

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 30, 2003**

PRESENT: Councillor Jim Smith, Chair
Councillor Gary Hines
Councillor Gary Meade
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Dawn Sloane

STAFF: Mr. Brian Smith, General Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Jim Bauld, Coordinator, Diversion Planning
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Coordinator, Collection and Processing
Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councillor Rankin called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

The following item was added to the agenda:

8.1 Preston C & D - Update

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Hines, that the agenda be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Mr. Brian Smith, Director, Solid Waste Resources, temporarily assumed the Chair for the election. Mr. Smith opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee.

Councillor Sloane **nominated** Councillor Smith.

Councillor Hines **nominated** Councillor Rankin.

Both nominees briefly addressed the Committee. Following the vote, **Councillor Smith was elected as Chair** of the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee.

Councillor Smith assumed the Chair and thanked the Committee for its support. Councillor Rankin also expressed thanks to the Chair and the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Hines, that the ballots be destroyed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2002**

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Hines, that the minutes of October 10, 2002, be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No one from the public came forward to address the Committee at this time.

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

5.1 **Reusable Diapers - Information Report**

- C An Information Report prepared for Brian T. Smith, General Manager, Solid Waste Resources, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration.
- C Copies of the *Winter 2003 Naturally Green* newsletter were provided to the Committee.

Mr. Jim Bauld, Coordinator, Diversion Planning, briefly reviewed the Information Report for the Committee. The report was in response to a presentation regarding reusable diapers made by Mr. Dan O'Sullivan, Fall River Laundry, at the October 10, 2002 meeting. Mr. Bauld noted that he advised Mr. O'Sullivan that his service has been included in the Community Page of the *Winter 2003 Naturally Green* newsletter.

In response to a question of Councillor Sloane regarding information links and the availability of the *Naturally Green* newsletter on the Solid Waste Resources web site, Mr. Bauld agreed to follow up on this to confirm what is available. Mr. Smith stated it is his understanding that a listing of locations is included on the site. Councillor Sloane suggested as much information as possible should be provided on the web site regarding reducing, reusing and recycling.

Councillor Mosher requested clarification as to how many children would be included in the \$2,800 annual cost for diaper service referred to in Mr. O'Sullivan's presentation, as well as a comparative cost for disposable diapers. The Councillor also expressed concern regarding any potential legal implications and the perception of promoting one particular business by listing it in the newsletter. In response, Mr. Bauld noted this company is the only business in the area that provides such a service. Councillor Mosher noted other services listed on the Community Page are charities and non-profit organizations, and stated she could not support including a private business. On the other hand, Councillor Hines questioned how people would become aware of the availability of such a service if it is not included. He noted there is no issue of competition at this time as this is the only company providing the service. It was agreed that staff would review this issue further and come back to the Committee with a report providing further information.

5.2 **Construction and Demolition Sites - Set Backs and Liners**

- C A staff report prepared for Brian T. Smith, General Manager, Solid Waste Resources,

regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration.

Mr. Bauld presented the report to the Committee noting the matter of setbacks and liners at Construction and Demolition disposal sites was referred by Regional Council to the Committee for review and recommendation. At the last Committee meeting, staff was requested to run three scenarios of enhancements to the separation distance setbacks to watercourses, quarries, provincial parks and wilderness areas. With the use of maps, Mr. Bauld illustrated the following scenarios:

Scenario 1 - A two kilometer buffer from parks and wilderness areas. Mr. Bauld noted if this buffer was implemented, a lot of HRM would not have any eligible sites for C&D activity.

Scenario 2 - A 500 meter separation distance for watercourses. This scenario would also create very few eligible sites.

Scenario 3 - An overlay of both Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 combined.

Based on this information, Mr. Bauld stated staff is recommending that no changes be made to the setbacks and that the status quo be maintained.

MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that the separation distances, insurance and bonding requirements as specified in By-Law L-200 and the liner requirements for a C&D disposal facility, as specified in the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour Construction and Demolition Disposal Guidelines, be maintained.

Councillor Sloane requested that the issue of liner requirements be voted on as a separate motion. The Mover and Seconder agreed to the request. However, Mr. Smith referenced Page 7 of the minutes of the October 10, 2002 meeting, noting the Committee passed motions regarding the issues of insurance and bonding requirements and liner requirements, and he stated the recommendation before the Committee at this time should only refer to separation distances as this is the matter on which staff was requested to provide further information. Based on this information, the following amendment was put on the floor:

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Hines, that the issues of insurance and bonding requirements and liner requirements be deleted from the motion as they have already been addressed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The vote was then taken on the amended motion which read as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that the separation distances for a C&D disposal facility, as specified in the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour Construction and Demolition Disposal Guidelines, be maintained. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS REPORT - VERBAL

- C A Year to Date: 01 April 2002 - 31 December 2002, Waste/Resource System report was circulated to the Committee.

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Coordinator, Collection and Processing, presented the report to the Committee. In response to questions of Councillor Mosher, Mr. Smith stated this is just an operations report for the year-to-date, and issues such as population and business increases and trend changes would be addressed during the budgetary process.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Otter Lake Landfill Gas Capture System - Presentation

Mr. Smith advised the Committee that for the first time in the history of Otter Lake there were some odour complaints received over the holiday season in December 2002. Mr. Smith noted that staff recently had a detailed conversation with the Community Monitoring Committee for that facility regarding this issue, and it appears a generation of landfill gas has arisen earlier than expected due to the amount of rainfall exhilarating the process. He noted the odour reports were fairly indirect, therefore, it took a while to discover the cause of the problem.

With the use of overheads, Mr. Bauld illustrated the Otter Lake Waste Resources Facility - Year End Summary and the Temporary Landfill Gas Piping Plan. Mr. Bauld stated this temporary piping plan will remain in place until such time the permanent plan is implemented.

In response to questions of the Committee, the following points were made:

- C There may be some impacts on the HRM budget with respect to this issue, but staff do not have that information at this time.
- C If increased capacity is required, it can be added to the existing system.
- C There have been no odour complaints in the last three weeks.
- C There has been no immediate indication that the odour problem is being created by the Hwy. 103 connector pumping station.

Responding to a question of Councillor Smith regarding the reporting process for this facility, Councillor Rankin explained the mandate and role of the Community Monitoring Committee, noting this Committee, on behalf of HRM, has been communicating with the public regarding the concerns. Councillor Smith stated his concern is how serious would a situation at the composting plant have to be before SWRAC members are advised. He noted that they may receive phone calls on the matter and not be aware of it. Mr. Smith stated staff would take this under consideration and suggested some information regarding the role and mandate of the Community Monitoring Committee could be provided to the SWRAC members to help clarify the matter.

As she had to leave the meeting for a brief period, Councillor Sloane requested that Item 7.3 Solid Waste Resource System Review - Presentation be addressed before Item 7.2 Green Cart Usage and Weekly Collection Survey - Presentation. The Committee agreed to her request.

7.3 Solid Waste Resource System Review - Presentation

With the use of overheads, Mr. Bauld presented the ISW/RM System Review.

- C Mr. Smith advised the Committee a presentation of the results of the study can be scheduled for the SWRAC.

Councillor Rankin requested that the following be taken into consideration in the study:

- C Is there a better way to deliver education?
- C Are there other deliverables that can be examined?
- C Are there more opportunities for outsourcing?
- C What are the impacts of external impacts (ie. Will East Hants/West Hants build a new landfill?)

Councillor Rankin also advised the Committee that Canadian Waste has indicated if there is a municipal deficit, it would be interested in purchasing the landfill. The Councillor suggested that this matter be referred to staff. In response, Mr. Smith stated this would be a separate issue from the study.

Councillor Mosher suggested the following also be taken into consideration in the study:

- C The effectiveness and cost of the *Naturally Green* newsletter.
- C What methods are being used by the haulers to determine compliance (ie. measuring

tape, scales)?

Councillor Mosher submitted a letter to Mr. Smith from a resident expressing concerns regarding compliance and the behaviour of the haulers. Mr. Smith agreed to review and respond to the letter. He suggested the concerns raised could be placed on a future Committee agenda.

7.2 Green Cart Usage and Weekly Collection Survey - Presentation

With the use of overheads, Mr. Ken Donnelly, Lura Consulting, presented the Green Cart Usage and Weekly Collection Survey to the Committee. Copies of his presentation were provided to the Committee members. During the presentation, the following requests were made:

- C Councillor Sloane requested a breakdown of the survey for the "B3J" postal code.
- C Councillor Rankin requested information on what HRM's investment would be for weekly collection in the summer and what would be the return investment for the taxpayers.
- C Councillor Mosher suggested a sentence or two should be added to the education material regarding snow removal and solid waste collection.

Councillor Mosher questioned why the survey did not ask if residents would use the green cart more if there was weekly pickup. The Councillor stated she would have preferred a more direct question than the one used which asked if the respondent uses the green cart less in the summer months.

Councillor Mosher also suggested a brief explanation of the relationship between the green cart pick up and snow removal could be placed in the education material.

In response to a question regarding worm composting, Mr. Smith advised the Committee that Solid Waste Resources in considering performing a trial of this composting system.

Mr. Donnelly commented on a similar survey conducted for another municipality, and stated the acceptance, perceived convenience, and positive environmental aspects of the program were not nearly as high as that of Halifax Regional Municipality. He attributed the variation to the different approaches taken with respect to communication.

Councillor Smith thanked Mr. Donnelly for his presentation.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Preston C & D - Update

In response to a question of Councillor Meade regarding Preston C & D, Mr. Bauld advised the Committee that HRM has filed an affidavit looking for an injunction until such time it meets the C&D By-Law, licensing agreement, and fire code. The matter is now with HRM Legal Services.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed the next two meetings will be held on February 27, 2003 and March 27, 2003.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Patti Halliday
Legislative Assistant