

## Halifax Water Board Meeting Minutes

**Date: March 27, 2025**

**Meeting Time: 10:05 a.m.**

**Attendees:**

Commissioner Colleen Rollings, Chair

Commissioner Cathy Deagle Gammon, Vice Chair

Commissioner John MacPherson

Commissioner Nancy MacLellan

Commissioner Cathie O'Toole

Commissioner Trish Purdy

Commissioner Patty Cuttell

Commissioner Janet Steele

**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, Director, Regulatory Services

Matthew Goodick, Project Engineer I, Municipal Engineering

Rob Gillis, Manager, Program Manager, Structures and Special Projects

Lorna Skinner, Governance Coordination Assistant

## Regular Reports

### 1.a) RATIFICATION OF IN CAMERA MOTIONS

Discussion Notes	<p><b>MOVED BY Commissioner Cuttell, seconded by Commissioner Deagle Gammon that the Halifax Water Board ratify the In-Camera motions.</b></p> <p>The Chair announced that Commissioner John MacPherson was appointed as her successor as Chair of the Halifax Water Board of Commissioners, effective April 1, 2025. In her farewell remarks, the Chair paid homage to former Commissioner, Russell Walker who passed away the day before. She, on behalf of both Halifax Water and the Board of Commissioners, extended heartfelt condolences to the Walker family and acknowledged with gratitude Commissioner Walker's long service to the Halifax Water Board and HRM. She expressed deep gratitude to the staff of Halifax Water and pride in the accomplishments of the utility during her tenure. Vice Chair Deagle Gammon, on behalf of the Board thanked the Chair for her six years of unwavering commitment and dedication to her role of Chair.</p> <p>Commissioner MacPherson echoed Commissioner Deagle Gammon's comments, thanked the Chair for her service and expressed his anticipation in facing the challenges ahead.</p> <p>Kenda MacKenzie, on behalf of staff and customers, thanked the Chair for her enthusiasm and commitment and wished her the best of luck in her future endeavours. She welcomed the new Chair and expressed that she is looking forward to working with him in the future.</p>
Decision	<b>MOTION PUT AND PASSED.</b>

### 1b) APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Discussion Notes	<p><b>MOVED BY Commissioner Deagle Gammon, seconded by Commissioner Purdy that the Halifax Water Board approve the order of business and approve additions and deletions as amended.</b></p>
Decision	<b>MOTION PUT AND PASSED.</b>

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 27, 2025

Discussion Notes	<p><b>MOVED BY Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Deagle Gammon that the Halifax Water Board approve the minutes of the February 27, 2025, regular meeting.</b></p>
Decision	<b>MOTION PUT AND PASSED.</b>

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Discussion Notes	None
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#### Financial Reports

##### 4.1 OPERATING RESULTS AS OF JANUARY 31, 2025

Discussion Notes	An information report dated March 12, 2025, was submitted. Louis de Montbrun gave an overview of the operating results for the ten months ended January 31, 2025.
Decision	N/A

##### 4.2 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES AS OF JANUARY 31, 2025

Discussion Notes	An information report dated March 12, 2025, was submitted. Louis de Montbrun updated the Board on the capital expenditures as of January 31, 2025.
Decision	N/A

##### 4.3 SPRING DEBENTURE

Discussion Notes	<p>A report dated March 19, 2025, was submitted. Louis de Montbrun gave a brief overview of the Spring Debenture.</p> <p><b>MOVED BY Commissioner Deagle Gammon, seconded by Commissioner MacLellan that the Halifax Water Board:</b></p> <p><b>1. Approve the financing of \$34,000,000 with a thirty-year amortization term and finance over ten years. The maximum all-inclusive rate is not to exceed 6.5%.</b></p>
Decision	<b>MOTION PUT AND PASSED.</b>

#### Capital Reports

##### 5.1 DUFFUS STREET PUMPING STATION - MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL UPGRADES - FUNDING REQUEST

Discussion Notes	<p>A report dated March 13, 2025, was submitted. Matthew Goodick gave a presentation on the Duffus St. PS mechanical and electrical upgrades.</p> <p><b>MOVED BY Commissioner Steele, seconded by Commissioner Cuttell that the Halifax Water Board approve funding in the amount of \$6,000,000 for the Duffus Street Pumping Station - Mechanical &amp; Electrical Upgrades project.</b></p>
Decision	<b>MOTION PUT AND PASSED.</b>

## 5.2 BURNSIDE OPERATIONS FACILITY UPDATE - VERBAL

Discussion Notes	Rob Gillis gave a presentation on the progress of the Burnside operations facility project. The presentation included floor plan modifications, scope changes, an updated budget, and project status. Commissioner O'Toole requested that in order to ensure that accurate information about this project is available, staff provide to her an information packet to share with the Mayor's office and HRM Councilors.		
Decision	N/A		
Action Item	Person Responsible	Deadline	
Provide Commissioner O'Toole an information packet to be shared with the Mayor's office and HRM Councilors.	Josh DeYoung	ASAP	

## Other Business

### 6. CORPORATE BALANCED SCORECARD – 2025/26 PROGRAM

Discussion Notes	<p>A report dated March 18, 2025, was submitted.</p> <p>Kenda MacKenzie gave a presentation on the Corporate Balanced Scorecard 2025/26 Program. The presentation included background, organizational indicators and targets for financial, regulatory and environmental accountability. Results will be brought to the Board in June 2025.</p> <p><b>MOVED BY Commissioner MacLellan, seconded by Commissioner Purdy that the Halifax Water Board approve:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1) approve the Corporate Balanced Scorecard (CBS) targets for the 2025/26 fiscal year.</b></li><li><b>2) request staff to develop a methodology to assess the fiscal health of the utility and to recommend whether the CBS Organizational Award be paid based on the assessment.</b></li></ol>		
Decision	<b>MOTION PUT AND PASSED.</b>		

### 7. FLUORIDE RECOMMENDATION

Discussion Notes	<p>A report dated March 27, 2025, was submitted. Kenda MacKenzie stated that the report is a summary of the recommendations going forward. Commissioner Cuttell stated that after a presentation to HRM Council, the Council was in support of Option 2 as well. Due to the importance of the matter, the Chair called for a roll call vote.</p> <p><b>MOVED BY Commissioner MacPherson, seconded by Commissioner Deagle Gammon that the Halifax Water Board directs Halifax Water to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Continue Fluoridating at the JD Kline Water Supply Plant (JDKWSP) and Lake Major Water Supply Plants (LMWSP),</b></li></ol>		
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Proceed with Option 2, to reinstate Fluoride at Lake Major, at approximately \$1M within two years.</li> <li>3. Establish notification protocols for interruptions of fluoridation in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health and dental partners.</li> <li>4. Write a letter to the Province of Nova Scotia requesting funding assistance for both capital and operating costs associated with fluoridation where it has been shown that community water fluoridation reduces costs to the health care system.</li> </ol>
Decision	<b>MOTION PUT AND PASSED (Unanimous)</b>
<b>8. CRITICAL GOODS AND SERVICES FROM US COMPANIES AND THE SUPPLY CHAIN IMPACT</b>	
Discussion Notes	<p>An information report dated March 21, 2025, was submitted.</p> <p>Kenda MacKenzie stated that existing contracts are being reviewed and opportunities are being sought for securing goods and services within Canada. However, there are some goods and services that are only available from the U.S. and those relationships will have to be maintained.</p>
Decision	<b>N/A</b>

**Next Meeting Date: May 2, 2025**

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