

ATTACHMENT III: PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Thursday December 9, 2004
Bel Ayr Elementary School, Dartmouth

STAFF: Paul Morgan, Regional Planner
Austin French, Manager of Regional Planning
Maria Jacobs, Regional Planner
Kurt Pyle, Planner II
Samantha Charron, Administrative Support

MORRIS-RUSSELL LAKE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

MEMBERS: Phil Elliott, Chair
Hugh Millward, Vice Chair
Dennis Richards
Nateleen Zinck
Norman Wiechert
Mike Hanusiack
Joseph Diab

**MEMBERS OF
THE PUBLIC:** 150 estimated

An open house session was held between 6 and 7 p.m. The meeting commenced at approximately 7 p.m.

1. PAUL MORGAN, PLANNING SERVICES

Phil Elliott introduced the members of the Public Participation Committee for Morris-Russell Lake area in attendance and Councillors Bill Karsten, Becky Kent & Harry McNory. He then introduced Paul Morgan.

Paul Morgan welcomed attendees to the meeting. He introduced himself as the Planner assigned to this master planning exercise to direct future growth on lands surrounding Morris and Russell Lake watersheds in Dartmouth.

Mr. Morgan went on to explain his role in this master planning exercise to direct future growth on lands surrounding Morris and Russell-Lake watersheds which are generally bounded by the Circumferential Highway, Portland Street, Caldwell Road and watershed land on the south side of the lakes. He explained a conceptual plan has been prepared by the committee with policies pertaining to environmental protection, development

An unidentified speaker asked what the out come would be for the trails connection if the land at Shearwater was not obtained?

Paul Morgan indicated there is a small risk the land needed to complete the future plans may not be available in the end.

Shalom Mandaville (Soil & Water Conservation Society) gave a brief presentation on behalf of the Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax. Mr Mandaville stated the society has conducted chemical as well as biological limnology studies of Lakes Morris and Russell among a total of approximately one thousand (1,000) lakes/ponds all over HRM. Hence I am disappointed that Mr. Paul Morgan failed to mention us in the introduction he made on various stakeholders and that was perhaps he was unaware of the facts.

It was indeed some of our data that HRM's consultants, Griffiths Muecke & Associates, utilised for their study in 1998. We feel they made significant errors in interpreting our data. The 2003 Jacques Whitford study that I have in my possession was also quite critical of the conclusions of Griffiths Muecke; for example, see page 81, second paragraph where they state, "An accurate phosphorus budget was not prepared for Morris Lake; therefore, a 40% minimal limit is not likely to suffice because the majority of the phosphorus loading appears to be from the dissolved portion which is not trapped by capturing a portion of the total suspended solids".

I have also issued supporting scientific data and info to Dr. Tony Blouin, Mr. Morgan's colleague, over several years.

Recently the Canadian Council of the Ministers of the Environment (CCME) adopted national guidelines for phosphorus management in February 2004. Although these guidelines are relatively recent, nevertheless, the science in it has been familiar to genuine limnologists from as long back as the late 1970s. It is unfortunate that neither the Griffiths Muecke study nor the Jacques Whitford study incorporated that science. Basically what the CCME states is not to allow phosphorus values in lakes to increase more than fifty percent (50%) over baseline (reference) levels.

My predictive modelling for Lakes Morris and Russell yielded, if my memory serves right, a value of approximately three (3) micrograms/litre for both of those lakes. That means, the maximum acceptable phosphorus values in the two lakes should be 4.5 micrograms/litre. Those values have been exceeded decades ago, but based on the CCME Policy as well, no further degradation should occur.

In addition, I want to inform you all about a very exciting research project that is ongoing in Nova Scotia right now; this is the third year of a five-year paleolimnology project funded under a \$600,000 NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) grant to professors at Queens University and to another professor in Ontario, named Pete Dillon. I am a partner in their project and on their request, I selected five lakes in HRM, Morris, Russell,

Papermill, Kearney, and Governor and this is the first time that such a project has ever been carried out here and basically it is like travelling in a time machine and sampling some water quality parameters back in pre-industrial, namely the 1850s. I am very excited about it and their project spanning the entire Province of Nova Scotia has never been carried out to date in the history of our Province.

I will keep posting updates on it in our web pages, it should be very exciting”.

Paul Morgan thanked Mr. Mandaville for his comments and they would be taken into consideration when adopting proposed policies.

Nancy Witherspoon member of the Portland Estates Residents Association (Diana Grace Ave) remarked how impressed she was with the planning and preparation there seems to have gone into the residential and commercial projects. She is very disappointed however with the lack of planning for wildlife, natural habitat, nesting and feeding grounds. Mrs. Witherspoon would like to have a request for wildlife corridors to be considered by planning on record.

Paul Morgan indicated the issue would be raised to the committee for consideration.

Tim Olive (Old Ferry Road) stated his involvement with the Morris-Russell Lake planning dating back to 1999. Mr. Olive agrees with the development planning of the interchange and connector Roads. Although he would like to see a guaranteed time line for the completion of each stage, namely the interchange.

Paul Morgan indicated the estimated time line for the completion of the interchange is two years, the fall of 2006.

Tim Olive (Old Ferry Rd) asked what the plans were for the added commuters from new development in the area for the next two years? Also will the new residents be added to the already apparent traffic flow problem on Portland Street?

Paul Morgan replied that measures would be taken to direct traffic from new development to the new interchange. While the interchange was being constructed, the Municipality would also be undertaking traffic studies to determine how to improve traffic flows on Portland Street and the surrounding road networks and, in particular, how to encourage existing residents of Portland Estates to use the new interchange.

Tim Olive (Old Ferry Rd) asked will there be an extension to Baker Dr on-ramp in case the interchange is not complete in time?

Mike Hanusiak, Public Participation Committee Member for Morris-Russell Lake also Senior Planner for Clayton Developments replied the intentions of Clayton Developments is to have the interchange and the extension of Baker Dr completed within the same time frame. Mr. Hanusiak indicated all parties involved in the interchange project would like to see it move forward.