



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
November 18, 2021**

PRESENT: Emma Bocking, Chair
Tony Blouin, Vice Chair
David Foster
Youji Cheng
Andrew Medeiros
Céo Gaudet

REGRETS: Farhang Fotovat
Robert Jarvis

STAFF: Emma Wattie, Environmental Performance Officer, P&D
Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk
Sharon Chase, Legislative Support, Office of the Municipal Clerk

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 5:06 p.m., the Board adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. and gave a land acknowledgment.

2. Community Announcements from Board Members

David Foster shared that their Pockwock research is ongoing.

Youji Cheng advised that Innovacorp is hosting an ocean tech event “Start Up Yard at COVE” in the new year details can be found here: <https://innovacorp.ca/events/start-yard-cove-pitch-event>.

Emma Bocking shared that the current situation with flooding in British Columbia has brought attention to how forestry practices can exacerbate flooding and landslide conditions.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 12, 2021

The Board asked that these minutes be edited to more clearly reflect the linkage between development and phosphorus loading as discussed. The causal chain from development leading to lower oxygen levels and the release of oxygen from the lake bottom is an important factor in the Board’s deliberations.

The approval of the minutes will be deferred to the next meeting.

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

The Board would like to have Item 10.2.1 presented ahead of Item 8.3.1 to accommodate all speakers being present.

MOVED by David Foster, seconded by Tony Blouin

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES- NONE

6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS- NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS- NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

Correspondence has been received from Chris Elson, dated August 16, 2021 and has been distributed to members.

Chris Elson shared their concern about a brook and marsh near Lake Morris, where the water levels are low and silting has occurred. They asked if this could be investigated by the municipality.

The Board asked what the standard practice is when these situations are reported. In this instance, Emma Wattie, Environmental Performance Officer, has shared the correspondence with Infrastructure and Planning Engineers as well as Halifax Water. Both replied that it was being investigated. The Board

suggested that staff follow-up with Elson and share what has been determined to close the loop on this inquiry. The Board decided that the Chair sent an email acknowledging the correspondence.

8.2 Petition- None

8.3 Presentations

8.3.1 Uncovering long-term impacts of historical gold mining practices in modern HRM lakes through sediment analyses

Joshua Kurek and Linda Campbell provided a presentation to the Board. Campbell shared the history of gold mining in the province focusing on the impact of legacy tailings in Nova Scotia wetlands today. Kurek shared what sediments tell us about lake health and provided data on the impacts of urbanization, mining, climate and environmental changes.

The Board discussed concerns around phosphorus loading, algae and de-oxygenation with the proposed Port Wallace development. What are the potential risks with arsenic being released into the water column and mobilization of any contamination? Adding commercial and residential development would harden surfaces and impact water quality. Wind and dry conditions can also move contaminants. The Board also discussed how depleted oxygen might impact arsenic release. There is some data available on arsenic in the water, with sampling done, but it has not been monitored over time. It was suggested that more data around water movement and water chemistry would be valuable; and modeling these impacts would be important. The Board requested a presentation of the Port Wallace Development Report that has already been presented to Council.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

10.1 STAFF

10.1.1 Proposed 2022 Regional Watersheds Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff memo dated November 18, 2021

MOVED by Céó Gaudet, seconded by Andrew Medeiros

THAT Regional Watersheds Advisory Board approve the proposed 2022 Meeting Schedule as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

10.2.1 Burnside and City of Lakes Development

Tony Blouin, Vice Chair, shared that Halifax Regional Council has awarded the tender for Phase 13-1 of Burnside Business Park. This raises possible concerns regarding the impact on local waterbodies. Blouin summarized their concerns and a copy of these were distributed to members for the Board's consideration.

John Fawcett, Design Engineer, and Michael Wile, Manager of Acquisitions, provided a presentation on Burnside and City of Lakes Development. Staff reviewed the development which will be constructed over 3 subphases and built as of right. Fawcett and Wile shared design plans for storm water ponds, containment and release areas and addressed each of the concerns raised by Blouin.

Staff addressed following questions from the Board:

- Demand is mainly coming from distribution, warehousing and logistics firms where they are looking for larger sized lots
- Retention ponds are being created to control storm water and street runoff
- There are some initiatives between HRM and Halifax Water regarding stormwater infrastructure
- Flows must match pre-development
- They will be designed with climate change modeling in mind
- Halifax Water has a climate change design policy
- Once lots are sold, they will each develop their own ponds and systems
- Members would like to see the contractor's Environmental Protection Plan
- Construction will be starting in late November
- HRM's Water Quality Monitoring Program will begin next spring
- Lake William, Lake Thomas and Anderson Lake will be a part of the program
- Members noted that Lake William is pristine and should be protected
- Emma Wattie will check and see what data exists presently for these lakes to use as a baseline.

The Board noted that the hardening of surfaces will magnify the volumes of water needing to be treated. As part of the increased volumes, the stormwater run off will have a greater chance of carrying pollutants such as road salt which will be flowing into Lake William. It encourages developers to actively pursue high standards and do more than is required by the rules and as of right development. Staff re-iterated that Halifax Regional Municipality, as the developer in this case, is following all of the development processes. There will be opportunities in the Development Agreement to address stormwater and recommendations from the HalifACT planning documents. Impervious surfaces are being encouraged and green infrastructure is being implemented and promoted. The types of naturalized and green infrastructure options used will be up to the lot purchaser. Presently flow requirements must be met, but requirements can be updated and change as options evolve such as zero carbon projects, green roofs. The Board encourages HRM, as a developer, to be early adopters of these kinds of initiatives.

High standards of development also have economic and environmental implications where it will attract businesses who consider reputation and risk when selecting where to do business.

11. ADDED ITEMS- NONE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 9, 2021

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support