



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
June 9, 2022**

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

**REGRETS:** Robert Jarvis

**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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m., the Board adjourned at 6:17 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:04 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 18, 2021 and April 14, 2022**

MOVED by David Foster, seconded by Céó Gaudet

**THAT the minutes of November 18, 2021 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Céó Gaudet, seconded by David Foster

**THAT the minutes of April 14, 2022 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Andrew Medeiros, seconded by Céó Gaudet

**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- NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence**

Correspondence was received and circulated to members.

**7.2 Petitions- None**

**7.3 Presentations**

7.3.1 Direct Discharge of WWTP effluents into Freshwater lakes – Shalom Mandaville and Dr. Joseph Kerekes

Shalom Mandaville gave a presentation on direct discharge of WWTP effluents into Freshwater lakes and responded to questions from the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board.

Dr. Joseph Kerekes responded to questions of clarification from Board members.

The Board discussed Provincial jurisdiction of sewage treatment plants and the Federal regulations for newly developed treatment plants. It was confirmed that in HRM the largest plants discharge to seawater and 10 smaller plants discharge to freshwater. Private treatment plants are permitted and regulated by the provincial government. The treatment of industrial waste was discussed; within the service boundary it is connected to the sewer system and outside of the service boundary into its own septic system or plant. HRM has limited jurisdiction. The Board would like to confirm if the location or design of private systems could be defined or required in a Development Agreement. Staff would need to investigate and report back.

## **8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

## **9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **9.1 STAFF**

#### **9.1.1 Discussion on HRM's Beach Monitoring Protocols for 2022**

The following was before the Board:

- Staff memo dated June 9, 2022
- Halifax Beach Water Quality Monitoring Protocol Summer 2022

Elizabeth Montgomery, Environmental Performance Officer Water Resource Specialist, requested the Board's feedback and suggestions on HRM's Beach Protocols. The goal is to find a balance where the beaches are open as much as possible while maintaining public health and safety. The protocol is set for this season. Staff are now focusing on ways to be more proactive in detection and control moving forward.

Montgomery answered questions for the Board around sampling procedures and how issues are dealt with at unmonitored beaches. They also highlighted the Micmac and Banook study and the pollution control study at First Lake.

The Board reviewed the existing program and offered the following suggestions:

- The strips used for toxin level assessment could be tested immediately instead of the waiting the seven-day period of no viable bloom. This immediate testing methodology has been used at Dal in their research. Both approaches could take place this season and the two methodologies and results compared for future seasons
- There are new technologies where on-site sampling could be done. There may be an opportunity to conduct a pilot with some university partners to test these new technologies
- Dr Vincent Sieben at Dalhousie and Dr Christina Bottaro at Memorial University were recommended, and their contact information provided to staff
- Passive sampling and grab samples of instantaneous bloom should be considered
- To successfully move from reactive to proactive it will be necessary to look at the causes of the water pollution and how to mitigate the sources
- The Board emphasized that land development creates challenges for lake and water health
- The Regional Plan review needs to address these impacts, in particular stormwater protection
- Policy should ensure separation of storm water and sewer systems in new developments
- Halifax Water is also an important partner and have a pollution prevention team

The Board expressed an interest in seeing in the data collected from this year's program.

### **9.2 BOARD MEMBERS- NONE**

## **10. ADDED ITEMS- NONE**

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 7, 2022**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Sharon Chase  
Legislative Support