

**HALIFAX REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
July 18, 2018**

PRESENT: Commissioner Ray Ritcey, Chair
Commissioner Russell Walker, Vice Chair
Commissioner Darlene Fenton
Commissioner Lisa Blackburn
Commissioner Craig MacMullin
Commissioner Lorelei Nicoll
Commissioner Jacques Dube

REGRETS: Commissioner Steve Streach

STAFF: Carl Yates, General Manager, HRWC
Cathie O'Toole, Director, Corporate Services, HRWC
James Spurr, Corporate Legal Counsel, HRWC
Lorna Skinner, Administrative Assistant, HRWC

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Board of Commissioners are available online at halifaxwater.ca

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CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the regular meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Halifax Hall of Halifax City Hall, at 1841 Argyle Street.

1. THE CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed staff and visitors to the 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Halifax Regional Water Commission (HW). He proceeded to introduce each Commissioner of the Board as well as participating members of staff.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2017 AGM DATED AUGUST 11, 2017

MOVED BY Commissioner Ritcey, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn that the Halifax Regional Water Commission Board approve the minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting dated August 11, 2017.

3. 2017/18 YEAR END FINANCIAL RESULTS

Carl Yates introduced Cathie O'Toole, Director of Corporate Services, and invited her to present the 2017/18 Year End Results. This presentation included HW's financial framework, the aspects that influence HW's finances, the challenges currently facing HW and HW's sustainability strategies. Ms. O'Toole also shared the audit results that included balance sheet highlights, and year-end operating results.

Ms. O'Toole also explained the difference in reporting under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board Accounting Handbook for water utilities.

4. HALIFAX WATER STRATEGIC INITIATIVES – UPDATE

Carl Yates offered an overview of the strategic initiatives and priorities for HW. This encompassed a review of the strategic priorities for 2017/18 as well as the forthcoming strategic priorities for 2018/19. The priorities for 2018/19 include: the meter installations in relation to Customer Connect; the construction of a new dam at Lake Major, an application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to update the Regional Development Charge; the alignment of projects to secure funding from the federal-provincial infrastructure program, complete the design and business plan for the District Energy System; and the development of an Enterprise Risk Management System.

5. QUESTION AND ANSWER FORUM

The Chair addressed the audience members, stating the floor was now open for questions and asking that anyone wishing to address the Board please state their name first.

Mr. Brendan O'Neil stated that in his opinion, Halifax Water should hold public Board meetings more often.

Mr. Peter Polley, PolyCorp Group, stated that he has many questions that he has been asking repeatedly over several years and he is not getting satisfactory answers. He stated that he believes there is not enough transparency in the management of Halifax Water and that all Board meetings should be public. The Chair responded that the minutes of every meeting are posted on the Halifax Water website; along with all non In-Camera reports and that all activity before the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board is in the public domain.

Mr. Polley stated that he would like the Board to be aware of how upset his industry is by the management of Halifax Water. He also stated that he has been lied to by engineers at Halifax Water. Ms. O'Toole stated that if Mr. Polley believes this is the case, he should make a formal complaint to the professional body that oversees the engineering profession. Mr. Polley also questioned Halifax Water's assumptions regarding water consumption.

The Chair noted Mr. Polley's concerns were too complex for a fulsome discussion in the current forum and the Chair, the Vice Chair and Mr. Yates offered to sit down with Mr. Polley at his convenience for a further, more in-depth dialogue.

6. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair informed the Board and public attendees of the upcoming retirement (July 2019) of Mr. Carl Yates, General Manager. He gave a brief overview of Mr. Yates' accomplishments during his tenure at Halifax Water and on behalf of the Board, thanked him for his outstanding service.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chair thanked all those who participated in the meeting as well as those attending and adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Original Signed By: _____
Heidi Schedler
Secretary

Original Signed By: _____
Commissioner Darlene Fenton
Chair

****Please Note: The Board Chair (Ray Ritcey) and Board Secretary (James Spurr), present at the 2018 Annual General Meeting, have been replaced by Darlene Fenton as Board Chair and Heidi Schedler as Board Secretary.***