



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
June 13, 2019**

PRESENT: Linda Campbell, Chair
Emma Bocking, Vice Chair
Rose Featherstone
Laura McCallum
Carol Cameron
Melissa Lee

REGRETS: Andrew Sullivan

STAFF: Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy & Environment
Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer, Energy & Environment
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, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Committee are available online at Halifax.ca

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. at HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Laura McCallum, seconded by Rose Featherstone

THAT the minutes of May 9, 2019 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 Laura McCallum

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Arising from the Pollution Control Study discussion (item 7.1), the Board agreed to add discussions on Water Quality Monitoring (item 11.1) and Development on Lake Banook (item 11.2).

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

It was noted that Andrew Sullivan reached out to the Clerk's Office prior to the meeting to advise that they still had a conflict of interest for item 7.1 Pollution Control Study Report having worked on the report.

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – April 18, 2019

7.1 Pollution Control Study Report

The following was before the Board:

- Pollution Source Control Study for Lake Banook & Lake Micmac Final Report by Stantec

Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer, provided a summary of the history and rationale for the Stantec Pollution Control Study Report. Stantec has provided recommendations for each of the key areas. Land use regulation and planning; public education; and infrastructure can all be used to address these lake pollutants. Deacoff noted that phosphorus loading is impacted by road and commercial land use and can be influenced by land use planning recommendations. E. coli sources include: dogs, which individual owners can control; birds, where deterrents can be put in place; wildlife, which cannot be controlled; and human waste, which the water utility can investigate further.

The Board addressed the study by breaking their discussion and recommendations into two key areas: phosphorus control/algae bloom and E. coli/beaches and shoreline.

The Board's discussion around phosphorus control touched on the change in yard care rules where the cumulative effect of lawn fertilizer could be contributing. They felt that the sampling methodology (three samples from rain events) could have impacted the results; acknowledging that the weather, the short

duration of the study and the equipment used were factors. The Board felt that a public education initiative was important and could address: cleaning up after pets, lawn care and discouraging the feeding of waterfowl. There is also an opportunity to use dense shoreline plantings to discourage geese and prevent storm water runoff. There could be an opportunity to test bird control recommendations in a small area to identify point sourcing. Regular testing should continue to build a stronger data base. It will be important to continue monitoring in order to see changes and measure the impact of any initiatives. Performance monitoring for a specific effect is recommended for managing phosphorus loads to the lake. The Board noted that the MST marker for avian E coli is more sensitive which showed in the results. It was felt that dog and human sources were more significant. Deacoff re-iterated that HRM has a mandate to provide recreational opportunities and that Lake Banook was a key area in this regard. The ecological integrity of the lake is important. Deacoff confirmed that Halifax Water is investigating pipes and sewage as a result of the studies findings. Provincial and HRM road operations also have a role to play as sources of what is entering the pipes.

The Board then summarized their suggestions with the goal of contributing and making a positive impact on the lakes; encouraging and supporting staff as they prioritize their work.

- Maintaining or increasing the greenspaces and wetlands in watersheds. Shoreline improvements have many beneficial impacts.
- Having an accurate map of HRM's wetlands will be a useful planning tool
- Looking to green stormwater infrastructure. Green initiatives are very attractive to residents and will provide effective, long lasting impacts.
- Public Education and information on what is being done and how they can contribute to the health of the lakes is crucial.
- Continued monitoring and specific performance monitoring is key for future planning and initiatives, using robust methodology creating the necessary foundation data.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

8.1.1 Correspondence was received from Paul Lewis, dated May 27, 2019.

The Board asked that the Legislative Assistant reply thanking them for their email and informing them that the report was discussed by the Board, Item 7.1, and feedback shared with staff.

8.1.2 Correspondence was received from John Underwood, dated June 13, 2019.

The Board asked that the Legislative Assistant reply thanking them for their email with the suggestion that their research and reports could be shared as a public presentation. The Board provided the Chair with some suggestions of suitable groups to recommend to Underwood, which will be passed on to the Legislative Assistant.

8.2 Petitions – None

8.3 Presentations – None

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS- NONE

11. ADDED ITEMS

11.1 Discussion re: Water Quality Monitoring

It was noted that Energy and Environment have included the establishment of a water quality monitoring program in their business planning. There is presently no specific mandate for the Municipality and many

stakeholders to be considered. It will be necessary to analyze needs and have roles and objectives defined as the program is built. There is some funding available over the next two years to begin this work. Staff will be bringing this to the Board for feedback as they develop the scope and direction of the program over the coming months.

The Board noted the importance of having clear program objectives as the program is designed. The objectives help to set and justify the framework and answers the question of “why are we monitoring?” Monitoring must be part of a management system which can help inform and influence decision making. There are two types of monitoring to include: on-going and performance. It will also be important to prioritize the lakes involved. The Board asked if there were other Canadian cities with these programs and suggested that staff may want to reach out and see what they are doing.

11.2 Discussion re: Development on Lake Banook

The Board noted that there are a few proposed developments in the Lake Banook area and were interested in receiving an update from Planning and Development about current projects. They asked specifically about any plans for the site of the former YMCA.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 11, 2019 HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support