



**REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
December 14, 2023**

**PRESENT:** David Foster, Chair  
Sue Belford, Vice Chair  
Stu Campana  
Martin Willison  
Ceo Gaudet

**REGRETS:** Mimi O'Handley  
Ahmah Almallah  
Rebecca Parker  
Linzey Bedard

**STAFF:** Emma Wattie, Manager, Environment  
Elizabeth Montgomery, Environmental Performance Officer  
Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant

*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 5:05 p.m., the Board adjourned at 6:40 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 12, 2023**

MOVED by Martin Willison, seconded by Stu Campana

**THAT the minutes of October 12, 2023 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

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Stu Campana requested that Item 9.1.3 Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule be considered prior to item 9.1.1.

MOVED by Sue Belford, seconded by Ceo Gaudet

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

**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 - None**

**7.2 Petitions – None**

**7.3 Presentation - None**

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

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Discussion re: Board Mandate**

The following was before the Board:

- Staff memorandum dated December 14, 2023

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk spoke to the staff memorandum, amendments made to the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* through Bill 137, and its subsequent impacts on Boards and Committees of Council. MacLean explained the Halifax Regional Municipality was in the process of undertaking a governance review in collaboration with the Government Relations & External Affairs and expected the

process would result in establishing a clear path forward for the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board. They noted plans to return to the Board in the future with further updates and committed to passing along members' comments to relevant decision makers to ensure a clear purpose was established for the Board. MacLean suggested the Board develop a workplan for 2024.

Elizabeth Montgomery, Environmental Performance Officer responded to questions of clarification regarding the Draft Municipal Planning Strategy, how the Board could approach developing a work plan for 2024 and concerns regarding declining water quality.

MacLean responded to questions of clarification regarding the Board's ability to initiate joint projects with Halifax Water, commenting on the planning policy and how to request items to come before the Board. MacLean indicated that additional information by way of Memorandum would be coming to all committees affected in the new year.

The Board discussed the possibility of holding an informal working session to develop a work plan for 2024.

The meeting lost quorum at 6:15 p.m., the Board continued discussion of 9.1.2.

### **9.1.2 Summer Water Quality Update on Bedford West**

The following was before the Board:

- Staff memorandum dated December 8, 2023

Elizabeth Montgomery, Environmental Performance Officer provided an update on the Summer Water Quality Monitoring Program in Bedford West and responded to questions of clarification from the Board. Montgomery noted updated field notes regarding the monitoring program could be provided to members for their reference.

Montgomery and Emma Wattie, Manager, Environment advised the Board that their comments from the October meeting regarding Item 9.1.1 Bedford West Spring Sampling Report had been passed onto consultants assigned to the project.

### **9.1.3 Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule**

The following was before the Board:

- Staff memorandum dated December 14, 2023

MOVED by Martin Willison, seconded by Ceo Gaudet

**THAT Regional Watersheds Advisory Board approve the proposed 2024 Regional Watersheds Advisory Board meeting schedule as outlined in the staff memorandum.**

Emma Wattie, Manager, Environment and Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 8, 2024**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

**Regional Watersheds Advisory Board  
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Elizabeth Macdonald  
Legislative Assistant