



Meeting Summary July 25, 2018

The inaugural meeting of the **Lunenburg Harbour Health Advisory Group (LHHAG)** took place on Wed July 25th at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic.

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (Coastal Action) was commissioned by the Town of Lunenburg to initiate the group. This first meeting was primarily a review of the Draft Terms of Reference by the group, which was **approved** by consensus. Here is how the Group has defined their mandate and goals:

Mandate of the Group

The Lunenburg Harbour Health Advisory Group is a stand-alone advisory entity facilitated by Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (Coastal Action) for the purposes of protecting the health of Lunenburg Harbour through the identification of threats and development of feasible solutions.

Group Objectives

1. *Provide a forum for discussion on issues affecting the health of Lunenburg Harbour.*
2. *Consult with, advise, and make recommendations pertaining to existing and potential threats to the health of Lunenburg Harbour. Resulting advice and recommendations could be directed at one or all levels of government, as well as industry, depending on the issue and jurisdiction.*
3. *Consult with, advise, and develop potential solutions for harbour health improvements. This will include recommendations based on the results of the [2018] harbour monitoring program.*
4. *Promote communications and collaboration between various stakeholders.*
5. *Assist with developing and delivering relevant communication and outreach tools and materials for public engagement.*
6. *Pursue funding opportunities for monitoring program and other potential solutions that result from the group.*

Brooke Nodding, Executive Director of Coastal Action was appointed Chair of the LHHAG, and Lunenburg Councillor Matt Risser was appointed Vice Chair. The group also decided to expand citizen representation in the membership.

Group Membership

- a. *Two municipal government representatives*
 - i. *One from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg: **Councillor Errol Knickle***
 - ii. *One from the Town of Lunenburg: **Councillor Matt Risser***
- b. ~~Two~~ *Four citizen representatives*
 - i. ~~One~~ *Two from MODL: **0 applicants***
 - ii. ~~One~~ *Two from the Town of Lunenburg: **4 applicants under review by Chair***
- c. *Four industry representatives working within Lunenburg Harbour: **Ed Snook, High Liner Foods; John Kinley, Lunenburg Industrial Foundry & Engineering; Donna Knickle, Lunenburg Harbour Authority; Doug Langley, Lunenburg Waterfront Development Association***

- d. Two business community representatives who have a stake in the Harbour: **Sheila Woodcock, Lunenburg Board of Trade; Ida Scott, Economic Spectrum Unlimited**
- e. Two tourism/recreation representatives who have a stake in the Harbour: **0 applicants**
- f. Provincial Government: **Adam Langley, Development Nova Scotia (formerly Waterfront Development)**

Resource Personnel

- g. Staff from Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation: **Brooke Nodding, Executive Director; Shanna Fredericks, Assistant Director; Sarah MacLeod, Water Quality Technician; Rick Welsford, Chair of Board of Directors**
- h. Staff from Town of Lunenburg: **Jamie Burgess, Town Engineer; Heather McCallum, Communications**
- i. Staff from MODL: **Stephen Pace, Staff Engineer**
- j. Provincial Government: **Mike MacDonald, NS Environment**
- k. Federal Government: **Environment Canada Water Quality Specialist – will act as an advisor to the group as needed.**

Coastal Action shared a presentation on the Water Quality Monitoring Program, similar to their presentation at the Public Information Session in November, which outlined potential sources of bacteria in Lunenburg Harbour and why non-pathogenic fecal indicator bacterial species are used to indicate the possible presence of pathogens, as well as an outline of the 2018 program.

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation

Lunenburg Harbour Drainage Area – Potential Bacteria Sources

Potential Sources

- STP Outfall
- CSOs
- Straight Pipes
- Stormwater Runoff
- Wildlife
- Domestic Animals
- Fertilizers
- Boat Waste
- Malfunctioning Septic Systems
- Bacteria Reservoirs/Sinks

1. Weekly waterfront testing sites: Boat Launch, Zwicker Wharf, Fisherman's Wharf. To date, samples mostly exceed the Health Canada secondary contact guideline of ≤ 175 enterococci/100 mL.
2. Seasonal and Rainfall sample sites: 4 sites within the harbour, 1 site at mouth of harbour (control site). To date, samples have all been under the Health Canada primary contact guideline of ≤ 70 enterococci/100 mL.
3. Sediment samples will be collected in August and analyzed for enterococci bacteria.



Coastal Action stressed that **there is not enough data to draw conclusions or make recommendations at this point**. The monitoring program will need to be more comprehensive in the future if the goal is to monitor overall harbour health – there are many more parameters than bacteria which can influence the health of the harbour. The Town of Lunenburg’s interest has been on bacteria. The Group will also be reviewing the engineering study on the wastewater treatment plant and sewage system once these are available.

What constitutes a “healthy harbour”? Lunenburg Harbour will never be a swimming destination, it is a commercial harbour. What are the metrics we should be measuring against and/or working toward in this location?

The LHHAG’s next meeting in September will be focused on this question. Citizen representatives should be in place at that time.

The Group also agreed that a piece that educates residents on their individual responsibility for protecting water quality will be developed by Coastal Action to support overall environmental efforts.