



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2022**

PRESENT: Tony Blouin, Chair
David Foster, Vice Chair
Céo Gaudet
Linzey Bedard
Youji Cheng

REGRETS: Robert Jarvis (Leave of Absence)
Andrew Medeiros
Farhang Fotovat

STAFF: Shannon Miedema, Director Environment and Climate Change
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 5:05 p.m., the Board adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:05 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.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS- NONE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 18, 2021 and March 11, 2022

The Board would like the minutes of November 18, 2021 to have additional edits to ensure the Board's intent is fully reflected on the record. Céó Gaudet will draft the proposed wording and provide it to Jill McGillicuddy, Legislative Assistant.

MOVED by Youji Cheng, seconded by Céó Gaudet

THAT the minutes of March 11, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Céó Gaudet, seconded by David Foster

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

The Board had requested a copy of the contractor's Environmental Protection Plan for the Burnside expansion project. Emma Bocking, Environmental Performance Officer, followed up with Michael Wile, Manager Acquisitions, Disposals, and Industrial Land. Work will be ramping up in the spring and they will provide the Board with an update. Bocking will ask for a copy of the plan for the Board's reference. McGillicuddy has been working with P&D services to get the Board the information they were requesting on storm water runoff.

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 Committee:

- A handout dated April 14, 2022

Chair Tony Blouin stepped down from the Chair and Vice Chair David Foster assumed the Chair.

Blouin's presentation outlined the impacts on Eisner Cove Wetland from the proposed development. Blouin noted a series of questions and recommendations compiled by the Board for HRM's consideration ahead of development of the Southdale Future Growth Node.

The Board proposed having a mechanism put in place where RWAB could provide feedback and consult on major developments. Recommendations for HRM were provided.

It was noted that most of the 9 areas identified by the Province for expedited development are near waterbodies that will be affected and could pose potential risks to the adjacent lakes. Recommendations for collecting background data on these lakes through HRM's lake monitoring program were made.

The Board discussed the need to balance necessary development along with protecting the environment. There is an opportunity to review processes and balance stressors for future policy making. Members noted that many Environmental policies are the purview of the Province. Recent changes and Provincial involvement in these planning areas have raised questions around development approvals and permitting and the role of public engagement in these developments. Kasia Tota, Principal Planner Regional Planning, reconfirmed that staff are open to receiving recommendations from RWAB and seek out their advice when developing policy, which factors into staff reports and new processes. Tota noted that HRM can impose conditions on development in various ways: stormwater management is outlined in the development agreement, the water quality monitoring program can provide scope and conditions and the Provincial Fisheries Act also sets requirements that affect fish habitat. The Board endorsed submitting this memo to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee for their consideration.

MOVED by Céó Gaudet, seconded by Tony Blouin

THAT the April 14, 2022 handout be submitted to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee for their consideration, on behalf of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Tony Blouin assumed the Chair.

Shannon Miedema, Director Environment and Climate Change introduced Elizabeth Montgomery who has joined the Energy and Environment team as their Water Resource Specialist.

10.1.2 Discussion of Riparian Buffer Distances

Matt Conlin, Planner II Infrastructure Planning, is seeking feedback and comment from the Board to help inform the Regional Plan review. Staff are recommending the riparian buffer distance be increased from 20 to 30 metres.

The Board is supportive of this change. It was noted that for it to be an effective buffer zone, the specifics of each development may need to be considered. Each site is unique and the variation and/or location of the buffer should be customized. Is the water being buffered from something natural or from developed/built forms.

Staff are looking to determine a standard minimum for "as of right" development as well as development agreements (DA) unless specifically addressed for that particular DA.

The Board would like to have additional time to review and discuss at a future meeting.

10.2 BOARD MEMBERS- NONE

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 12, 2022

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support