

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 27, 2003**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Jim Smith, Chair  
Councillor Gary Hines  
Councillor Gary Meade  
Councillor Linda Mosher  
Councillor Reg Rankin

**STAFF:** Mr. Brian Smith, General Manager, Solid Waste Resources  
Mr. Jim Bauld, Coordinator, Diversion Planning  
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Coordinator, Collection and Processing  
Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councillor Smith called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 6.1 Councillor Hines - Update on Time lines for C & D Sites
- 6.2 Councillor Meade - Private Roads

**MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Meade, that the agenda be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 30, 2003**

**MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Hines, that the minutes of January 30, 2003 be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Stephen Taylor, Enviro Waste Ltd., addressed the Committee expressing thanks and appreciation for the inclusion of public participation as a regular agenda item. Mr. Taylor requested that this remain on the agenda for future meetings so there will always be an opportunity for members of the public to speak as issues come forward.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Diapers**

- C An information report prepared for Brian T. Smith, General Manager, Solid Waste Resources, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its information.

Mr. Jim Bauld, Diversion Planning Coordinator, briefly reviewed the information report with the Committee. The report was in response to several questions raised at the last meeting with respect to this issue.

**4.2 Community Monitoring Committee - Mandate**

- C An information report prepared for Brian T. Smith, General Manager, Solid Waste

Resources, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its information. Responding to a question of Councillor Smith, Mr. Bauld stated that “committee” in Item (b) on Page 2 of the report referred to the Community Monitoring Committee.

Councillor Meade noted the next meeting of the Community Monitoring Committee will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> and it is the intention of the Committee to invite Councillor Smith to that meeting.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Weekly Summer Organics**

C A staff report prepared for Brian T. Smith, General Manager, Solid Waste Resources, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration.

Mr. Bauld presented the report to the Committee. The report recommended that weekly organics green cart collection during the months of July and August not be provided. Mr. Bauld noted an error in the report in that the word “eptimologoist” should read “entomologist.” He stated that staff do not feel it is likely that weekly collection would greatly benefit the overall program as nuisance issues related to the carts would not be eradicated.

Councillor Meade inquired if it would be possible for an area rate to be placed on the downtown core if they wanted to pay the total cost for weekly summer collection service. In response, Mr. Bauld noted the collection days do not align with the district boundaries. Therefore, staff would have to go back to the collectors and shift the collection areas to a particular day. There would be additional financial implications relating to education and communication, and there would be the potential to disrupt the service that the customers have become accustomed to receiving.

Councillor Mosher stated there should be weekly collection across HRM. The Councillor stated \$1.2 million over five years is a small price to pay and weekly collection would enhance compliance. Councillor Mosher stated she would support Option C or Option B in the staff report. Mr. Bauld clarified that the \$1.2 million was an increase over nine months. The yearly increase would be \$1.6 million over each year of the contract.

**MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Hines, that weekly organics green cart collection during the months of July and August not be provided. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **5.2 Characterization Study - Source Separated Organics - Presentation**

- C Final Report, Characterization Study, Source-Separated Organics, Halifax, Nova Scotia, prepared by SNC Lavalin Inc., January 2003, was before the Committee for its information.

With the use of overheads, Ms. Laurie Lewis, Coordinator, Collection and Processing, presented the Characterization Study - Source Separated Organics to the Committee and responded to questions of the Committee members.

Councillor Mosher requested that Councillors be provided with a small educational piece in electronic format regarding issues that have changed (ie. use of vinegar in green bins) that the Councillors could include in their newsletters to help in the education process. It was also suggested that solid waste educational material could be included with the material sent out by Clean Nova Scotia through their energy audit program whereby they provide homeowners with energy audit of their homes.

Councillor Rankin questioned the usefulness of the study and expressed concern with the amount of plastic in the waste stream. The Councillor requested that information on volume amounts and the impact of materials diverted to Otter Lake be provided in the future, noting the problem of plastics may not be accurately depicted by basing the study on weight.

Councillor Smith suggested the educational material should also include information as to the consequences of putting plastic in the green bins, such as potential damage to machinery.

Representatives of the industry noted that both plastics and fibre are problematic. Fibre extends the curing period and plastics can increasing screening costs to ensure that the output is a high quality product.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Mosher regarding the use of television ads for educational purposes, Mr. Smith stated a series of focus groups were held two years ago and it was determined that television ads were the best form of education.

## **5.3 Review of Committee Mandate**

- C A portion of the March 5, 1996 minutes of the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee regarding the Committee's mandate was provided to the Committee for its information.

After a brief discussion of this issue, it was agreed that staff would update the membership list component of the outline of the committee mandate and bring it forward to the next

SWRAC meeting for the Committee's review.

**6. ADDED ITEMS**

**6.1 Councillor Hines - Update on Time lines for C & D Sites**

Councillor Hines stated he would like to have to information regarding the time lines set out for the C & D sites and where the roadblocks are with regard to getting the sites up and operating. In response, Mr. Smith stated there were not many hurdles left, and it was his understanding that some of them occurred as this was the first time through this process.

Speaking in support of Councillor Hines' request, Councillor Rankin stated it is very much in HRM's interest to advance these proposals. He suggested that the Department of the Environment be encouraged to advance the applications so the operations can be put in place sooner rather than later.

**MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that the Committee request a staff report regarding the time lines set out and reasons for any delays that may have taken place with respect to the C & D sites with the intent to expedite the applications.**

Councillor Mosher stated the sooner HRM deals with this matter it will be to the benefit of the residents.

Mr. Smith agreed to provide a status report within a week or so noting staff are doing their best to work with the companies.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6.2 Councillor Meade - Private Roads**

Councillor Meade requested a staff report regarding solid waste collection on private roads. The Councillor noted this issue was recently before the Private Roads Committee. Councillor Meade noted in the last six months in District 23 there have been at least 240 new private road lots. The Councillor noted there is an amendment to the Subdivision By-Law coming forth and he stated he hopes it will include some restrictions on private lots.

**MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that the Committee request a staff report, within the next two months before proposed amendments to the Subdivision By-Law go before Council, regarding solid waste collection on**

private roads and the problems encountered, particularly in the winter months.  
**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

In other business, Councillor Hines brought forward a request on behalf of Councillor Warshick regarding his previous request for information on vent screens for the green carts. Mr. Smith indicated that a response from the manufacturer has been received and he agreed to forward it to Councillor Warshick.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is March 27, 2003.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Patti Halliday  
Legislative Assistant