

## HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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### SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 22, 2007

PRESENT:

Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Mary Wile  
Councillor Reg Rankin  
Councillor Debbie Hum  
Councillor Gary Martin

REGRETS:

Councillor Krista Snow  
Councillor Steve Streach  
Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources

STAFF:

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Acting Manager, Solid Waste Resources  
Mr. Robert Orr, Collection & Processing Coordinator, Solid Waste Resources  
Ms. Catherine Sanderson, Senior Manager, Finance  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Christina Sears, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

**MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Martin that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 25, 2007**

**MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Martin, that the minutes of January 25, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES -NONE**

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Stephen Taylor, Enviro Waste made a brief presentation, noting the following:

- There are seven (7) more apartment buildings that are now compliant with composting;
- The majority of buildings are complying, however; you cannot force the residents to comply due to the cost associated with the bins;
- HRM does not supply service to apartment buildings over and above four units;
- Enviro Waste offers green bins at a cost but it is up to the tenants to purchase them;
- Tenants need to be educated beyond the three (3) tier charts that HRM provides;
- Signs should be placed next to compost bins indicating to the tenants that compost placed in dark bags will be thrown out. The drivers and haulers are not responsible for opening dark bags to check and dump compost materials into the composter;
- It is a slow process but they are seeing major progress.

The Committee thanked Mr. Taylor for his presentation.

7. **REPORTS**

7.1 **December 4, 2006 SWRAC- Requested Update- Various (requested - Councillor Hendsbee)**

8. A report dated January 16, 2007 on the above noted was before the Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Hum that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee forward the report dated January 16, 2007 entitled 'December 4, 2006 SWRAC- Requested Update- Various' as an information item to Regional Council.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

In response to Councillor Hendsbee's advisement to the Committee of the Province's announcement regarding a solid waste initiatives, Ms. Laurie Lewis, Acting Manager, Solid Waste Resources, noted the following:

- The Province recently announced their commitment to move forward with the designation of electronics for extended producer responsibility;
- A list of electronic items will be sought for recovery through a designation across the province starting in February 2008;
- It is a 'stage in approach' with different materials at different stages;
- There is a list of six or seven different items that they have.
- The first four will come into effect for recovery or drop off effective February 2008, including televisions and computers.
- For 2009, there is another list for components and computer peripheral materials, as well as cellular phones;
- It is 'extended producer responsibility' whereby the brand owners and manufacturers of these materials must submit to the Department of Environment a plan for collection of these materials;
- There are a variety of options available to them, including return to retail, enviro depot network or other designated plan as determined by the brand owners and approved by the Department of Environment;
- They have six months in which to submit a proposal and plan to the Department of Environment.

Discussion ensued between Councillor Hendsbee and Ms. Lewis and the following comments were noted:

- HRM does not currently have the facilities to begin source separating and storing these materials until February 2008;
- The manufacturers have been extremely cooperative in this venture;
- The Province has data in their research to indicate that province-wide there are six thousand tonnes annually of these products. HRM represents forty percent of the population giving an estimation of the materials.
- HRM had an opportunity to make comment when the draft model regulations were proposed by the Department of Environment. Included was the surety of a mechanism for the Municipality's cost to be recovered for removal of the materials that will no longer be accepted for disposal.

Councillor Gary Martin suggested making a public announcement to advise HRM residents of this incentive, noting perhaps people would hold onto their items until this comes into effect.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

**8.1 Correspondence dated February 15, 2007 from Councillor Bill Karsten to Canada Post**

The Chair noted that a copy of correspondence was sent to him based on a request by the Committee back in February 2007. The letter requested the status of the removal of waste receptacles at public mail kiosks.

The Chair indicated that he has not yet had response to this letter. He advised that he left a voicemail this morning requesting an update on this matter and will report back to the Committee when he hears a response.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested that staff contact Naturally Green to obtain an article in their newsletter asking residents to take mail home and separate it, rather than doing it at their mailboxes. Staff agreed to follow up with this request.

**8.2 Memorandum from Mr. Jim Bauld to Councillor Bill Karsten and Members of SWRAC Re: Canada Post (placement of mail boxes)**

No discussion was held on this topic.

**9. ADDED ITEMS**

**10. NEXT MEETING DATE - APRIL 26, 2007**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Christina Sears  
Legislative Assistant