



**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 2, 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice-Chair
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Brad Johns
Deputy Mayor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Bill Karsten

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor David Hendsbee

STAFF: Mr. Brad Anguish, Acting DCAO
Mr. Josh Judah, Solicitor
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Phoebe Smith, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee are available online:

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCenv/essc150402agenda-HRM.php>

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m., and moved into an In Camera session at 2:06. The Standing Committee reconvened at 2:26 p.m., and adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 5, 2015

Deputy Mayor Nicoll noted that her name was misspelled in the minutes and queried whether Councillor Dalrymple was present at the meeting.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the minutes of the March 5, 2015 meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicoll that the agenda be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

7.1 Appointment of Representative to the Community Design Advisory Committee

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee appoint Councillor Johns to serve as the Committee representative to the Community Design Advisory Committee.

Councillor Johns accepted the nomination.

The Chair called three times for additional nominations. There being none, it was **MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicoll that nominations be closed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence - NONE

8.2 Petitions - NONE

8.3 Presentation

Councillor Watts made a statement regarding the forthcoming report from Waste Processing Technologies in May. She noted that the agenda review committee for the Environment and Sustainability

Standing Committee will make decisions on waste from energy requests for presentation based on this report.

Councillor Dalrymple requested that presentations on this matter be made before the summer while the presenters are still available.

8.3.1 Dalhousie Students Raja Ubhi and Aidan Gerard re: District Energy Project

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A presentation dated April 2, 2015 entitled “Transforming the Cogswell Interchange: An Opportunity for District Energy”

Mr. Raja Ubhi and Mr. Aiden Gerard of Connecting Landscapes, a student working group representing Dalhousie University’s College of Sustainability, gave a brief presentation to provide information to the Committee. Their presentation gave an overview of District Energy and its potential for Halifax, including case studies and a feasibility analysis. They concluded by inviting the Committee members to an upcoming roundtable event.

In response to a question from Councillor Karsten, the presenters noted that the figures from the case studies presented were not adjusted to today’s dollars.

Councillor Dalrymple provided some context with respect to past discussions at Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meetings regarding the subject. He noted that whereas District Energy was previously thought to be outside the municipal mandate, this view has changed and more Councillors and staff are open to consideration of District Energy projects. Councillor Watts added that there was an information report before the Committee at this meeting regarding District Energy opportunities in the Cogswell Interchange Land Redevelopment Plan.

Deputy Mayor Nicoll requested that a copy of the presentation be sent to Jane Fraser, Director of Operations Support. She noted that economic development is very much related to environmental protection.

Councillor Watts thanked the presenters and noted that their presentation was timely because for District Energy to be implemented in a cost-effective way, it must be considered very early in the development process. She highlighted the potential for a multiplier effect across the municipality in terms of both environmental and economic benefits.

8.3.2 HRM Students Breanna Wilkes and Emily Davis re: Climate Change Labelling

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A presentation dated April 2, 2015 entitled “Climate Change & Air Pollution Labels on Gas Pumps”
- A document entitled “#FaceTheChange: Changing Communities in a Changing Climate”
- A document entitled “HRM Legal Powers Overview”
- An article from Municipal World, March 2015 issue, by Robert Shirkey entitled “Creating a New Normal: Using air pollution labels on gas pumps as a step in addressing climate challenges”
- An article from Municipal World, April 2015 issue, by Robert Shirkey entitled “Update on Pump Handle Labelling: District of West Vancouver unanimously passes resolution requesting legislation”

Ms. Breanna Wilkes and Ms. Emily Davis, grade 9 students representing the non-profit group Our Horizon, delivered a brief presentation urging Councillors to consider implementing gas pump labelling to reinforce the causal relationship between adding fuel to a gas tank and the effects of climate change, with the ultimate goal of changing attitudes and behaviours regarding the use of fossil fuels. The presenters highlighted the recent West Vancouver resolution that gas vendors provide these warning labels and

noted that this initiative will be before the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in June 2016. They encouraged Councillors to endorse the FCM resolution.

Councillor Dalrymple requested an update from Councillor Karsten on where this initiative stands with FCM at the next Committee meeting. He noted that there is a question of jurisdiction regarding this issue, but noted that considering the West Vancouver resolution there may be some opportunity for Halifax Regional Municipality to get involved.

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Tantallon, Musquodoboit and Porters Lake Watershed Studies

The following was before Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 5, 2015

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council that the Tantallon Watershed Servicing Report, the Porters Lake Watershed Servicing Study Report and the Musquodoboit Harbour Watershed Study Report be accepted as background for future planning in these communities.

Councillor Watts noted that there were additional recommendations from the Regional Watershed Advisory Board (RWAB), but that staff indicated those could be dealt with individually. Councillor Dalrymple followed up with a question to staff whether all additional recommendations from RWAB would be addressed through community planning initiatives.

Mr. Paul Morgan, Senior Planner, Planning and Development, noted that there is already ongoing work on some of the recommendations, citing Halifax Water's major project upgrading waste-water systems and the study being done on the Sackville River with respect to flood plain mapping in high risk areas. He noted that some recommendations may not be feasible, such as establishing wastewater management districts in each of the communities. Mr. Morgan highlighted that the recommendations may be viable in some communities but not in others, and indicated that there would be consultations held with the communities.

Responding to a follow up question from Councillor Dalrymple, Mr. Morgan noted that through the Regional Plan adopted by Council, staff has been directed to consider the viability of implementing required regular maintenance of on-site septic fields including mandatory septic tank pump-outs.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 COMMITTEES - NONE

9.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

9.3.1 Update - Solid Waste Regional Chairs Committee – Councillor Watts

Councillor Watts provided a brief verbal update of the activities of the Solid Waste Regional Chairs Committee, noting that the NS Department of Environment has completed public consultations on proposed changes to the provincial solid waste regulations and has issued a "What We Heard" document, which may be a discussion item in the next Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meeting. The report was circulated to Committee members and can be accessed online at <http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/waste/>

9.3.2 Update on FCM Sustainability Conference – Councillor Karsten

Councillor Karsten provided a brief verbal update on the FCM Sustainability Conference, noting that a highlight was a workshop on how sustainability must be viewed as an economic driver. Councillor Karsten agreed to organize a public presentation of the FCM Sustainable Community Award for the Solar City program to the Mayor.

10. MOTIONS - NONE

11. 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:

11.1 Personnel Matter

A matter pertaining to a personnel matter about an identifiable individual/individuals or body with who the municipality has a direct interest.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Karsten to convene to an In Camera session to address personnel matters. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee convened to an in camera session at 2:06 p.m. to address the following matter:

11.1.1 Citizen Nominations to the Board of the Halifax Water Commission

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee reconvened to the public session at 2:26 p.m. to ratify the following motion.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee proceed to nominate two (2) residents to serve on the Board of the Halifax Water Commission. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday, May 7, 2015 or Thursday, May 14, 2015

The Committee agreed to move the date of the next meeting to May 14, 2015 due to a conflict with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Spring Workshop.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Phoebe Smith
Legislative Assistant