

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

November 14, 2011

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

STAFF: Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, IAM  
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Legislative Assistant called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. in the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

## 2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair for 2012.

Councillor Fisher nominated Councillor Dalrymple  
Councillor Hum nominated Councillor Watts  
Councillor Sloane nominated Councillor Hum

Both Councillors Watts and Hum declined their nominations of Chair for 2012.

There being no further nominations, Councillor Dalrymple was declared Chair.

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair for 2012.

Councillor Fisher nominated Councillor Hum.  
Councillor Sloane nominated Councillor Watts.

There being no further nominations, both Councillors Hum and Watts provided comments in support of their nominations.

Following a vote by way of secret ballot, Councillor Watts was declared Vice Chair.

Councillor Dalrymple assumed the Chair at 1:25 p.m. and the Legislative Assistant took her seat.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 6, 2011

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

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

## 4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

### Deletion:

8.1.3 Response Letter to Community Monitoring Committee *(to be circulated)*

### Additions:

10.1 Wastewater Functional Plan Update *(staff presentation)*

## 10.2 Councillor Watts – Request for Report and Presentation re: Solar City Project

Staff asked if the Standing Committee would consider addressing Item 10.1 prior to Item 8 – Staff Reports, to which the Standing Committee agreed.

A brief discussion was held on recommendations being brought forward to Regional Council from the Standing Committee and whether a member, other than the Chair, could move the motion. The Clerk will follow up on this question and respond via email to the Standing Committee.

Councillor Lund referenced an email he had received from a resident and requested a discussion on recycling electronics from commercial industry be added to December's agenda, to which the Standing Committee agreed.

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

## 5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

### 5.1 STATUS SHEET UPDATE

A copy of the Status Sheet was before the Standing Committee for review.

During a brief overview of the Status Sheet, the following was noted:

Councillor Watts questioned the status of a motion passed by the Standing Committee respecting an environmental sustainability filer on staff reports that go to Council and whether it should be on or added to the Status Sheet. The Clerk will review and advise of its status.

Councillor Sloane requested that future updates on the Community Energy Plan include examples of community energy plans and projects that have been done across Canada.

Councillor Hum suggested forwarding Information Item 1 - *Information Report dated September 19, 2011 re: Water Levels at Kearney Lake* to Chebucto Community Council, North West Community Council, Bedford Watershed Advisory Committee and consultants undertaking the watershed study for their information. Following a brief discussion, the Standing Committee agreed to add the information report to the December agenda for discussion.

Matters proposed for removal from the Status Sheet, with the exclusion of the Water Levels at Kearney Lake item, were deleted from the Status Sheet.

## 6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

### 7.1 Correspondence – None

**7.2 Petitions – None**

**7.3 Presentations – None**

Item 10.1 - Wastewater Functional Plan Update was addressed at this time.

**10.1 Wastewater Functional Plan Update (staff presentation)**

A copy of the presentation was circulated to the Standing Committee.

Ms. Kenda MacKenzie, Senior Development Engineer, Halifax Water, delivered a presentation and responded to questions on the Regional Wastewater Functional Plan and Integrated Resource Plan.

Following the discussion it was noted that staff will coordinate with the Clerk to determine the timeframe for a future update on the Regional Wastewater Functional Plan to the Standing Committee.

**8. REPORTS**

**8.1 STAFF REPORTS**

**8.1.1 Province of Nova Scotia: Draft Coastal Strategy**

Staff report dated October 17, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Barkhouse, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council support the Province of Nova Scotia Draft Coastal Strategy as prepared.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8.1.2 Partnership Agreement: Clean Nova Scotia**

Staff report dated October 14, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council the endorsement of a partnership agreement between HRM and Clean Nova Scotia (CNS) in regard to *HRM's Corporate Plan to Reduce GHG Emissions 2012-2020; non transit fleet*, as outlined in the terms of reference contained in the staff report dated October 14, 2011.**

The Environment and Sustainability Standing reviewed the October 14, 2011 staff report, with staff providing clarification on the partnership and agreement and the budget implications.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8.1.3 Response Letter to Community Monitoring Committee (To be circulated)**

Item deleted from the agenda during the approval of the Order of Business.

**9. MOTIONS**

**9.1 Councillor Watts**

*“That the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to:*

- 1. Conduct a more comprehensive best practices review of the Canadian Municipal Brownfield Incentive Programs, and return to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee with a report; and*
- 2. Specifically related to former gas stations: perform a financial analysis, and draft a potential policy for consideration, where HRM would offer a property owner tax holiday or reprieve to incent the prompt demolition/removal of gas station infrastructure and property remediation. This analysis should include the analysis of the cost of the tax holiday versus the future value of the potential increase in commercial or property tax from the reinvested and recapitalized property.”*

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hum that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to:**

- 1. Conduct a more comprehensive best practices review of the Canadian Municipal Brownfield Incentive Programs, and return to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee with a report; and**
- 2. Specifically related to former gas stations: perform a financial analysis, and draft a potential policy for consideration, where HRM would offer a property owner tax holiday or reprieve to incent the prompt demolition/removal of gas station infrastructure and property remediation. This analysis should include the analysis of the cost of the tax holiday versus the future value of the potential increase in commercial or property tax from the reinvested and recapitalized property.**

A brief discussion was held on the process for handling and selling brownfields and whether there are opportunities to identify problem areas and work with the Province.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**10. ADDED ITEMS**

**10.1 Wastewater Functional Plan Update (staff presentation)**

Item addressed earlier in the meeting.

**10.2 Councillor Watts – Request for Report and Presentation re: Solar City Project**

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report and presentation on the Solar City Project for the December meeting, which discusses the financial status of the project, the proposed timeline for implementation and the status of procurement agreements with contractors. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**11. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**11.1 Councillor Lund**

Take notice that, at the next regular Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meeting, to be held on Thursday, December 1, 2011, I propose to request staff to investigate the feasibility of requiring as a condition of issuing a Building Permit in non-serviced areas of HRM, that the house and auxiliary buildings be placed on the lot to avoid being flooded. Further, that drainage from these buildings are not directed to natural watercourses nor directed in such a manner as to adversely affect neighbouring properties (ie. cause flooding).

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE – December 1, 2011**

**12.1 Proposed 2012 Meeting Schedule**

A Proposed 2012 Meeting Scheduled was before the Standing Committee for review and approval.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee accept the Proposed 2012 Meeting Schedule as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Krista Vining  
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Information Report dated September 19, 2011 re: Water Levels at Kearney Lake
2. Information Report dated October 5, 2011 re: Update: Potential Hazards to Development Functional Plan
3. Information Report dated October 12, 2011 re: Lighting Projects with Efficiency Nova Scotia
4. Information Report from the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee dated October 14, 2011 re: Functional Plans – Standing Committee Oversight
5. Briefing Note dated November 3, 2011 re: Project in Industrial/Dalhousie Department of Industrial Engineering