



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

**PRESENT:** Kelly Schnare, Chair  
Jennifer Rocard, Vice Chair  
Derek Vallis  
Laura McCallum  
Rose Featherstone

**REGRETS:** Aaron Ezekiel  
Tim Boudreau  
Kevin Hooper

**STAFF:** Cameron Deacoff, Environment Performance Officer, Energy & Environment  
Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk  
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 Board are available online at [Halifax.ca](http://Halifax.ca)*

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. and the Board adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

## **2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Kelly Schnare noted that the Council of Canadians are hosting an event to celebrate World Water Day at Saint Mary's University, Scotiabank Theatre, on March 22, 2018, 7 to 9:30 p.m.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 14, 2018**

MOVED by Rose Featherstone, seconded by Laura McCallum

**THAT the minutes of February 14, 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 Jennifer Rocard

**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 – February 14, 2018**

### **7.1 Discuss RWAB Terms of Reference and mandate**

The following motion was on the floor, deferred from the February 14, 2018 meeting:

MOVED by Tim Boudreau, seconded by Kevin Hopper

**THAT the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board recommends that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that staff be directed to review the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board's Terms of Reference and mandate.**

The Board reviewed a draft of their report that would go to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC). They discussed a mechanism that would allow projects from related departments to come to their attention. This would include other internal water business units such as energy, environment and solid waste. Members discussed the possibility of a Councillor position on the Board, to establish a liaison between Council and the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board (RWAB). Members also suggested that the language of the academic designate position(s) on the Board needed to be modified. To expand the eligibility, members considered removing the doctoral training clause and expanding the academic connection to include active professionals.

The edit to the proposed changes to the Board's purpose to speak to the internal business units providing yearly work plans was:

- Have the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee and other internal business units, such as Energy and Environment and Solid Waste Management, provide yearly work plans to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board

The edits and addition to the proposed changes to the Board's composition was as follows:

- Have representation from a member of Halifax Regional Council to establish and create a link (liaison) between Council and the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.
- Remove the doctoral training clause and have a less limiting academic connection requirement. The individuals should be active professionals.

MOVED by Laura McCallum, seconded by Rose Featherstone

**THAT the motion be amended to include the words "and take into consideration the suggestions made by the Board".**

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.**

The motion before the Board now reads:

MOVED by Tim Boudreau, seconded by Kevin Hopper

**THAT the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board recommends that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that staff be directed to review the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board's Terms of Reference and mandate and take into consideration the suggestions made by the Board.**

**MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.**

## **7.2 Rose Featherstone – Water Quality Monitoring**

The Board asked for a budget request to look at water quality testing for the next meeting.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

### **8.1 Correspondence – None**

### **8.2 Petitions – None**

### **8.3 Presentation**

#### **8.3.1 Bob Rutherford and Terence Rowell, Oathill Lake Conservation Society**

Bob Rutherford and Terry Rowell with the Oathill Lake Conservation Society presented an update on protecting and restoring the ecological health of the lake. A copy of the presentation is on file.

Rutherford and Rowell responded to questions of clarification. During the discussion, it was noted that Terry Rowell spoke to correspondence that had been submitted to Council in 2012 entitled: Oathill Lake Conservation Society Recommendations for HRM's Lake and Watercourse Policy. A copy of this document will be provided to the Legislative Assistant for circulation to the Board.

## **9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

## **10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **10.1 STAFF**

#### **10.1.1 Data review of beach closures from bacteria, rainfall and paving for 2017**

Cameron Deacoff, Environment Performance Officer, presented a dataset review from 2009-2017 in

response to the Board's interest in correlations between parking lot paving at municipal beaches, heavy rainfall and beach closures. It was noted that, while the results do not suggest a strong correlation, there is a general scientific consensus that rainfall and beach closures are positively correlated, however with a single beach sample any trends are difficult to prove or identify. A copy of the presentation is on file.

In response to a question raised on how often water is tested after a previous negative result, Deacoff explained that a retest is done as soon as it is feasible, and staff typically go out the next day, however sampling is only done Monday to Thursday typically.

**11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 11, 2018**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Hannah Forsyth  
Legislative Support

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Staff report dated November 28, 2017 to Environment and Sustainability Standing committee February 1, 2018 entitled: Pollution Control Study for Lake Banook