

SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

June 18, 2009

- PRESENT: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
Councillor Reg Rankin, Vice Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Sue Uteck
- REGRETS: Mayor Peter Kelly
Councillor Tim Outhit
Councillor Andrew Younger
Councillor Mary Wile
- STAFF: Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources,
Environmental Management
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid
Waste Resources, Environmental Management
Mr. Robert Orr, Coordinator, Collection and Processing,
Solid Waste Resources, Environmental Management
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 26, 2009

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Hum that the minutes of March 26, 2009, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The Committee agreed to the agenda as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. REPORTS

6.1 Memorandum - FCM Resolution - Phasing Out Bottled Water

- A Memorandum dated June 9, 2009 from Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, was before the Committee.

Councillor Rankin, in referencing the resolution from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) dated March 7, 2009, noted that perhaps the wording was too strong and that comment from other HRM staff and Halifax Water should also be obtained. He suggested that the majority of Council would like to promote HRM's municipal potable water supply.

Councillor Uteck noted that HRM has the highest recovery rate for recyclables in Canada.

MOVED BY Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee recommend that the information presented be accepted and circulated to Halifax Regional Council as an Information Report including the Committee's position that they agree in principle with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities resolution to phase out the sale and purchase of bottled water at municipal facilities, where appropriate and where

potable water is available, and that use of the municipal potable water supply be encouraged. Also, that the information be forwarded to Mr. Phil Townsend, Manager, Capital Projects, Infrastructure and Asset Management, and to Mr. Carl Yates, General Manager, Halifax Water for their information and comment.

Councillor Nicoll entered the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Councillor Lund noted that he was not in support of a 100% ban on bottled water (plastic bottles). HRM should be promoting the fact that they have the highest recovery rate and get that message out to the general public so that the residents would know that HRM was doing their part.

In response to Councillor Lund, Mr. Bauld explained that anything HRM could do to keep the landfill cells from being filled would be a benefit to taxpayers. Reducing the number of plastic bottles to be collected would reduce the revenue from deposit to Youth Alive and the Blue Bag program for the Miller facility but would not drastically reduce the cost of collection.

Councillor Rankin explained that HRM does not make a net profit but anything that reduces packaging benefits the municipality and reduces costs.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Bauld advised that he would forward an Information Report to Regional Council on this issue as well as forwarding the information to Mr. Townsend and Mr. Yates.

6.2 Memorandum - Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations - Composting Facility Guidelines

- A Memorandum dated June 10, 2009 from Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, was before the Committee.

Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, Environmental Management, presented. He noted that a letter from the Honourable Mr. Richard Hurlburt, Minister, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, to Warden Hines dated April 27, 2009, provided notice of the change in composting facility guidelines. He explained that the letter from the Minister does not trigger the change of law clause, incorporated into all major contracts, for new standards implemented by the Province. The Province would have to meet with every municipal unit that has composting and inquire of them how they will achieve the new standards. Mr. Bauld also noted that rural areas of Nova Scotia do not have compost pick-up; they have backyard composting.

Councillor Rankin expressed concern with not knowing what the provincial expectations were or how rigorous the guidelines would be and whether they would be consistent across the province. He also inquired as to how the implementation would take place and how flexible it would be. He suggested that the province be asked to explain the specifics to the municipal units to make clear what would be expected.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the matter be tabled and sent to all of Council as an Information Report.

The Committee requested that, if discussion were to be held with the province on this issue, the matter be added to a future agenda for further discussion and that a representative from the provincial Department of Environment and Labour be invited to the meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.3 NS Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act

- A Memorandum dated June 11, 2009 from Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, was before the Committee.

Following the staff presentation and Committee discussion, it was **MOVED BY Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee recommend that the matter be deferred to a fall 2009 meeting of the Committee pending:**

1. **Review of the diversion formula numbers, to be presented by staff, utilizing alternative data other than the 1989 baseline data currently used.**
2. **Initiation of a collaborative approach with the Province of Nova Scotia on a plan of action on how to achieve the 2015 goal of 300 kg/capita and how the Province intends to assist the seven regions of Nova Scotia in achieving that goal.**
3. **A Provincial C&D strategy to deal with the Construction and Demolition debris that cannot be diverted from landfills.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.4 Councillor Barkhouse

Councillor Barkhouse was not in attendance, however; the Committee reviewed her written request that staff outline suggested alternative choices to placing paper curbside for recycling.

Councillor Barkhouse's request was in response to concern expressed by many of her residents in regard to the current trend by grocery chains to reduce/eliminate plastic bags. The result of the reduction in plastic bag availability would require residents to purchase plastic bags for recycling paper which would be an added expense to the household and would not reduce the use of plastic.

Mr. Bauld offered to prepare a Memorandum to Councillor Barkhouse and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee in response to her request.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Loblaw Companies Limited 2008 Corporate Social Responsibility Report

Councillor Karsten circulated a copy of the Loblaw Companies Limited 2008 Corporate Social Responsibility Report, "*The Way We Do Business*", for information purposes. The brochure outlines Loblaw's five pillars of corporate social responsibility and includes information on: Respect for the Environment; Managing Energy (Reducing Carbon Footprint) and Reducing Waste.

9. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2009.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant

Information Item:

1. Waste /Resource System Mass Balance & Tonnage Report