



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
February 11, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Emma Bocking, Chair  
Tony Blouin, Vice Chair  
Samantha Lutes  
Jim Abraham  
David Foster  
Farhang Fotovat  
Youji Cheng  
Andrew Medeiros

**REGRETS:** John Carter  
Robert Jarvis  
Ceo Gaudet

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Councillor Russell

**STAFF:** Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy and Environment, P&D  
Emma Wattie, Environmental Performance Officer, P&D  
Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk  
Sharon Chase, Legislative Support, Office of the Municipal Clerk

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

*The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m., the Committee adjourned at 6:55 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Emma Bocking, Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

### **Introduction of the Board members and Camera/Audio Check**

#### **Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Legislative Assistant.

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

MOVED by Jim Abraham, seconded by Samantha Lutes

**THAT Emma Bocking be nominated Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Legislative Assistant called three times for any further nominations. There being none, it was:

MOVED by Farhang Fotovat, seconded by David Foster,

**THAT nominations for the position of Chair be closed.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Legislative Assistant declared Emma Bocking Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

Emma Bocking then assumed the Chair. Emma Bocking called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

MOVED by Jim Abraham, seconded by Emma Bocking

**THAT Tony Blouin be nominated Vice Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair called three times for any further nominations. There being none, it was:

MOVED by David Foster, seconded by Youji Cheng,

**THAT nominations for the position of Vice-Chair be closed.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair declared Tony Blouin Vice Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 10, 2020**

MOVED by Jim Abraham, seconded by Samantha Lutes

**THAT the minutes of December 10, 2020 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

MOVED by David Foster, seconded by Youji Cheng

**THAT the agenda be approved as distributed.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES- NONE**

## **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 AECOM Water Quality Monitoring Policy and Program Development Report Review Session**

Shannon Miedema, *Manager of Energy and Development*, referred Members to the AECOM Report that was distributed earlier this week for their review and is now available as a public document with the agenda on the Board's webpage.

The recommendations and three frameworks for consideration in that report are being evaluated and will inform staff's report to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC) in May for their consideration and recommendation to Regional Council.

Staff is looking for input from Board members which will assist them in the finalizing of their report to ESSC. HRM's role is to monitor freshwater lakes, rivers and watersheds, within HRM's boundary as they have a direct impact on: planning and development, citizen's use and enjoyment of these bodies, economic and tourism opportunities. There are many stakeholders and partnerships (i.e. Province of NS and Halifax Water) to consider.

The Board discussed many opportunities and ideas for HRM's Water Quality Monitoring Program and focused on these areas:

- The opportunity for funding partners (Halifax Water, academic community and their existing partnerships)
- Role of Halifax Water (funding; sharing costs, suppliers, data)
- Adaptive Management approach which allows the program to be nimble, change priorities, provides flexibility to add lakes and manage plans for stressed lakes
- Having an understanding that each lake has its own unique history, context, development patterns and may or may not have baseline data

- Sampling should consider inlets and outlets of lakes as well as deep stations
- How does the program take a starting point and what is the result sought?
- How/when does monitoring trigger action. What are the indicators, factors looked for?
- Results should link to policy and program actions
- How is the effectiveness of the program measured? Is regular reporting part of the program?
- Use of volunteers and citizen science in data collection and the need for consistent training to ensure good quality data is collected
- The Atlantic Water Network and many local resident associations are already in place and would be valuable resources
- Could HRM put a public call out for proposals and community partners?
- HRM oversight is important to ensure consistency and predictability
- Creating a portfolio of stakeholders would be a valuable tool
- Atlantic Data Stream collects data from many users and could be a resource for HRM to use and share data
- Looking at how the Muskoka region started from scratch and the approach and partnerships used there could inform this program
- A two-year cycle is not frequent enough and sampling should take place spring, summer and fall, not just twice a year. The frequency could be adjusted once baseline data is collected
- A holistic watershed approach supported and tied to HRM's Climate Action Plans would be a larger initiative that comes from this program
- Monitoring will provide opportunities for both short and long-term solutions
- Management and objectives of this program need to be clear

The Board Members were encouraged to send any further feedback in the form of an email directly to the Clerk's Office, [clerks@halifax.ca](mailto:clerks@halifax.ca), and that would be passed along to Shannon and the team for consideration as well. There may also be some time set aside in the March agenda to continue this discussion.

## **9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **9.2.1 Regional Watersheds Advisory Board's History and Terms of Reference**

Chair Emma Bocking provided some background and an overview of the process to date for changes to the Board's Terms of Reference. These had been requested by previous Board Members to better define the Board's role.

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC) received a supplementary report in December 2020 and amended that motion to recommend that Regional Council consider the addition of ESSC members to the Board. Regional Council passed that motion on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and will receive the requested supplementary report for their consideration. The Legislative Assistant will provide Board Members with a copy of the report. Once the new Terms of Reference are endorsed, they will be shared with members and posted on the Board's webpage.

The Chair suggested the Board may want to give a presentation to ESSC to introduce Board Members and highlight their expertise. The presentation could also inform them of the importance of Watershed Management and how Board Members can contribute to the promotion of water related topics in HRM.

## **10. ADDED ITEMS- NONE**

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 11, 2021**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Sharon Chase  
Legislative Support