

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

June 7, 2012

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

STAFF: Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. in the Dartmouth Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 16, 2012**

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the minutes of April 16, 2012 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions

- 9.1 Councillor Watts re: District Energy
- 9.2 Councillor Watts re: Green Building Standards

Councillor Hum requested an update on Beech Beetles for the next meeting. Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager of Energy and Environment indicated that he would be providing communication on this matter to all members of Council electronically by Monday, June 11, 2012.

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

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 STATUS SHEET UPDATE**

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

Matters proposed for removal were deleted from the Status Sheet.

**4.2 Unwanted Distribution or Mismanagement of Flyers**

A motion extract of ESSC April 16, 2012 was before Standing Committee.

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid Waste Resources provided an update to the Standing Committee, indicating that the staff report was not yet ready for distribution as it was still going through the approval process. She advised that the report is intended to respond to the request for the establishment of a working group and associated budget implications in relation to the Standing Committee's motion of April 16, 2012 respecting unwanted distribution or mismanagement of flyers.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Hum to defer item 4.2 – Unwanted Distribution or Mismanagement of Flyers to the next meeting.**

Following a brief discussion, the **MOTION TO DEFER WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence – None**

**6.2 Petitions – None**

Councillor Barkhouse entered the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

**6.3 Presentations**

**6.3.1 Septic System Management (*Sackville Rivers Association & Nova Scotia Department of Environment*)**

A copy of the presentation was provided for the file.

Mr. Walter Regan, Sackville Rivers Association and Ms. Darlene Fenton, Nova Scotia Department of Environment delivered a presentation on options for septic system management, in particular the pumping out of domestic septic tanks. Request for consideration was given to HRM working with the Province and Sackville Rivers Association to establish a pilot project and work towards the establishment of a by-law for mandatory three year pumping of septic systems.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report identifying:**

- 1. One to three (1 to 3) areas for a proposed pilot project and the financial implications associated with the project; and**
- 2. The possibility of developing a Municipal by-law for mandatory three (3) year pumping of septic systems.**

During the discussion the Standing Committee noted the following:

- The importance of HRM staff working with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and the Sackville Rivers Association in regard to use of pumping vehicles, as well in identifying areas for a proposed pilot project
- That the report identify whether there is an opportunity for cost sharing with Nova Scotia Department of Environment
- Note was made that Halifax Water has expressed concern regarding health and safety issues in relation to septic and sanitary systems during the installation of municipal services, and having HRM staff seek Halifax Water's input during this review
- Suggestion was made to adding the areas of Maplewood and Kingswood (District 23) for consideration of a proposed pilot project

Further discussion ensued with Mr. Regan and Ms. Fenton responding to questions of clarification related to septic system management projects in other municipalities.

**MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Staff Reports**

**7.1.1 Halifax Water - ComFIT Project update**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A copy of the presentation entitled: Renewable Energy Projects
- A copy of the staff report to the Halifax Regional Water Commission Board dated February 16, 2012 entitled: Bio-Solids Energy Project Development
- A copy of the staff report to the Halifax Regional Water Commission Board dated April 18, 2012 entitled: Energy Recovery from Orchard Control Chambers – Pilot Project

Mr. Jeffrey Knapp, Manager of Energy Efficiency provided an update on Energy from Bio-Solids, requesting endorsement of the COMFIT Project registration/application to the Department of Energy and referral to Halifax Regional Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council endorse the COMFIT Project Registration/Application to the Department of Energy for the “*Halifax Regional Water Commission Energy from Bio-Solids Concept Plan*”, as described in the February 16, 2012 staff report to the Halifax Regional Water Commission Board.**

Follow questions of clarification, the **MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

Ms. Knapp provided an update on energy from water: energy recovery using in-line turbines, requesting endorsement of the COMFIT Project registration/application to the Department of Energy and referral to Halifax Regional Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council endorse the COMFIT Project Registration/Application to the Department of Energy for the “*Halifax Regional Water Commission Energy Recovery from Orchard Control Chamber Project*”, as described in the April 18, 2012 staff report to the Halifax Regional Water Commission Board.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Knapp provided an update on wind energy in relation to the Pockwock Wind Project and Lake Major Wind Project and responded to questions of clarification.

## **7.2 Standing Committee Members**

### **7.2.1 Councillor Dalrymple – Discussion re: Cancellation of HRM's Water Quality Monitoring Program**

The following was before the Standing Committee for their information:

- A copy of the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board's letter to Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer dated May 28, 2012 re: suspension of the HRM Lakes Water Quality Sampling Program
- A copy of Walter Regan, Sackville Rivers Association email to Councillor Barry Dalrymple and members of the North West Community Council dated May 30, 2012 re: cancellation of the HRM Water Quality Monitoring Program

Councillor Dalrymple advised that the Sackville Rivers Association has expressed concern to the North West Community Council and Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council with regard to the discontinuation of HRM's Water Quality Monitor Program. As well, he noted that the Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society has also expressed concern in this regard and was seeking an explanation as to why this program has been eliminated, and the possibility of HRM partnering with community groups to reinstate the program.

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager of Energy and Environment provided an overview of the Municipal rationale for cessation of the baseline water quality monitoring activities, consisting of approximately 55 HRM lakes. The following points were noted:

- The redeployment of the staff resource to higher impact and council priority activities is prudent (ie. watershed studies that are behind schedule, and actively involved with Municipal policy development opportunities in the Regional Plan, CentrePlan and the Dartmouth MPS Policy)
- HRM has collected six years of baseline sampling data from the interim program; the Municipality does not need to collect further data from the interim program to perform our Municipal responsibilities around land use planning and development control
- Any data required for Municipal purposes will continue to be obtained
- The interim program was developed prior to adoption of Regional Plan; at that point in time, the Municipality had little data to base land use planning decision on; since that time, staff have completed a number of comprehensive watershed studies, collected the baseline data, and implemented the policy of developer funded water quality monitoring programs
- Staff anticipates making recommendation to Council in 2013-2014 on water quality monitoring

Councillor Barkhouse read an email from Pierre Clement on behalf of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board, dated June 7, 2012 respecting the Board's concerns with the proposed end to HRM's Seasonal Water Quality Sampling Project, and submitted a copy for the file.

Councillor Sloane exited the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Following further discussion, Mr. MacLellan advised that the Chief Administrative Officer will be responding to the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board May 28, 2012 letter. A copy of this response will be provided to the advocacy groups that have expressed concern for their reference, with a copy also being provided to the Standing Committee for information.

Councillor Hum exited meeting at 3:18 p.m.

**8. MOTIONS – NONE**

**9. ADDED ITEMS**

**9.1 Councillor Watts re: District Energy**

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request staff report in the role and nature HRM should take in fostering district energy projects, and provide information on district energy best practices from other Canadian Municipalities. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.2 Councillor Watts re: Green Building Standards**

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report on reviewing the best practices of implementing green building standards in residential and commercial developments and how this may be implemented in HRM's Centre Plan process.**

Following a brief discussion, the **MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

**11. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 3, 2012**

**12. IN CAMERA**

Council may rise and go into a private In Camera session, in accordance with Section 19 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, for the purpose of dealing with the following;

**12.1 In Camera Minutes – November 14, 2011**

**MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Lund that the In Camera minutes of November 14, 2011 be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **12.2 Personnel Matter**

Citizen and Councillor boards and committees in keeping with the Public Appointment Policy adopted by Regional Council in August 2011, to be found at <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/documents/Citizenrecruitmentpolicy.pdf>

### **12.2.1 Citizen Appointments to the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board**

**MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Fisher to convene to In Camera in order to consider citizen appointments to the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m. to convene into In Camera.

Krista Vining  
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Information Report dated April 10, 2012 re: Community Priorities for Green Infrastructure
2. Information Report from the Audit & Finance Standing Committee dated April 19, 2012 entitled: Disposal of Surplus HRM Assets
3. Correspondence from Mayor Peter Kelly to Minister John MacDonell dated April 23, 2012 re: HRM's legislative amendment request for density bonusing to support the brownfields incentive work
4. Memorandum from the Municipal Clerks Office dated June 1, 2012 entitled: Requests for Presentation to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee – NONE