

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 10, 2005**

Present: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Krista Snow

Regrets: Councillor Gary Meade

Staff: Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Environmental Management Services
Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid
Waste Resources
Mr. Robert Orr, Collection and Processing Coordinator
Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Rankin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Several Committee members expressed concern with the meeting location being changed as they were of the understanding that Halifax Hall was a Council room. It was suggested that the Committee's concerns be forwarded to the Mayor's Office seeking clarification as to the reasons for the relocation.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Committee's concerns regarding Halifax Hall be forwarded to the Mayor's Office. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 6, 2004

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that the minutes of December 6, 2004 be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

The following item was added to the In Camera agenda:

C Legal Matter - By-law S-602

Councillor Karsten requested the following item be added to the agenda:

C Small Green Bin Alternatives

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 10% challenge - Update - Information Report

C An Information Report dated March 2, 2005 was before the Committee.

Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, briefly reviewed the report.

Councillor Snow stated she would very much like to be involved when Solid Waste Resource staff begin to conduct visits to schools in her District. She suggested a competition or some type of contest could be conducted in conjunction with the visit. The Councillor also volunteered to donate some prizes for this initiative. Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning

Coordinator, agreed to communicate directly with the Councillor on this matter. Other Councillors also expressed interest in this initiative.

Councillor Hum noted a couple of schools in the Mainland North area were recently cited for not source separating, and this strategy to directly address the schools will hit home and reinforce the message about the solid waste strategy.

Mr. Bauld stated staff would be pleased to add to the list any schools requested by Councillors. However, he noted they may not all be visited this school year.

It was agreed that anyone wishing to add a school should contact Ms. Lewis.

Councillor Smith stated he would like to get information on how many people are not complying with the solid waste strategy. The Councillor also expressed concern that the number in the data for organics has gone down. Mr. Bauld noted Item 4.4 Tonnage Report addresses this issue. The Committee agreed to deal with that item at this time.

4.4 Tonnage Report

C The Year-to-Date Waste/Resource System Mass Balance report for April 2004 - January 2005 was before the Committee.

Mr. Bauld briefly reviewed the report noting it also included data for the Ten Percent Challenge, October 2004 - January 2005.

In review of the report, Mr. Bauld noted there were major effects from Hurricane Juan, for all streams.

Councillor Rankin requested that, on a go forward basis, diversion rates over four months be provided for comparison purpose with the previous year's data.

Councillor Sloane stated she would also like to have seen data for 2002-03 for comparison purposes.

Mr. Bauld agreed that staff could work towards having mass balance diversion rates calculated over a shorter term as suggested.

The discussion returned to the issue of the Ten Percent Challenge.

4.1 10% challenge - Update - Information Report (cont'd)

Responding to a question of Councillor Karsten regarding the school visits, Ms. Lewis

explained what was involved. Councillor Karsten suggested a complement to the school visits may be to introduce a card program to address how to dispose of one particular refuse item (ie. tea bags, egg cartons, pizza boxes) as a way to get the children to take the message home to their parents. It was noted that further suggestions could be forwarded to Ms. Lewis.

Councillor Rankin suggested opportunities to showcase success stories should be pursued through assistance of the media. Mr. Bauld agreed that positive messages should be put forward as much as possible.

4.2 Source Separation Containers at HRM Properties

Ms. Marion Currie, Capital District, addressed the Committee regarding the Source Separation Containers. Information regarding the containers were circulated to the Committee.

Responding to questions of the Committee, staff made the following points:

- C The cost of a bin system is \$3,000.
- C An RFP for servicing of the bins is in process.
- C Funding for the bins is in the 2004-05 Capital District Budget.
- C The RFP for the bins was conducted in October 2004. Capital District staff met previously with Solid Waste staff to discuss having commercial type bins. However, some of those contractors have not lived up to their maintenance end so there were real concerns this type of container would not work.

For the record, Councillor Snow expressed similar maintenance concerns regarding the advertising bus benches and stated they should be removed immediately.

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the maintenance concerns regarding the advertising bus benches be forwarded to Real Property. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Bauld agreed to follow up on this issue.

Ms. Currie noted if HRM wants to consider a free-of-charge contractor, this can be done for future phases. However, staff believe that those containers are not appropriate for the Capital District, particularly in terms of appearance.

Councillor Sloane stated she supports sponsorship on bins at sports fields if it encourages source separation.

Councillor Smith suggested a source separation container system should be placed in Dillman Park, Dartmouth. Ms. Currie noted this is only the first phase of the program

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that consideration be given to installing a source separation container system in Dillman Park, Dartmouth. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(Councillor Sloane left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.)

Councillor Hum stated her opinion of the container unit is that it is not environmentally friendly and it looks cheap. The unit will also be a magnet for graffiti.

Councillor Karsten suggested consideration be given to put a slogan or the HRM logo on the bins. The Councillor also expressed concern regarding the price of the units. Councillor Karsten inquired if HRM could perform the maintenance on the bins. Staff responded that the maintenance would be more cost effective by contract.

Councillor Smith spoke in support of the colour of the units and stated he did not think anything else should be on them except for identifiers.

Councillor Snow stated she could not support this supplier, although she supported the project. She agreed with the concerns about graffiti noting the grooves on the face of the unit will create problems with graffiti removal. Councillor Hum concurred.

Councillor Rankin suggested an information report regarding this issue could be forwarded to Council.

Mr. Bauld noted there is an RFP being issued for source separation at HRM owned buildings.

4.3 OMG Atlantic

C A previously circulated staff report dated June 11, 2002 was before the Committee.

Mr. Bauld briefly reviewed the report.

For the record, Councillor Snow stated the OMG Atlantic container should have been tested first before choosing a bin system for the Capital District. The Councillor also suggested there will be a cost increase in staffing to empty the four containers as opposed to one.

4.4 Tonnage Report

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Steven Taylor, Enviro Waste, addressed the Committee, regarding several solid waste issues. In his comments with respect to By-Law S-602, Mr. Taylor suggested if the court case fails, HRM could still be proactive by instituting a licensing program for waste haulers which would provide HRM some control. Councillor Rankin stated the Committee would require the benefit of legal and other perspectives in the form of a staff report before it could consider this suggestion.

(Councillor Smith left the meeting at 3:25 p.m.)

Quorum was lost at this point in the meeting.

Mr. Don Mason, CMC, also addressed the Committee regarding the on-going court case stating the Community Monitoring Committee supports HRM in this matter.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 "E" Waste Recycling - Proposed Provincial Legislation

C An Information Report dated March 2, 2005 was before the Committee.

Ms. Lewis advised the Committee that the Province has extended the deadline to April 11, 2005. Therefore, any comments regarding the proposed new regulations that Committee members would like to be included should be forwarded to staff.

Staff responded to questions of the Committee regarding the proposed legislation.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Rankin, Mr. Bauld noted any major fundamental change in the electronics industry would have a ripple effect. He stated similar legislation has been implemented in other areas of Canada and the United States. This is an initiative of the Department of Environment and Labour in a stewardship approach with the electronic industry.

Councillor Karsten noted LakeCity Woodworkers have started a program utilizing used computer components and suggested they be considered if and when these regulations are put in place. In response, Mr. Bauld stated staff could look into adding LakeCity Woodworkers to the list of those accepting used computers in the solid waste newsletter. He noted the provincial model proposes that the material would be designed for the environment so it would be easily disassembled at a facility where the valuable material would be removed.

and the rest would be crushed or shredded for final disposal.

Councillor Rankin suggested HRM should convey its support of the proposed regulations to the Province. Mr. Bauld agreed to draft the appropriate response, including suggested improvements. He requested any further comments of the Committee be forwarded to Ms. Lewis or Mr. Orr.

7. ADDED ITEMS

7.1 Small Green Bin Alternatives

Councillor Karsten raised the issue of alternatives to the small kitchen green bins. The Councillor suggested the small green bin is not being utilized to the degree HRM would like. Therefore, he suggested perhaps a different kind of container could be used.

A discussion ensued regarding alternative containers such as metal lidded containers, plastic ice cream containers.

Mr. Bauld stated staff would take the comments into consideration and suggested the issue may be raised in the Naturally Green newsletter for input from residents.

At this time, the Committee moved In Camera to discuss contractual and legal matters.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

This item was not addressed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Following the In Camera Session, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Patti Halliday
Legislative Assistant