



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
April 18, 2019**

PRESENT: Emma Bocking, Vice Chair
Rose Featherstone
Carol Cameron
Melissa Lee
Andrew Sullivan

REGRETS: Linda Campbell, Chair
Laura McCallum

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Sam Austen
Councillor Richard Zurawski

STAFF: Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy and Environment
Ben Sivak, Major Projects Planner, Planning and Development
Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant
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 Committee are available online at Halifax.ca

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Emma Bocking called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. in the HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following announcements were shared:

- April 21st is World Fish Migration Day and April 22nd is Earth Day; members are encouraged to participate in the 2019 Nature Challenge which runs from April 26-29th using the iNaturalist App.
- A guided walking tour of Historic Wetlands on the Peninsula will take place May 5th
- A lecture on Ecosystem Research in the Bras D'or Lakes will be held May 6th at the Museum of Natural History
- The Province has put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Floodplain Mapping
- Member of Parliament Darren Fisher will be making an announcement on the Federal government's investment in Birch Cove/Blue Mountain on April 23rd

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Rose Featherstone, seconded by Melissa Lee

THAT the minutes of March 13, 2018 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Rose Featherstone, seconded by Melissa Lee

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

Andrew Sullivan declared a conflict of interest for item 7.1 Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring at Lake Banook & Lake Micmac Final Report and 10.1.2 Pollution Control Study Report, explaining that they had worked on parts of these reports.

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – March 13, 2019

7.1 Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring at Lake Banook & Lake Micmac Final Report – Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy & Environment

The following was before the Board:

- A report from Stantec dated February 1, 2019 entitled: Lake Banook and Lake Micmac 2018 Post-Harvest Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring Report
- A copy of the staff presentation entitled: Management of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation in Lake Banook & Micmac

The Board had received the presentation at their last meeting and continued their discussion and offered feedback. For future studies and projects, it was noted that having the report and baseline data done in advance of the work taking place would be recommended. Having flexible options and more recommendations would be of value. Some suggestions included: the use of pilot projects, having mowing occur at the appropriate reproductive cycle of the plants, an option of dredging for some types of plants and a focused application of pesticides. Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy and Environment noted strong public opposition to the use of pesticides and that there were constraints around the timing of the mowing program.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS- NONE

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS

10.1 STAFF

10.1.1 Case 21402: Sackville Rivers Floodplain - Ben Sivak, Major Projects Planner, Planning & Development - Development Approvals

The following was before the Board:

- Council Initiation Report
- Sackville Rivers Floodplain Study- Phase II (2017)
- Map showing existing and updated floodplains
- Sackville Floodplains Project Webpage
- Statement of Provincial Interest Regarding Flood Risk Areas

Ben Sivak, Major Projects Planner provided a presentation on Case 21402, a copy of this presentation is on file. Sivak reviewed the background and history of this initiative; the request being made in 2008 and the final study completed in 2017. The importance of floodplain mapping and how it guides planning and development work was reviewed. Maps of the study area and the study methodology were shared; highlighting data collection and analysis, as well as the LIDAR technology and surveying completed. This work resulted in new flood line maps, which were compared to the existing regulated maps from the 1980's. Sivak reviewed the policy context highlighting: Statements of Provincial Interest, Regional Plan Policies, the four (4) Community Plan Areas included, and the Flood Damage Reduction Program. Policy will need to be updated. The community engagement conducted was reviewed. The next steps will require MPS and LUB amendments which will be presented to Regional Council in summer 2019.

The Board was asked to provide comments on the project, specifically to assess the potential impact on the community of updating the floodplain zoning and associated planning documents.

The Board held a discussion with staff responding to questions. Sivak noted that Federal funds have been received for flood mitigation programs. Sivak clarified that this project was to address how development is managed in floodplains. It was suggested that the regulations outlined in the Centre Plan could be applied in this area as well. The most conservative climate change predictions were used, and a regular review process will be built in due to the nature of risk associated with the changing climate. Policy used in other Nova Scotia municipalities could be looked at, for example an off-setting approach to help pay for mitigation. Sivak noted that the primary goal was to update zoning and planning policy to ensure the appropriate development for the area and that mitigation opportunities was a longer-term project. Storm water management is a shared responsibility of Halifax Water, HRM and the Province. It was clarified that HRM are the direct link with home owners/buyers and conduct permitting based on the existing zoning while ensuring they are aware of this study as well. Sivak confirmed that the Province's flood line mapping work and approach will be considered. Low impact design which encourages a naturalized approach is a goal. The Board emphasized that wetland areas are important and need to be protected in this process.

The Board agreed to bring this matter back to their next meeting to allow for further review and comment.

10.1.2 Pollution Control Study Report – Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy & Environment

The following was before the Board:

- A final report from Stantec dated April 11, 2019 entitled: Pollution Source Control Study for Lake Banook & Lake Micmac

The Board agreed to move this discussion to the June meeting to allow for more time to read the report and to receive a staff presentation. Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy and Environment confirmed that this does not delay the preparation of the staff report and that they would be looking for recommendations, with the Board identifying priorities. Staff have already begun to work with Halifax Water on the E. coli recommendations.

11. ADDED ITEMS- NONE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 9, 2019 HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support