



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
May 13, 2021**

PRESENT: Emma Bocking, Chair
Tony Blouin, Vice Chair
Jim Abraham
David Foster
Youji Cheng
Andrew Medeiros
John Carter
Robert Jarvis

REGRETS: Samantha Lutes
Farhang Fotovat
Céo Gaudet

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Lovelace

STAFF: Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy and Environment, P&D
Emma Wattie, Environmental Performance Officer, P&D
Haruka Aoyama, 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 5:48 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 11, 2021

MOVED by Andrew Medeiros, seconded by Robert Jarvis

THAT the minutes of February 11, 2021 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by John Carter, seconded by David Foster

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

A question was raised about what will be happening with the boards observations and recommendations generated at the last meeting. Shannon Meidema, Manager of Energy and Environment noted that all comments were recorded by staff and helped to inform the draft report. The comments received will come into play once the program is approved by the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee and Regional Council.

The Board asked about timelines and next steps. It was noted that additional information regarding processes would be helpful to members and assist or clarify how the work of the board factors into the timing of the work done by HRM staff on issues in the board's mandate. The Legislative Assistant will provide this to board members.

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS- NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS- NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 Correspondence has been received from Shalom M Mandaville, dated March 2, 2021

Mandaville has compiled extensive research on HRM lakes and is looking for someone to host this repository.

The Board encouraged HRM to acquire and archive this research for its use. It would be especially valuable to use in a predictive way regarding land use and development. Staff will review the data they have received from Mandaville and ensure they have the most recent additions.

7.1.2 Correspondence has been received from Alex Raiche-Marsden, dated March 18, 2021

Raiche-Marsden asks for the Boards support in transforming Lake Banook by converting all fuel type motors used on the lake to electric motors.

Staff noted that within HalifACT, HRM are developing an electric vehicle strategy by creating charging infrastructure and electrifying HRM's fleet vehicles. The Board noted that there are federal grants and other incentives available which may be of interest to the paddling clubs. Emma Bocking and Youji Cheng offered to gather information on this and provide it to the Clerk's Office in their response to this correspondence. The Board encouraged Raiche-Marsden to take this idea directly to the clubs to receive their input.

7.2 Petitions- None

7.3 Presentations- None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Update from Staff – Shannon Miedema, Manager, Energy & Environment

The Water Quality Monitoring Report is scheduled to be presented at the June 6, 2021 meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

Staff are getting ready for the return of the beach monitoring program for this season.

Tenders are going out for this year's weed harvesting program.

Staff are undergoing a review of the Regional Plan which includes a themes and direction report and is in its final internal review stages. Public consultation will be undertaken in June and will come to this Board as a part of the consultation. There are seven key themes which include: environment, climate, watershed and coastal risk.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9.2.1 Discussion on Correspondence from Regional Watersheds Advisory Board to Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

The Chair reviewed an approach that could be taken to outline the member's expertise to the standing committee for the Board's consideration.

MOVED by David Foster, seconded by John Carter

THAT the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board authorize the Chair to write a correspondence on behalf of the Board to Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to introduce Board's expertise and ability to provide guidance on watershed and water quality-related issues.

The Board discussed how to best contribute their expertise in their roles as board members. They would like to provide input as things are developed and feel this would be most useful in delivering on their mandate. Development issues are important and had been referred to the Board in the past.

Councillor Lovelace noted that the standing committee values the work that the board does and appointed members in recognition of their individual expertise. The Councillor highlighted some areas of interest: intersection with Halifax Water, construction and development and rural citizens concern about

their watersheds. They look forward to working with the board and feels this correspondence would provide a valuable introduction of board members to the standing committee.

The Chair asked members to provide a brief summary of their skills, which will be compiled and then sent around to members for their review.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. ADDED ITEMS- NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 10, 2021

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support