



## **Meeting Summary September 12, 2018**

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The second meeting of the **Lunenburg Harbour Health Advisory Group (LHHAG)** took place on Wed Sep 12th at High Liner Foods.

This stand-alone advisory entity was commissioned by the Town of Lunenburg and is 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.

### **Welcome of New Members**

The group has confirmed the two Town of Lunenburg citizen representatives; there have been no applicants for the two open MODL citizen representatives. (See full membership list on page 3)

It was agreed that the LHHAG Chair, Brooke Nodding, would speak on behalf of the Advisory Group in the event of media and other inquiries.

### **Update on Results from the Harbour Water Quality Monitoring Program**

Recent results were reviewed; it was noted that all water activities including boating activity, tide cycle, rainfall, wind, and other environmental factors are recorded. Coastal Action is waiting until all sampling is completed before providing any analyses of the factors controlling bacteria concentrations in the harbour.

At this time, one more seasonal event (medium-sized rainfall ~20 mm) and sediment sampling are still to be completed.

### **Roundtable Discussion on What Constitutes a Healthy Harbour**

The Group discussed how to define a “healthy harbour” in terms of reasonable/unreasonable human recreational and industrial use, but also in terms of effects on organisms (marine animals and plant life).

The fishermen and women report no abnormalities in marine life and noted that lobsters in storage tanks flush their systems every 48-72 hours and are therefore unaffected by water quality variables. Dissolved oxygen levels are good.

The group agreed to focus on bacteria; the causes and possible fixes.

Below is the LHHAG's agreed-upon water quality **goal**:

*To improve the quality of water in the Lunenburg Working Harbour by advising a goal of fecal enterococci concentrations below the Health Canada secondary contact threshold.*

### **Identification of Issues and Possible Solutions**

The Group agreed to focus on sources of bacteria which can be monitored and addressed. Potential sources of bacteria discussed included:

- Malfunctioning septic fields and Illegal straight pipes – straight pipes must be reported before NS Environment can act; pipes are located outside the Town limits
- Location of the Lunenburg treated wastewater effluent pipe – awaiting study recommendations
- Fertilizer on the golf course and private residences
- Commercial activities – noted that High Liner has a pre-treatment plant to handle its own effluent; ABCO and LIFE are connected to the Town sewer system
- Boat waste – noted that there is currently no mooring field authority to enforce compliance with regulations; a pump station does exist near the harbour entrance
- Wildlife and domestic animals
- Stormwater runoff

### **Town Hall Meeting**

The LHHAG will report to the Town Hall public meeting later this fall; date and details TBA. The next meeting will address that report.

## LHHAG Membership

Chair is Brooke Nodding, Coastal Action; Vice-chair is Councillor Matt Risser.

### **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. Four citizen representatives
  - i. Two from MODL: **0 applicants**
  - ii. Two from the Town of Lunenburg: **David Friendly, Graham Pearson**
- 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: **Ryan Tanner, Marine Biologist, Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic; TBD**
- 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: **Denis Parent, Environment Canada Water Quality Specialist** – will act as an advisor to the group as needed.

