

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES March 20, 2006

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

REGRETS: Councillor Harry McInroy

STAFF: Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Robert Orr, P. Eng, Collection and Processing Coordinator
Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:18 p.m.

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

Additions:

- 10.1 Organic Summer Collection
- 10.2 Apartment Building and Condominium Collection

The agenda was accepted as amended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Snow that the minutes of the January 19, 2006 meeting of the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee, as distributed, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Litter Prevention Campaign

Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources advised that an official launch of the Litter Prevention Campaign will take place on April 5, 2006 in Halifax Hall at 1:30 p.m.

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, advised that communications will include, television advertisements, signage on Metro Transit, pamphlets as well as car litter bags.

In response to Councillor Karsten concern regarding enforcement, Mr. Bauld advised that eight Summary Offence Tickets were issued last year, at this time he has no further details.

Councillor Sloane suggested that the Red Cross be contacted to see if they are interested in participating in the campaign. They provide safety information as to what should be picked up by children. She also suggested implementing a corporate adopt a block program.

In response to Councillor Sloane, Mr. Bauld advised that he will contact the Red Cross. The Capital District is a partner in the campaign and recognizing and rewarding organizations is a component of the campaign. A resident of HRM will be recognized at the press conference on April 5, 2006.

Councillor Karsten expressed concern that there will not be support from HRM's police force in terms of enforcement. Mr. Bauld advised that Senior Management is aware of the issue.

Councillor Snow and Councillor Sloane requested car litter bags for distribution. Councillor Snow also advised staff that she would like to participate in the school presentations.

In response to questions from the Committee Ms. Lewis advised that the car bags are supplied by RRFB Nova Scotia and that Eastlink will be airing the commercials for three weeks they will be re run during Environment Week.

The Committee suggested that staff give a presentation to Council on April 4, 2006 regarding the 2006 Litter Prevention Campaign to provide for maximum exposure.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Don Mason, Executive Directory, Community Monitoring Committee

Mr. Mason addressed the Committee and advised that the next meeting of the Community Monitoring Committee is March 29, 2006. He expressed concern that there is the potential of odours from the Otter Lake Residual Disposal Facility if the Partial Interim Closure of Cell 3 is not completed. The Committee is in full support of staffs request to partially close Cell three.

He further advised that the Committees newsletter will be available on March 22, 2006 and that the newsletter focuses on general conditions.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Solid Waste Resource Round Table - Findings/Next Steps

- An information report dated January 12, 2006 re Solid Waste Resources Roundtable Findings/Next Steps, was before the Committee.

Mr. Bauld advised that the stakeholders reached a consensus as to where the best opportunities are for enhancing the diversion in HRM as per table one, page three of the staff report. He advised that during the next few months staff will conduct a feasibility assessment of these opportunities and report back to the Committee with a supplementary report, late summer. The recommendation would be to either have a full program or pilot program for 2007/2008. If there are any changes in our current service delivery, the next request for proposals would be issued in 2007 for implementation in 2008.

A discussion ensued regarding the replacement of black bags with clear bags. The

Committee raised concern regarding buy-in to the process, this maybe a contentious issue and suggested that staff start building support with Council and identify any potential problems prior to going to Council.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Tonnage Report

- The Waste/Resource System Mass Balance report from April 1, 2005 to February 28, 2006 was before the Committee.

Mr. Bauld advised the Committee that the overall diversion rate over the past three-month is 56%. Mr. Robert Orr, Collection and Processing Coordinator added that in regards to the Ten Percent Challenge that the diversion rate is about three - four percent on all streams. The Organic stream is approximately three to four percent while the recyclables' stream is about 3.8 percent.

At this time the committee agreed to discuss Item 10.2

10.2 Apartment Building and Condominium Collection

Councillor Sloane asked what is the impact on diversion rates from Condominiums and apartments. Mr. Bauld advised that HRM does not provided collection services to apartment building or Condominiums with more than six units, staff provides educational workshops.

Ms. Lewis commented that staff's role is to complete inspections and ensure that the buildings have receptacles in place for separation. Failure to comply with the By-law may result in a summary offence ticket. Staff attempts to work with the owners/superintendent and asks for an opportunity to conduct an educational workshop and the tenants are invited.

Councillor Sloane raised concern regarding those buildings that do have receptacles for separating and that the contractors responsible for collecting the refuse are putting the bags from the recyclable bins into the garbage. Mr. Orr advised he contacted the contractor and was advised that not all tenants are using the appropriate bags and that those who pick up the bags cannot tell what is in them. Mr. Orr advised that it is an educational issue with the tenants.

Councillor Rankin -commented that Construction Demolition has had a significant impact on the 10 percent challenge, and has been a commercial success story.

7.2 Partial Interim Closure of Cell 3 - Advance 06/07 Budget Approval Staff Report March 16, 2006

- A staff report dated March 14, 2006 re Partial Interim Closure of Cell 3 - Advance 2006/07 Budget Approval was before the Committee.
- A copy of a letter dated March 16, 2006 from the Community Monitoring Committee was circulated to the committee.

Mr. Bauld provided a brief overview of the project and pointed out the financial benefits and cost savings with moving ahead with the project in 2006-2007 as per page six of attachment "A" to the March 14, 2006 staff report. He advised that the project cannot wait until the June approval of the Capital Budget as it is a 9-month project and needs to be completed before winter.

In response to Councillor Snows requested for clarification on the Havill Lands, Mr. Bauld advised that in 1999 Council approved the purchases of the lands to ensure that there were no encroachment issues within the Otter Lake and wilderness area. The lands contain large quantities of clay deposits for cell construction and cell closure.

A discussion ensued regarding the risk of the project not being completed on time and the impact of cost avoidance, from a business case and environmental sense.

Mr. Bauld commented that business units were advised that requests for advanced Capital Projects approvals and funding were going forward to Council on April 11, 2006.

After further discussion Councillor Rankin suggested that the project be brought forward on March 28, 2006 for approval as cost avoidance and community protection is the case for support. The following motion was placed:

MOVED by, Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council approve Capital Project CWI00779, Partial Interim Closure of Cell 3 on March 28, 2006 and provide advanced funding approval of the proposed 206-2007 Capital Budget in the amount of \$4, 233,000 be withdrawn from Reserve Q120 for this project. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Rankin requested that the Community Monitoring Committee's letter dated March 16, 2006 be attached to the Committee Report. He asked staff to respond to the letter indicating that the letter was forwarded to the Committee and will be coming forward to Council in support of staffs request. He further advised Mr. Mason that the Community Monitoring Committee can write a letter outlining their concerns addressed to Mayor and Council.

7.3 Organic Green Carts for New Residents - Advance 06/07 Budget Approval - Staff Report March 16, 2006

MOVED by, Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Snow that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee recommend to Regional Council that:

- 1. Capital Project CWI00781, Organic Green Carts for New Residents, be submitted with the next advance capital funding request prior to May 2, 2006.**
- 2. Funding in the amount of \$286,000 be withdrawn from Reserve Q123 for this project.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. REQUESTS / CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Referral from Western Region Community Council - Request from Wayne Rogers

- A draft extract of the February 27, 2006 meeting of Western Community Council re concerns regarding the Otter lake Landfill was before the Committee.

Mr. Bauld advised that he has ongoing discussions with Mr. Rogers.

A brief discussion ensued and the following motion was placed:

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Karsten that staff assess the possibility of granting Mr. Rogers stewardship of the Old Drysdale Cemetery, further that the report provided consideration for liability and maintenance. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

After a brief discussion regarding HRM responding to questions regarding the Halifax Waste Society the following motion was placed

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Snow that questions regarding the Halifax Waste Society be referred to the society for response. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 East Coast Environmental Conference - April 25-27, 2006

- A copy of the Conference Program was before the Committee.

Mr. Bauld provided a brief overview of the agenda.

10. ADDED ITEMS

10.1 Weekly Organic Collection

Councillor Rankin commented that the weekly organic collection in summer is inconsistent. He suggested that staff examine the feasibility of continuing the program.

A discussion ensued and concern was raised regarding the removal of service from residents who currently receive the service. There has been public concern regarding paying taxes for services that residents do not receive.

After further discussion the following motion was placed:

MOVED by Councillor Karsten , seconded by Councillor Meade that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee request that staff provide a report detailing the areas where weekly summer green cart service is in relation to the urban, suburban and rural tax rate. Further that the report include any cost implications. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Bauld advised that the report will not provide any recommendations it will identify current services and inconsistencies in the service.

10.2 Apartment Building and Condominium Collection

See page 5.

At this time the Committee agreed to add item 10.3.

10.3 Composting Day

In response to Councillor Meade, Ms. Lewis advised that pre-order forms will be included in the Naturally Green Newsletter for composting bins.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE - April 27, 2006

Mr. Bauld advised that April 27, 2006 conflicts with the Environmental conference. The Committee agreed to cancel the April 27, 2006 Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting. Staff will advise if a meeting needs to be rescheduled for April.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Stephanie Parsons
Legislative Assistant