of the Board's expertise in helping and advising staff and ESSC. There is a lot of information and documentation that can be shared with the Board. Members expressed their interest in learning more and having access to information in order to be better prepared and able to have meaningful discussions, making the best use of their meetings. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer, offered to create a list of resources that would be of interest to Board members. It was suggested that this list be added as a resource section to the Board's HRM webpage.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - June 14, 2017 at 5 p.m., Maxine Tynes Room, Alderney Public Library, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support