

Halifax Water Board Meeting Minutes	
Date: January 30, 2025	Meeting Time: 10:45 a.m.
Attendees:	Commissioner Colleen Rollings, Chair
	Commissioner Cathy Deagle Gammon, Vice Chair
	Commissioner John MacPherson
	Commissioner Nancy MacLellan
	Commissioner Trish Purdy
	Commissioner Janet Steele
	Commissioner Patty Cuttell
	Commissioner Peter Duncan
Regrets:	
Staff:	Kenda MacKenzie, General Manager & CEO
	Louis de Montbrun, Director, Corporate Services & CFO
	Liana Rintoul, General Counsel
	Josh DeYoung, Director, Capital Engineering & Infrastructure
	John Eisnor, Director, Operations
	Wendy Krkosek, Acting Director, Regulatory Services
	Valerie Williams, Senior Manager, Asset Management and Capital Planning
	Sanjeev Tagra, Senior Manager, Strategic Projects
	Lorna Skinner, Governance Coordination Assistant, Regulatory Affairs and Governance Department
Guest:	Jeff Turnbull, Eckler

The Chair welcomed Kenda MacKenzie as the newly appointed General Manager and Chief Executive Officer. The Chair also welcomed Commissioner Janet Steele, the newly appointed member of Halifax Water's Board of Commissioners.

Regular Reports	
1.a) RATIFICATION OF IN CAMERA MOTIONS	
Discussion Notes	MOVED BY Commissioner Cuttell, seconded by Commissioner Deagle Gammon that the Halifax Water Board ratify the In-Camera motions.
Decision	MOTION PUT AND PASSED.
1b) APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	
Discussion Notes	MOVED BY Commissioner Deagle Gammon, seconded by Commissioner MacPherson that the Halifax Water Board approve the order of business and approve additions and deletions as amended.
Decision	MOTION PUT AND PASSED.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 28, 2024	
Discussion Notes	MOVED BY Commissioner Steele, seconded by Commissioner Cuttell that the Halifax Water Board approve the minutes of the November 28, 2024, regular meeting.
Decision	MOTION PUT AND PASSED.
3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	
Discussion Notes	None

Financial Reports	
4.1 OPERATING RESULTS AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2024	
Discussion Notes	An information report dated January 22, 2025, was submitted. Louis de Montbrun gave an overview of the operating results as of November 30, 2024. Mr. de Montbrun noted that these results were tabled at the Audit & Finance Committee on January 16, 2025.
Decision	N/A

4.2 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2024

Discussion Notes	An information report dated January 22, 2025, was submitted. Louis de Montbrun updated the Board on the capital expenditures as of November 30, 2024. Mr. de Montbrun noted that these results were tabled at the Audit & Finance Committee on January 16, 2025. Josh DeYoung informed the Board that the figure related to the percentage of capital expenditures requested by Board members cannot be determined at this time. Mr. DeYoung noted that as we implement the new tracking software and program in the coming months, the percentage of capital expenditures can be included.
Decision	N/A

4.3 PROPOSED 2025/26 OPERATING BUDGET

Discussion Notes	<p>A report dated January 24, 2025, was submitted. Louis de Montbrun gave a presentation on the proposed 2025/26 Operating Budget. Commissioner MacPherson inquired about the chemical costs related to stormwater. Kenda MacKenzie stated that staff will provide clarification on that issue. Commissioner Cuttell asked what the drivers were for the increase in budgets costs for contract services. Mr. de Montbrun stated that he will investigate and provide that information to the Board.</p> <p>MOVED BY Commissioner Deagle Gammon, seconded by Commissioner Purdy that the Halifax Water Board approve the attached 2025/26 Operating Budget, inclusive of the proposed 2025/26 budget for unregulated activities.</p>
Decision	MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.4 PROPOSED 2025/26 CAPITAL BUDGET

Discussion Notes	<p>A report dated January 22, 2025, was submitted. Josh DeYoung and Valerie Williams gave a presentation on the proposed Capital Budget. Commissioner Cuttell asked if there was a way to see which projects are new and which projects are carried over from previous years. Ms. Williams stated that she would get that information and make it available to the Board. Ms. Williams also stated that staff are investigating enhancements to software that would provide reporting on the status of large capital projects.</p> <p>MOVED BY Commissioner Cuttell, seconded by Commissioner MacLellan that the Halifax Water Board approve the proposed 2025/26 Capital Budget at a total value of \$132,996,000 as detailed in the attached Schedule 1.</p>
Decision	MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.5 HRWC EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN – RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE ACTUARIAL VALUATION AS AT JANUARY 1, 2025

Discussion Notes	<p>Jeff Turnbull of Eckler gave a presentation on the recommendations with respect to assumptions for the actuarial valuation as at January 1, 2025.</p> <p>MOVED BY Commissioner Deagle Gammon, seconded by Commissioner Cuttell that the Halifax Water Board approve the assumptions as presented for the actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2025.</p>
Decision	MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Capital Reports

5.1 WINDSOR STREET EXCHANGE – VERBAL UPDATE

Discussion Notes	<p>Josh DeYoung stated that considering HRM Council's decision against proceeding with the Windsor Street Exchange project, no formal report would be tabled at this meeting. Staff are working closely with HRM staff to better understand the implications of this decision. Mr. DeYoung stated that the NSUARB has also inquired as to the impacts of this decision. The Board requested that any report filed with the NSUARB also be provided to the Board.</p>
Decision	N/A

5.2 MILL COVE WWTF EXPANSION & UPGRADE – REVISED FUNDING APPROVAL

Discussion Notes	<p>A report dated January 10, 2025, was submitted. Josh DeYoung and Sanjeev Tagra gave an update on the Mill Cove WWTF Expansion and Upgrade project and the revised funding request.</p> <p>MOVED BY Commissioner Cuttell, seconded by Commissioner MacLellan that the Halifax Water Board approve additional funding in the amount of \$1,970,000 for a revised total of \$11,970,000 to complete Phases 1 through 3 of the Mill Cove WWTF Upgrade and Expansion project.</p>
Decision	MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Other Business

6. UPDATE ON THE JDK WSP BOIL WATER ADVISORY - VERBAL

Discussion Notes	Kenda MacKenzie gave an update on the Boil Water Advisory at J.D. Kline Water Supply Plant. Ms. MacKenzie stated that Halifax Water will regularly update customers through the various channels to keep them informed throughout this process. On February 4th, the initial findings will be reported to the NSUARB, NSECC, HRM, HW Board and the public. On March 21 st a final detailed report with recommended actions will be submitted to the NSUARB as well as all other parties.
Decision	N/A

7. ITEM 1-I OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION REPORT – UPDATE TO FLUORIDE REPORTING - VERBAL

Discussion Notes	Kenda MacKenzie stated that the standing Operation Performance report has been revised to include ongoing updates on the state of fluoridation at Pockwock and Lake Major. Staff are also ensuring that communications with the NSECC and the public are robust.
Decision	N/A

8. PROPOSED DATES FOR 2025/26 BOARD MEETINGS

Discussion Notes	The Board requested that the date of the AGM be added to the proposed dates.
Decision	The Board accepted the proposed dates with the above-mentioned amendment.

Next Meeting Date: February 27, 2025

Minutes taken by:
Lorna Skinner, Governance Coordination Assistant
Regulatory Affairs and Governance Department