



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
November 14, 2018**

PRESENT: Rose Featherstone
Kelly Schnare, Chair
Laura McCallum
Linda Campbell

REGRETS: Derek Vallis
Jennifer Rocard, Vice Chair

STAFF: Shannon Miedema, Manager, Energy & Environment
Shannon O'Connell, Program Engineer, Policy & Standards
Hannah Forsyth, Legislative Support, Office of the Municipal Clerk

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Committee are available online at Halifax.ca

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. in the HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 11, 2018 and August 1, 2018 (special meeting)

MOVED by Rose Featherstone, seconded by Laura McCallum

THAT the minutes of July 11, 2018 and August 1, 2018 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Laura McCallum, seconded by Rose Featherstone

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS

10.1 STAFF

10.1.1 Benthic macroinvertebrate study in Lake Charles to assess potential impacts of sedimentation on lake health

Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy and Environment Staff provided an update on the benthic macroinvertebrate study in Lake Charles. The study is to assess potential impacts of sedimentation on lake health. This area is a cove that experiences heavy sedimentation during every rain event. Area residents want change and are concerned that the sedimentation levels are harmful to the lake. For the first time, Nova Scotia Environment and the Halifax Regional Municipality are co-paying for a study into this area in order to assess whether the turbidity and sedimentation are affecting the health of the lake. The contractor, EnviroSphere Limited, has collected a sampling and the results are expected in January 2019.

The Board discussed the many preventative and informative reasons for continual and consistent lake testing, and the merits of reinstating the lake testing program throughout the Municipality. Members questioned whether there were enough previous baseline measurements to determine the significance of samples collected for this study. In their view, the issues in other lakes in the Halifax Regional Municipality would impact one another and that treating only one lake would be unsuccessful. The Board supported an integrated stakeholder management approach but suggested that baseline information was needed to properly manage water quality issues. The Board discussed cost effective water monitoring equipment, such as Conductivity, Temperature, Depth (CTD) probes and the equipment bank at the

Atlantic Water Network. They encourage staff to collaborate with academia and other volunteer community groups to collect baseline data for all HRM lakes.

Recognizing the scope of the Municipality, it was MOVED by Rose Featherstone, seconded by Laura McCallum

THAT the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board recommends that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request staff prepare a report considering:

- 1. Strategic partnerships with volunteer community groups in monitoring the water quality of Halifax Regional Municipality lakes and collecting base line data;**
- 2. Investing in water testing equipment, specifically a Conductivity Temperature Depth (CTD) instrument, for multiple parameter testing;**
- 3. Activating the Green Network Plan strategy and expand its approach to watershed issues; and**
- 4. Consider this recommendation when receiving upcoming studies and reports.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.1.1 Stormwater Management By-law Development Presentation

Shannon O'Connell, Program Engineer, Policy and Standards presented the proposed stormwater management by-law, outlining the following:

- Stormwater problems
- Integrated stormwater policy framework
- 2018 flood risk assessment
- Policy action items (construction standards, centre plan and community design)
- Joint management standards for stormwater
- Stormwater Management By-law tool to enforce standards

The Board discussed the Stormwater Management By-law with staff responding to questions. Clarification was sought on the salt and sand operations for municipal roads. The Board suggested that salinity and salt sensitive areas be reflected in the By-law, noting that all lakes are sensitive to salinity and that vegetation options can help with resistance efforts. Staff advised that this would be included in future documents. Staff confirmed the standards were attainable, noting that existing sites are not included in the by-law standards, just new developments. The Board was pleased to see multiple stakeholders involved and working together. Staff provided a rough timeline for Board members, with external stakeholder engagement next. Members questioned if there should be different parameters for rain versus snow melts and plows. Members noted their willingness to help with communications and community outreach of the proposed by-law.

10.1.2 Proposed 2019 Regional Watersheds Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Laura McCallum, seconded by Rose Featherstone

THAT the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board approve the proposed 2019 meeting schedule as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated October 24, 2018.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Board discussed the possibility of moving the meeting days from Wednesday to Thursday and agreed to continue this discussion at their January meeting.

11 ADDED ITEMS - NONE

12. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 9, 2019

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Hannah Forsyth
Legislative Support