



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2022**

PRESENT: Tony Blouin
David Foster
Céo Gaudet
Linzey Bedard
Andrew Medeiros
Youji Cheng

REGRETS: Robert Jarvis (Leave of Absence)
Farhang Fotovat

STAFF: Shannon Miedema, Manager Energy and Environment
Jill McGillicuddy, Legislative Assistant
Sharon Chase, Legislative Support

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 5:02 p.m., the Board adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

1.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Jill McGillicuddy, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

MOVED by David Foster, seconded by Céó Gaudet

THAT Tony Blouin be nominated as Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

McGillicuddy called three times for further nominations for the position of Chair. There were no further nominations.

MOVED by Céó Gaudet, seconded by David Foster

THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board be closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

As there were no further nominations, Tony Blouin was declared Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board

1.2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Tony Blouin, called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board

MOVED by David Foster, seconded by Céó Gaudet

THAT David Foster be nominated as Vice Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Tony Blouin called three times for further nominations for the position of Vice Chair. There were no further nominations.

MOVED by Céó Gaudet, seconded by Andrew Medeiros

THAT nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board be closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

As there were no further nominations, David Foster was declared Chair of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS- NONE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 12, 2021 and November 18, 2021

MOVED by Céó Gaudet, seconded by Andrew Medeiros

THAT the minutes of August 12, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Board asked that the minutes of November 18, 2021 be amended to reflect that maintaining the water quality flowing into Lake Williams is imperative. Further, that additional emphasis and detail be included noting that all development requirements will be followed.

The approval of the November 18, 2021 minutes will be deferred to the next meeting.

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

MOVED BY Andrew Medeiros, seconded by David Foster

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

The Board asked staff for more information and detail on flow requirements for as of right development.

The Board requested a copy of the Contractor's Environmental Protection Plan for the Burnside expansion.

Jill McGillicuddy, Legislative Assistant will follow up with staff and bring this information back to the Board.

6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS- NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS- NONE

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

10.1 STAFF

10.1.1 Discussion on Southdale Future Growth Node

The following was before the Board:

- Staff presentation dated March 10, 2022

Ross Grant, Planner II Regional Planning, gave a presentation on Southdale Future Growth Node and responded to questions of clarification from Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

Kasia Tota, Principal Planner, Regional Planning responded to questions of clarification from Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

The Board provided the following for consideration:

- Development impacts such as run off create major changes to a system and impact the water quality and quantity. Acceptable thresholds must be factored into any alterations.
- It was noted that change.org have organized a petition. It has not yet been tabled with the Clerk's Office.
- There is concern that trees are being cut. Regulations do not allow any disturbance to the buffer.
- The Board emphasized the importance of both Halifax Water's requirements and HRM's stormwater policy with focus on engineering practices and street design, both of which are embedded in the Municipal Design Guidelines.
- The design of the stormwater retention area and detail of the engineered wetland was of interest to the Board, understanding that this is presently a concept plan and the detail design will follow later in the process.
- The engineered wetland needs to be sized and designed sufficiently to address any stormwater runoff.
- It was noted that the conceptual plan on the planning web page for Case 23820 is not up to date.
- The size and positioning of parkland can be impactful, it presently appears to be small and upslope. A steep slope poses concerns about runoff.
- Increasing the standard buffer zone would be impactful.
- Hardening of surfaces impacts the quantity and quality of effluent and pollutants reaching the wetland.
- More information around the discharge from the engineered wetland to the natural wetland, as well as who maintains it and to what standards is important.

10.1.2 Discussion on Approval Path of Major Developments

As a result of the Board seeking clarification on the opportunity and their role in providing feedback on major developments, planning staff was present.

The Board discussed the opportunity to provide feedback on major developments. Board members have technical expertise that could be provided as advice and feedback. Presently, planning cases come infrequently to the Board and late in the planning process. The Board suggested there could be a change to the planning processes for major developments to find a mechanism to allow for fuller Board participation.

Kasia Tota, Principal Planner, Regional Planning responded to questions of clarification from the Board. It was noted that the Board's Terms of Reference outlines that they advise the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC) who in turn reports to Halifax Regional Council. ESSC does not review planning applications. Presently, Planning and Development staff bring matters to the Board to receive their perspective and insight to assist in policy development. It was noted that changing the Board's mandate would require further discussion and consideration.

10.1.3 Proposed 2022 Regional Watersheds Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Board:

- A staff memo dated March 10, 2022

MOVED by Andrew Medeiros, seconded by David Foster

THAT the Regional Watersheds Advisory Committee approved the 2022 meeting schedule as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 14, 2022

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support