

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

February 3, 2011

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Lund, Chair
Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Barry Dalrymple
Lorelei Nicoll
Darren Fisher
Jackie Barkhouse
Jennifer Watts
Dawn Sloane

STAFF: Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset
Management
Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment
Management Office
Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager, Utilities Coordination
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 6, 2011

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the minutes of January 6, 2011 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 9.1 Nomination of Representative to Halifax Water Commission
- 9.2 Appointment of Representative to Provincial Solid Waste Chairs Committee

The Legislative Assistant noted that the representatives of Nestlé Waters Canada were running a bit late and suggested the Committee defer Item 6.3.1 until their arrival, to which the Committee agreed.

Councillor Nicoll entered the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**
- 5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

- 6.1 Correspondence – None**
- 6.2 Petitions – None**

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Nestlé Waters Canada re: Public Spaces Recycling Program

This matter was discussed later in the meeting, see page 6.

7. REPORTS

7.1 SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7.1.1 Briefing Note re: S-607 Recommendation Report to Regional Council for First Reading

A briefing form dated February 3, 2011 was before the Committee.

A copy of the costing breakdown spreadsheets of the projected financial implications to facilities should proposed changes to By-Law S-607 be approved was circulated to the Committee.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, provided an overview of the Question and Answer (Q&A) sheet prepared by staff in response to questions and concerns submitted by members of Council, residents, stakeholders and haulers. He noted that the Q&A sheet will be provided to Council on Friday for review, in advance of their February 8th session.

Councillor Dalrymple entered the meeting at 1:17p.m

Councillor Barkhouse entered the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

Mr. Helm further noted that the Q&A sheet has also been posted as a link HRM's webpage and provided to HRM's Call Centre.

Councillor Dalrymple expressed concern with respect to the Committee not having an opportunity to review staff's report prior to moving forward to Council.

The Chair noted that during first reading of the proposed changes to By-law S-607, the Committee could request that the public hearing be scheduled following their next meeting date. Mr. Helm indicated that the Clerk Office schedules public hearing dates and reviewed the process as to how the report was forwarded to Council. He further indicated that this matter had also been before the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee for review.

7.1.2 Briefing Note re: Council Information Report on Public Consultation – Closure of Otter Lake Landfill

A briefing form dated February 3, 2011 was before the Committee.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, provided an overview of the February 3rd briefing note.

7.2 ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7.2.1 Community Solar Project

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff report dated December 29, 2010.
- A copy of the presentation entitled Community Solar Project dated February 3, 2011.
- Submissions from Valerie Payne, President & CEO of Halifax Chambers of Commerce, Adam Conney, Executive Director of Environmental Services Association Nova Scotia, Darren Thordarson, Sales Manger of Aztek Solar, Don Jardine, Academic Chair of Environmental Sustainability and Development – Nova Scotia Community College, Tom Allen of Thermo Dynamics Ltd. and Richard Vinson, Chair of Solar Nova Scotia.

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment Management Office, delivered a presentation respecting the Community Solar Project to the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Accept the results of the community consultation efforts and conclude that: residents support this project and further work on this project requires on-going industry consultation;**
- 2. Direct staff to investigate and apply for the funding, grants, loans, and rebates required to proceed with a financially visible community solar project; and**
- 3. Accept the principles and conditions used to develop a financially viable business model, as outlined on page six of the staff report dated December 29, 2010.**

Council entered into a brief discussion with staff responding to questions of clarification. The following was noted by staff:

- HRM will not be responsible/liable should a panel become damaged; contracts will be developed between the homeowner and the installer
- HRM is seeking funding support from FCM, the Provincial and Federal government and Natural Resources Canada; as well funding programs offered by the Nova Scotia Community College
- education will be required regarding the ecological value of trees; staff does not want to see trees being removed for panel installation
- staff anticipates that the program will become a competitive process; if HRM is going to support and front the program, there will have to be some accountability for HRM to provide the best quality of service and product to its residents

Councillor Fisher suggested that HRM should be promoting that if the project is approved, HRM will have more installations in one year than all of Canada combined.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.3.1 Nestlé Waters Canada re: Public Spaces Recycling Program

The following was before the Committee for review:

- An email extract from the Clerks Office to Sean Kirby regarding Nestle Waters' request to present
- A report dated November 16, 2011 entitled: Halifax Harbour Public Spaces Recycling Pilot Project Report
- A copy of the presentation dated February 3, 2011 entitled: Halifax Pilot Public Spaces Recycling Program

Mr. John Challinor, Director of Corporate Affairs, Nestlé Waters Canada, delivered a presentation regarding their public spaces recycling program the Committee. He advised that he has also met with the Minister of Environment respecting the development of a recycling program.

Following a brief discussion, it was **MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council write a letter to the Province supporting Nestlé Waters Canada's Public Spaces Recycling Program initiative.**

Following concern regarding limited discussion, the mover with agreement from the seconded withdrew his motion.

7.2.2 Regional Municipal Planning Strategy – Underground Utilities Function Plan

A staff report dated January 17, 2011 was before the Committee.

Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager, Utilities Coordination provided an overview of the January 17th staff report.

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council initiate a community engagement process to share information and encourage input by consulting both the development community and the general public on issues relating to the implementation of a Functional Plan for undergrounding of overhead utilities in new residential subdivisions.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2.3 Briefing Note: Lakes Banook & MicMac Plant Growth

A briefing form dated February 3, 2011 was before the Committee.

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment Management Office, provided an overview of the February 3, 2011 briefing note.

MOVED by Fisher, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the Environment and Sustainability direct staff to provide a report outlying the short term policy opportunities for HRM lakes.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2.4 Briefing Note: Internal Environmental Sustainability Education Efforts

A briefing form dated February 3, 2011 was before the Committee.

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment Management Office, provided an overview of the February 3, 2011 briefing note.

7.3 STAFF REPORT

7.3.1 Draft Terms of Reference

A draft Terms of Reference was before the Committee for review.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee defer Item 7.3.1 to next meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. MOTIONS

8.1 Councillor Fisher – Request for Staff Supplementary Report on Green Approach to Procurement

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report that looks at awarding points for green initiatives during procurement of tenders or at the very least eliminate wording in tenders that eliminate green alternatives.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Nomination of Representative to Halifax Water Commission

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee nominate Councillor Hum as an HRM Councillor representative to the Board of the Halifax Water Commission. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 Appointment of Representative to Provincial Solid Waste Chairs Committee

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee appoint Councillor Lund as a representative to the Provincial Solid Waste Chairs Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – March 3, 2011

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS
February 3, 2011

1. Information Report dated January 11, 2011 re: UNSM Sustainable Practices Committee
2. Information Report dated January 20, 2011 re: Legislative Scope of HRM Pesticide By-Law P-800
3. Information Report dated January 21, 2011 re: Natural Resources Canada Report on Climate Change and Canadian Municipalities
4. Approved 2011 Meeting Schedule