

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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**ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**June 18, 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Sue Uteck, Chair  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Councillor Barry Dalrymple  
Councillor Stephen Adams  
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair  
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse

REGRETS: Councillor Darren Fisher

STAFF: Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager, Utilities Coordination  
Mr. Julian Boyle, Energy Auditor  
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environmental  
Management Office  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Adams that the minutes of April 16, 2010 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- 6.1 Councillor Dalrymple - Request for Staff Report - Biolube
- 6.2 Councillor Dalrymple - Compost Tea - Information Item
- 6.3 Councillor Watts - Wood First Strategy

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

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/DEFERRED ITEMS: None**

**5. REPORTS:**

**5.1 Staff:**

**5.1.1 Cole Harbour - Eastern Passage Transmission Project**

This item had been referred to the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee by a motion of Regional Council at its June 8, 2010 meeting. The motion requested the Committee make a recommendation at a future meeting on a preferred option with regard to Nova Scotia Power's Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage Transmission Project.

Councillor Nicoll was in attendance to address this matter with the Committee. She indicated that she brought the matter before Regional Council to request a staff report on the project including details on the options NSP is proposing, the implications of those options and how NSP are mitigating the impacts on the community and residents. She added that the motion also requested staff explore other alternatives, such as undergrounding or alternative routes with NSP, and that the EUGS Committee provide a recommendation on a preferred option.

A discussion ensued and staff advised that the report would take more than a month to complete as this matter crosses over several business units, and the lead business unit has not yet been determined.

Councillor Hum entered the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Councillor Barkhouse entered the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning noted that staff have been in communication with Nova Scotia Power on this issue, and have been providing them advice with regard to a process for public consultation. He added that once NSP has gone through their public consultation and determined which route they intend to proceed, staff will then be in a position to make its recommendation to Council.

### **5.1.2 Presentation - Green Solar Labs**

Mr. Alex Pavlorski, Green Power Labs, and Mr. John Crace were in attendance and gave a presentation on the potential for solar opportunities in the Municipality. Points noted in their remarks are as follows:

- Solar power is becoming an issue at almost every scale of building development.
- Noted the importance of understanding the capacity for solar power and keeping it in mind in future development
- Nova Scotia has the potential solar energy per year of 55,500,000 megawatts.
- The technologies involved are: Solar Air Heating; Solar Water Heating; Residential Solar Power (converts sunlight into energy); Utility Scale Solar power
- Examples cited of where the technology has been used in Nova Scotia were: Bedford Institute of Oceanography (integrated PV in the glass); a long-term care facility in Baddeck uses solar panels for heating hot water; and solar panels on the Joggins Fossil Center
- It was noted that Dalhousie University undertook an energy planning exercise using Lidar technology-- a data model of the University was built and they were able to build a solar energy map for every building on campus. This provided comprehensive information on where to use the technology and provided the energy potential of every building.

A discussion ensued. Mr. Boyle noted that, corporately, HRM is starting to build capacity and knowledge in this area. Mr. MacLellan added that staff are looking at ways of obtaining funds to create a solar map.

- It was noted that there was a new generation of graduates coming out of community college with skills in this area.
- This technology was discussed in the Regional Plan; it was noted that ideas like this need to be forwarded to the staff that are tasked with creating the scope for the Regional Plan Review.
- The City of Vancouver now has a bylaw requiring that new construction have a roughed-in kit for solar technology.
- A suggestion was put forward that staff put together a tool kit in regard to the available options.
- It was noted that the City of Vancouver has a website that enables residents to calculate their own solar potential; and it was suggested that

- staff give consideration of doing something similar here.
- Concern was expressed that waiting for the Regional Plan review would be too late, as there are opportunities arising now. In some parts of the City there is intensive development occurring but at the public meetings held on proposed developments there is little to no mention of alternate energy sources.

Councillor Adams indicated that he had another appointment to attend and he retired from the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

- It was pointed out that staff have a bylaw in progress with regard to clarifying utility corridors--this is primarily driven by the District Heating initiative.
- a suggestion was put forward that a solar bylaw could be created without waiting for the review on the Regional Plan.

### **5.1.3 Feed-In Tariff Update (verbal)**

Mr. Julian Boyle indicated that the Provincial Government has created a policy around renewable energy and electricity generation. He added that legislation was enacted in May and, subsequently, it was put out for a 60-day term for public comment on the regulation framework. Mr. Boyle explained that the Province has decided to segregate 300 megawatts of electricity generation into three projects: 100 megawatts for Nova Scotia Power in Wind; 100 megawatts for Industry, and 100 megawatts for Municipalities and nonprofits. He noted that each project will require two to three hundred million dollars in investment. Mr. Boyle advised that the feed-in tariff will set a commercial rate with the producer in the Municipality with a guaranteed rate. He advised that staff will keep the Committee updated.

### **5.1.4 HRM Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory 2008**

A staff report dated May 18, 2010 was submitted.

**MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee accept the HRM Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory 2008, as outlined in the May 18, 2010 staff report and forward to Regional Council as an Information Report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5.2 Committee Members:** None.

## **6. ADDED ITEMS:**

### **6.1. Councillor Dalrymple - Request for Staff Report - Biolube**

Councillor Dalrymple indicated that he had a motion to put forward on behalf of Councillor Fisher.

**MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse that staff provide Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee a report on the potential of substituting Biolube or equivalent competitive solutions for existing penetrants / lubricants in HRM operations. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **6.2 Councillor Dalrymple - Compost Tea - Information Item**

Councillor Dalrymple advised that last evening he attended a demonstration which included showing how roses treated with compost tea respond versus roses not treated. He advised that it was very impressive, and distributed information leaflets to the Committee members.

## **6.3 Councillor Watts - Wood First Strategy**

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hum that staff provide a report on 'Wood First' initiatives in other parts of Canada and internationally (Sweden); and provide options for a strategy to implement a Wood First policy in HRM including policy changes. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **7. NEXT MEETING DATE - July 16, 2010**

It was generally agreed that there would be no July meeting unless staff had pressing items for the Committee to deal with.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m. and the Committee convened an in camera session.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant

The following information items were submitted:

1. Information Report dated April 13, 2010 - Update on HRM Greenhouse Gas Emissions Initiatives
2. Information Report dated April 2, 2010 - Green Driving Initiatives
3. Information Report dated April 20, 2010 - Carsharing