

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 2, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Steve Craig

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Joshua Judah, Solicitor
Ms. Jane Fraser, Director, Planning & Infrastructure
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Energy and Environment
Mr. Angus Doyle, Utilities Coordination Manager
Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator
Mr. John Charles, Planner
Mr. Ted Aubut, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 4, 2013	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETION	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	3
4.1	Status Sheet Update.....	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS.....	4
5.1	Councillor Watts – Motion regarding new HRM corporate buildings... 4 &10	
5.2	Councillor Craig – Draft Regional Plan 5 Year Review, Chapter 8	4
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	5
6.1	Correspondence	5
6.1.1	Correspondence from Ms. Wendy McDonald dated May 2, 2013 regarding stormwater projects in Clayton Park West	5
6.2	Petitions - NONE	5
6.3	Presentations.....	5
6.3.1	Nova Scotia Power regarding Power Shift Atlantic Project	5
6.3.2	Hefler Forest Products regarding COMFIT Application	6
7.	REPORTS	7
7.1	Staff Reports.....	7
7.1.1	Recommendation Report dated February 20, 2013 regarding lakes in HRM's urban area	7
7.1.2	Recommendation Report dated March 6, 2013 regarding LED Streetlight Conversation Project.....	8
7.1.3	Recommendation Report dated March 20, 2013 regarding Community Energy Plan Revision – Engagement Framework.....	8
7.1.4	Recommendation Report dated April 15, 2013 regarding HRM's Submission to the Nova Scotia Parks and Protected Areas Plan Consultation Process	9
8.	MOTIONS - NONE	11
9.	ADDED ITEMS - NONE	11
10.	NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE.....	11
11.	NEXT MEETING DATE - June 6, 2013 (Dartmouth Chamber).....	11
12.	IN CAMERA.....	11
12.1	Personnel Matter	11
12.1.1	Appointments to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board	11
13.	ADJOURNMENT	12

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. in the Dartmouth Chamber at 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

To open the meeting, the Chair asked staff to share news about HRM's projected environmental outcomes for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager of Energy and Environment, estimated that the environmental provisions contained in the 2013-2014 budget, approved two days earlier, would allow the Municipality to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15,000 tons per year. With spending allocated for LED street lighting, Solar City, and stormwater management improvements, he believed that HRM had passed its most environmentally-friendly budget to date and was now positioned to meet Nova Scotia's ambitious 2020 Greenhouse Gas Target.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 4, 2013

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten that minutes of April 4, 2013 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Standing Committee agreed to discuss item 5.1 after item 7.1.4. It similarly agreed to discuss Information Report 3 regarding the recycling of spent bulbs at the next meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the agenda be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Update

The Standing Committee requested that the following items be removed from the status sheet as they are complete:

- March 7/13 regarding Steering Committee of National Zero Waste Council
- March 7/13 regarding Waste Strategy Public Consultation Process
- March 7/13 regarding presentation from Jason Lange
- November 1/12 regarding the future of Municipal Access Agreements – presentation from FCM

They asked staff to provide an update on status sheet item 11, the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Regional Plan, at the next meeting.

The Chair then called on Ms. Laurie Lewis, Waste Diversion Coordinator, to provide an update on the unwanted flyer distribution working group.

Ms. Lewis explained that the working group, led by Nova Scotia Environment, is working with the newspaper industry on a litter strategy to reduce waste and respond to complaints from the public. Stakeholders will be invited, but not obliged, to sign the agreement designed to enhance industry accountability and monitoring. She believed this to be a step in the right direction.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager of Solid Waste Resources noted that HRM is not a member of the working group, but is working closely with it to advance the Municipality's interests.

The Standing Committee expressed support for the mandate of the working group but was concerned that it would not meet its goals because:

- The program is voluntary rather than mandatory
- Similar commitments had been made in the past and were not carried out

The Standing Committee requested that staff prepare a written update on this matter and circulate it to all Councillors.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Councillor Watts – Motion regarding new HRM corporate buildings

This matter was discussed following item 7.1.4. See pages 10-11.

5.2 Councillor Craig – Draft Regional Plan 5 Year Review, Chapter 8

Chapter 8 of the draft Regional Plan was before the Standing Committee.

Councillor Craig asked that the following revisions be made:

- Section 8.2 should discuss stormwater in the flood plain.
- Section 8.7 should recognize that a solid waste review is underway and reaffirm HRM's commitment to diverting 88% of waste.
- Section 8.8 should be broadened in scope given that HRM is undertaking a variety of renewable energy projects, including wind, solar, geothermal and tri-generation.

Councillors Watts and Nicoll indicated that they sit on the Community Design Advisory Committee (CDAC), which is reviewing the draft Regional Plan. They offered to bring these points to the CDAC meeting of May 6, 2013.

Ms. Jane Fraser, Director of Planning and Infrastructure noted that revisions proposed by CDAC will be incorporated into a second draft from which HRM will solicit feedback from the public and stakeholders. Once this feedback is collected, CDAC will review the document a second time.

Members of the Standing Committee expressed interest in attending the next CDAC meeting, and asked that the Clerk send them the meeting information.

Deputy Mayor Rankin recommended that section 8.7 clarify that a solid waste review is underway, and that it could significantly impact the future of the Otter Lake facility and the Western Common Regional Park that surrounds it. After all, if Otter Lake were to become a waste resource campus, then its expansion could be at odds with landfill boundary policies. He offered to send these comments by e-mail to CDAC.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Correspondence from Ms. Wendy McDonald dated May 2, 2013 regarding stormwater projects in Clayton Park West

The Standing Committee acknowledged receipt of an email from Ms. McDonald responding to infrastructure priorities outlined in Information Report 3.

6.2 Petitions - NONE

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Nova Scotia Power regarding Power Shift Atlantic Project

The following documents were before the Standing Committee:

- A memo from Nova Scotia Power dated March 27, 2013
- A description of Power Shift Atlantic

Mr. Aaron McLean, Project Manager for Nova Scotia Power thanked the Standing Committee for the opportunity to present. He then introduced his colleagues, Ms. Kerry Jannex, Director of Retail Operations and Ms. Judy O'Leary, Customer Lead.

He explained that the Power Shift Atlantic Project is one of nineteen projects supported by the Clean Energy Fund of Natural Resources Canada. The project, underway since 2010, studies ways to shift customers' electricity usage to better align supply with wind generation availability. The project involves the governments of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, the University of New Brunswick and utilities across the Maritimes. It has won a number of awards, including from the Canadian Wind Energy Association.

Mr. McLean noted that the challenge with wind energy is that it varies with weather and peaks in the evening when energy consumption is at its lowest. The goal of the project is to shift energy loads to make more efficient use of wind generation – all the more important as Nova Scotia strives to meet its 2020 renewable energy targets.

Power Shift Atlantic tests technology and collects data in over 800 residential and commercial buildings across the Maritimes. In Nova Scotia alone, 450 residences have connected their water heaters and electronic thermal storage heaters to the project. Mr. McLean explained that, in this last leg of the project, Nova Scotia Power would like to include some HRM buildings in the commercial pilot. He noted that participation would be at no cost to the Municipality; HRM would simply need to sign a participation contract and identify appropriate buildings.

The Chair thanked Mr. McLean for his presentation, clarifying that while the Standing Committee can recommend that HRM participate, it is Regional Council that must approve the project.

In the ensuing question and answer session, the following points were raised:

- The Province of Nova Scotia is aware of Power Shift Atlantic, but is not a project partner
- A range of commercial customers are taking part in the pilot, including universities, retailers and small municipalities
- The technology being tested feeds real-time information to the system operator so that it can shift loads as required. In this regard, the project differs from smart meters, which focus on the consumer rather than the operator.
- Mr. McLean has already been in touch with HRM staff, who have identified a number of candidate buildings, like the BMO Centre and the Metro Transit Bus Depot at Ragged Lake.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee refer this matter to staff for their consideration and that staff's analysis be sent directly to Regional Council to expedite the process.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.3.2 Hefler Forest Products regarding COMFIT Application

A submission from Hefler Forest Products, with the following attachments, was before the Standing Committee:

- A description of the KMW thermal gasification-combustion process
- Letters of support from Mr. Percy Paris, MLA for Waverley-Fall River-Beaverbank; Mr. Matt Whynott, MLA Hammonds-Plains-Upper Sackville; David Wilson, MLA Sackville-Cobequid; and Mr. Brad Johns, Councillor for District 14 Beaverbank-Lucasville-Middle/Upper Sackville

Mr. Graham Gaetz of Hefler Lumber Products explained that his company intends to purchase a biomass generator, powered by mill waste, to heat its facility in Middle Sackville. He noted that the model selected is already in use in rural HRM and will help Hefler become more competitive, all the while reducing its environmental footprint.

Mr. Gaetz indicated that excess power would be fed into the electricity grid by way of the provincial Community Feed-in Tariff Program (COMFIT). As part of his COMFIT application, he must show that the host municipality - HRM - is supportive of the project. He believed that his project was consistent with HRM's Community Energy Plan and, on these grounds, requested a resolution from Regional Council expressing support for the COMFIT application.

Councillor Craig expressed support for the request, noting that Hefler Forest Products harnesses energy from the Sackville River and has shown to be a good steward of the environment.

Mr. Richard MacLellan explained that elected officials from the area, both provincial and municipal, have submitted letters in support of the COMFIT application. However, the installation of the generator and subsequent sale of excess power may be inconsistent with the Municipal Planning Strategy. He explained that HRM Planning is reviewing this matter.

The Chair, having spoken with the Solicitor, explained that the Standing Committee could move a motion of support for the project on the condition that it meets planning rules.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council that it endorse the Hefler Forest Products' COMFIT application so long as the biomass generator is consistent with HRM planning and development policies.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Nicoll left the meeting at 2:25 pm.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff Reports

7.1.1 Recommendation Report dated February 20, 2013 regarding lakes in HRM's urban area

The recommendation report of February 20, 2013 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee refer to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board the analysis of the HRM Lakes Water Quality Monitoring Program Data 2006-2011, with direction to provide the Standing Committee with observations and interpretation of the data with respect to those identified lakes that should be considered by staff prior to future land use planning projects.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Nicoll returned to the meeting at 2:28 pm.

7.1.2 Recommendation Report dated March 6, 2013 regarding LED Streetlight Conversation Project

The recommendation report dated March 6, 2013 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Craig that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council that the Halifax Regional Municipality:

- 1. Purchase all Nova Scotia Power owned outdoor lights directly servicing the municipality, using a stranded asset valuation approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board;**
- 2. Direct staff to communicate to the Department of Energy the implementation plan and solicitation strategy before June 30, 2013; and**
- 3. Direct staff to initiate the procurement process and solicitation strategy required to assess and award contracts for the optimal service delivery model.**

At the request of the Standing Committee, Mr. Labrecque clarified that the matter had been before Regional Council in May 2012. At that time, Council directed staff to develop an implementation plan, which is outlined in the report of March 6, 2013.

Councillors Nicoll and Craig asked a number of questions about the purchase of streetlights from Nova Scotia Power to which Mr. Angus Doyle, Utilities Coordination Manager noted the following:

- Staff is recommending that HRM own and manage all street lights in the Municipality instead of leasing them from Nova Scotia Power
- By 2022, HRM will convert all street lights to LED
- The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board set the parameters for the transfer of street lighting assets

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.3 Recommendation Report dated March 20, 2013 regarding Community Energy Plan Revision – Engagement Framework

The recommendation report of March 20, 2013 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to prepare a project framework

and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a revision to the Community Energy Plan, which includes a staff lead project and engagement with QUEST and the Halifax Chamber of Commerce's Energy Advisory Committee.

Councillor Watts noted that it will take two years to revise the Community Energy Plan. She wished to know what role the Standing Committee would play during this process, and what interim measures could be taken while the plan is being revised.

Mr. MacLellan explained that revisions to the Community Energy Plan will begin in 2013-2014, one year ahead of schedule. During the process, staff will continue to seek direction from the Standing Committee and Regional Council, and provide updates.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.4 Recommendation Report dated April 15, 2013 regarding HRM's Submission to the Nova Scotia Parks and Protected Areas Plan Consultation Process

The following were before the Standing Committee:

- A recommendation report dated April 15, 2013
- A provincial report entitled *Our Parks & Protected Areas: A Proposed Plan for Nova Scotia*

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee send a letter to the Nova Scotia Minister of the Environment:

- 1. Stating overall recognition and support of the draft provincial Our Parks and Protected Areas Plan based on alignment with HRM's Regional Plan;**
- 2. Requesting the consideration of increased protection for Crown lands in the Ingram River Watershed, Herring Cove Backlands, and the Sackville River Valley; and**
- 3. Indicating HRM's desire to further engage with the Province in on-going dialogue and future collaboration through the Regional Plan and the Greenbelting and Public Spaces Priorities Plan.**

The Standing Committee expressed support for the staff report, albeit with two amendments:

- HRM's submission should come from Regional Council, by way of the Mayor, instead of from the Standing Committee; and
- HRM should engage in on-going dialogue with the Province on the Regional Plan but not, at this stage, on the Greenbelting & Public Spaces Priorities Plan. The Standing Committee felt it was premature to collaborate with provincial officials on the latter as it has not been initiated by Council.

The Chair ruled the amendments friendly to the original motion.

Deputy Mayor Rankin noted that if HRM is asking the Province to take a leadership role in the management of public lands, then HRM must do the same in the Western Common Regional Park, which exceeds the size of the former City of Halifax.

Mr. John Charles, Planner, responded to questions about the 14 natural corridors, noting that 11 of 14 have been achieved or partially achieved. The 3 outstanding corridors are in central HRM.

The Standing Committee then voted on the amended motion:

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council send a letter to the Nova Scotia Minister of the Environment:

- 1. Stating overall recognition and support of the draft provincial Our Parks and Protected Areas Plan based on alignment with HRM's Regional Plan;**
- 2. Requesting the consideration of increased protection for Crown lands in the Ingram River Watershed, Herring Cove Backlands, and the Sackville River Valley; and**
- 3. Indicating HRM's desire to further engage with the Province in on-going dialogue and future collaboration through the Regional Plan.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Councillor Watts – Motion regarding new HRM corporate buildings

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee request staff to prepare a briefing note exploring how HRM, through the Community Energy Plan or otherwise, could make new HRM corporate buildings “Solar Ready” for the future.

Councillor Watts explained that she would like staff to consider what steps would be necessary for new HRM buildings to be more energy efficient than current buildings. As this was a preliminary request for information, and not a request to develop policy, she believed a briefing note would suffice.

The Standing Committee, with staff, discussed whether this request could be incorporated into the Community Energy Plan or addressed as part of HRM's efforts to reach LEED Silver designation. They agreed that a briefing note was appropriate.

They also noted that since March 2013 there has been confusion around what Standing Committees can and cannot do. They asked that the Clerk clarify the powers of Standing Committees, specifically around requesting staff reports. They asked that the response be circulated to all Councillors.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. **MOTIONS - NONE**
9. **ADDED ITEMS - NONE**
10. **NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**
11. **NEXT MEETING DATE - June 6, 2013 (Dartmouth Chamber)**
12. **IN CAMERA**

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee convene in camera to discuss appointments to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Standing Committee convened in camera at 3:05 pm.

12.1 Personnel Matter

12.1.1 Appointments to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board

This was dealt with in camera.

At 3:30 pm, the Standing Committee reconvened in public session. Deputy Mayor Rankin left the meeting at 3:33 pm.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee request that Halifax Regional Council make the following amendments the Terms of Reference of the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board:

1. **Allow the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee to appoint up to nine (9) members rather than eight (8);**
2. **Stagger appointments in order to build and maintain technical and procedural expertise; and**

- 3. Clearly define which candidates qualify for the academic seats in order to facilitate the appointments process**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 pm.

Ted Aubut
Legislative Assistant