



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
November 12, 2020**

PRESENT: Linda Campbell, Chair
Emma Bocking, Vice Chair
Tony Blouin
John Carter
Melissa Lee
Andrew Sullivan
Samantha Lutes
Jim Abraham
Rose Featherstone
Ceo Gaudet
Doug Van Hemessen

REGRETS: Carol Cameron

STAFF: Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy and Environment, P&D
Jim Hunter, Environmental Performance Officer, Planning and Development
Baillie Holmes, Energy and Environment Intern, Planning and Development
Erin MacIntyre, Land Development Subdivision Program Manager, P&D
Rosemary MacNeil, Principal Planner, Planning and Development
Matt Conlin, Planner 1, Planning and Development
Sharon Chase, Legislative Support, Office of the Municipal Clerk

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Regional Watershed Advisory Board at a future meeting.

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 5:04 p.m., the Committee adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 12, 2020

MOVED by Jim Abraham, seconded by Melissa Lee

THAT the minutes of March 12, 2020 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Emma Bocking, seconded by Samantha Lutes

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

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

6.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

MOVED by Rose Featherstone, seconded by Ceo Gaudet

THAT the election of Chair and Vice Chair be deferred until the December Meeting of the Regional Watershed Advisory Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 The Regional Centre Bike Network: Potential Watershed Impacts

It was noted that the inclusion of washrooms and garbage cans are an important consideration for the network to ensure the watershed is protected.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

The Legislative Assistant noted that correspondence was received from Jane MacKay, dated March 19, 2020. This correspondence was circulated to the Board.

There is a severe problem with pigeons under the bridge which is a hazard to boaters and a pollutant. Shannon Miedema noted that this issue is addressed as a part of the Lake Pollution Control Report which went to Regional Council and a feasibility study will be presented in the upcoming budget deliberations.

This is also an issue in other lakes, in addition to Banook and Micmac. The Board would like to be informed of other lakes with these same concerns.

There is also a concern about litter along the lake.

The Clerks Office will reply to Jane MacKay and forward this letter to staff and the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

7.2 Petitions- None

7.3 Presentations- None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Brunello Water Quality Monitoring Program

MOVED by Ceo Gaudet, seconded by Emma Bocking

THAT the Regional Watershed Advisory Board review and approve the proposed changes to the frequency of water quality testing as outlined in the report submitted by Stantec on behalf of Brunello Estates, dated March 28, 2020.

Andrew Giles and Matt Steeves were in attendance to answer questions from Board members on behalf of Brunello.

Giles confirmed that the golf course development has been phased and weather events have been monitored monthly for the last 5 years with samples being taken typically in the last week of the month to collect a random sampling. Monitoring will be reduced from 10 tests to 3 annually when there is no activity but will resume along with construction. Erin MacIntyre, Land Development Subdivision Program Manager, noted that subdivision by-laws include regulations around testing and that the Development Officer would require an increased level of testing at commencement of construction.

The Board discussed how development permanently impacts the landscape. Data collection and testing pre, during and post construction can show changes and impacts such as: hardening of surfaces, removal of natural vegetation and nitrogen and phosphorus pollutants. Steeves reviewed the 3 stages of monitoring with this development: 3 years pre-development, 5 years monitoring drainage post construction and the intention to continue with the monitoring program as further phasing takes place.

MacIntyre explained that this development is enabled through a development agreement which includes the Boards approval of the testing program. The approved schedule would remain in place until the agreement is discharged by Community Council.

The Board asked for clarification about mitigating measures and any set threshold which would trigger action. Could there be a provision that if an unusual result or trend showed up in the reduced frequency sampling data, then the sampling could revert to the more frequent schedule, to help determine what is happening. Giles agreed with that approach and noted that tropic status is maintained from baseline data. Turbidity and TSS can be affected by increased precipitation in fall and low water levels in mid summer. Giles confirmed that the developers have been receptive to any notifications from Stantec. It was also noted that an erosion sediment control plan is a part of the construction site plan.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Chair Linda Campbell had to leave the meeting and the Chair was assumed by Vice Chair Emma Bocking.

9.1.2 Presentation: HalifACT 2050

The following was before the Board:

- *A staff presentation dated November 12, 2020*

Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy and Environment provided a presentation to the Board. A copy of this presentation is on file.

HalifACT provides a roadmap to 2050 for the Municipality. Planning and Development have a team focused on Energy and Environment, a table noting these areas of focus was shared. Extensive engagement with stakeholders has taken place.

In January of 2019 Regional Council declared a climate emergency. The focus is now on how we implement actions and reach our goals. Data and a graph were shared illustrating actions that move towards net zero by addressing key areas. These actions fall under three themes: decarbonized and resilient infrastructure; prepared and connected communities; and governance and leadership. Opportunities for immediate action were highlighted with examples. Miedema shared some of the key areas which would be of interest to the Board, indicating the action, target or objective and timing. The plan realizes some economic and social opportunities which can also become a part of HRM's Economic Recovery Plan. Current Initiatives of interest to the Board were shared with updates and next steps for each.

The Board were encouraged by the plan and its focus on water initiatives. Miedema noted that there is a lot of additional information available on HalifACT at www.halifax.ca/climate. Members are interested in any updates on the Montague Gold Mine and in seeing the updated flood mapping and data. The new Water Quality Monitoring Program Report is drafted and will be going to Regional Council in January. Staff will work with the Legislative Assistant to determine the best way to consult with the Board on this program. Another area which is of interest to the Board is development near water courses and how testing and monitoring can be considered and implemented (pre, during and post construction).

9.2 COMMITTEE

The Committee items on the agenda were to be led by the Chair Linda Campbell. In their absence these items were not discussed.

9.2.1 Watershed Management and Updates during COVID-19 Times

9.2.2 Site Visits to Oak Hill Lake, Chocolate Lake, Williams Lake and McIntosh Run with Local Volunteer Conservation Groups

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support