



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
August 12, 2021**

PRESENT: Emma Bocking, Chair
Tony Blouin, Vice Chair
David Foster
Youji Cheng
Andrew Medeiros
Céo Gaudet
Farhang Fotovat

REGRETS: Robert Jarvis

STAFF: Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy and Environment, P&D
Emma Wattie, Environmental Performance Officer, P&D
Meaghan Maund, Planner II Current Planning, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m., the Board adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. Community Announcements from Board Members

The Vice Chair shared that Williams Lake Beach has been closed due to a blue-green algae bloom. Water temperature and additional nutrients in lakes are the main causes of these blooms.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 10, 2021

MOVED by David Foster, seconded by Andrew Medeiros

THAT the minutes of June 10, 2021 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Céó Gaudet, seconded by Youji Cheng

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

8.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Joshua Kurek, Alex Raiche-Marsden and Alexandra Futterman; and has been distributed to members.

The Board expressed an interest in having Joshua Kurek speak to the Board further about the report submitted with their correspondence. The Board noted that the legacy of arsenic contamination provides a clear picture of productivity and its impacts on the lake. In addition to warming waters due to climate change, future development plans will impact the watershed. Good Planning Policy is important to mitigate loading issues from hardening of surfaces and landscaping. The Board expressed concern that housing development near the former mine site, which would almost certainly lead to higher phosphorus levels and lower oxygen levels in Lake Charles, could have a further effect of liberating arsenic from the lake bottom. Increasing public engagement and providing more information to the public, both property owners and users of the lakes, is also important.

Emma Bocking joined the meeting and assumed the Chair.

8.2 Petition – NONE

8.3.1 Montague Mines Project and the Nova Scotia Lands & Forestry Historical Mines Project Introduction & Update – Peter Geddes and Donnie Burke

The following was before the Board:

- A presentation dated August 12, 2021

Peter Geddes, Executive Director – Regional Services Branch, Nova Scotia Department of Lands & Forestry and Donnie Burke, Executive Director - Nova Scotia Lands Inc., provided a presentation.

Burke showed a map of former mine sites in the province; 11 sites are located in HRM. The history and scope of the project was shared, specifically highlighting Montague Mines and the details of the closure plan. The risk-based approach used in the project was reviewed. Findings to date for Barry's Run and Lake Charles were shared as well as the Lake Charles Human Health Risk Assessment Findings. The reports can be found at www.nslands.ca.

Burke confirmed that the cost of 41 million is based on a class D estimate of clean up costs for both Goldenville and Montague. It was noted that Industry is looking closely at the plans for the sites and there are recent licenses at the registry. Opportunities at the policy level to review how permits are issued, including asking for remediation plans and bonds up front was suggested. Burke summarized the human risk findings where the main risk would be inhalation of dust at these sites; the mercury appears to be contained. More details can be provided by Christine Morris who is the project manager and a toxicologist. Burke offered to pass any further questions along to Morris. Bio available arsenic will remain low as long as the lakes are oxygenated. It will be important to contain the movement of sediments.

Development can trigger nutrient loading in Lake Charles. Burke confirmed that LIDAR imaging was used in the study and that data gap work is being done now for all boundaries and interactions, with the assistance of Halifax Water. Burke noted that wetland assessments and studies have been done to look at the impacts of remediation on habitat and wetlands; with both field truth and mapping of these areas taking place. A 25-year plan will be managed and monitored aiming for the least disruption to habitat, with wetland compensation and re-habitation being included.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

10.1 STAFF

10.1.1 Case 23213 Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains and Upper Sackville Plan Area

Meaghan Maund, Planner II Current Planning gave a presentation on Case 23213.

The Board asked questions of clarification and provided their feedback.

The Board inquired whether anything had been identified that would affect water courses. Nothing has been noted to date.

Setbacks from water courses are defined under the Regional Plan and are 20 metres from the ordinary high-water mark, where there is a non-disturbance/buffer area.

Stormwater management is an important consideration. It was confirmed that this area is a part of the Mill Cove Sewer Shed which is a separated system. The details of the storm system being considered will be reviewed in the subdivision application process. Halifax Water and Development Engineers are part of this review process. It was noted that a culvert system and natural buffers are important features to consider.

The Board asked about the approach taken by the developer in this case, noting that this did not propose site specific changes but would affect the whole of the planning area.

The Municipal Planning Strategy uses general language which can permit two different approaches using two different processes. The broader approach brings with it more feedback, more opinion as all in that plan area are consulted.

It was noted that the Carriage Way development is on a slope and near a wetland, with a concern that the swamp may be impacted/used for stormwater. This development is considered “as of right” as they applied according to the existing regulations. The process to get to an approved subdivision undergoes many reviews and opportunities for changes to be made based on feedback given.

Maund encouraged participation in public consultation as existing plans come up for review.

10.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS- NONE

11. ADDED ITEMS- NONE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 9, 2021

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support