

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 27, 2003**

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

REGRETS: Councillor Gary Meade

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 Smith called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. Although there was no quorum, it was agreed to proceed with general discussion items until a quorum was achieved.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 27, 2003

This was addressed later in the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Stephen Taylor, Enviro Waste Ltd., addressed the Committee in response to the Committee's discussion regarding the contamination of organics at the compost plants by the inclusion of plastics in the waste stream. Mr. Taylor quoted from the residential collection contract, making the following points:

- C The contract states there is no plea of ignorance and the haulers are responsible for their actions.
- C If the haulers do not perform properly, they are liable and will have to pay in accordance with the contract.
- C The compost plants should not receive any plastics because the contractors are not permitted to haul them.
- C The contractor is responsible for training its employees, drivers, and collectors and providing them with information on municipal source separation systems, stickering and rejection.
- C A fine of \$250 is imposed after two to ten incidences of collecting improper materials and for not following the criteria for the rejection of materials.
- C The commercial collection coverage is even better than that of residential.

Councillor Smith thanked Mr. Taylor for his comments.

No further speakers came forth.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Committee Mandate

- C A copy of the Terms of Reference of the HRM Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee was provided to the Committee for its information.

Mr. Brian Smith, General Manager, Solid Waste Resources, noted the Terms of Reference state the Committee is composed of eight members of Council and the Committee is currently operating with six. Mr. Jim Bauld, Coordinator, Diversion Planning, suggested this is something the Committee may want to address.

Councillor Mosher stated, once a quorum is achieved, she would be willing to put forth a motion to change the Terms of Reference for the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee to amend the composition of the Committee from eight members of Council to six.

Councillor Rankin noted the profile and issues of the Committee are not the same as they were in 1996 when the Committee was originally struck, and, therefore, he would support the change. With respect to the Mayor, the Councillor clarified that he is not an ex-officio member, rather he is a standing member of the Committee.

Later in the meeting when a quorum was achieved, the following motion was put forth:

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that it be recommended to Council that the Terms of Reference for the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee be amended to change the composition of the Committee from the Mayor and eight members of Council to the Mayor and six members of Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.2 Update - Approval Process: C & D Applications

This item was addressed later in the meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Operations Report

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Coordinator, Collection and Processing, presented the Waste/Resource System Mass Balance, Year to Date (April 1, 2002 - Feb. 28, 2003) to the Committee. A copy of her presentation was submitted for the record.

Councillor Rankin requested that the report be provided to the Committee in advance in the future. Ms. Lewis apologized for the late receipt of the report noting staff were busy preparing for budget presentations. She stated staff will endeavour to have the report to the Committee in advance in the future.

(Councillor Hines took his place at the meeting at 2:35 p.m. and a quorum was achieved.)

Responding to a question of Councillor Rankin regarding conducting informal surveys with the private recyclers in the last three or four weeks, Mr. Smith stated this has not been done as staff were concentrating on budgets during that time period. He indicated that it would be part of the upcoming system review, but staff could check around and obtain rough figures. Councillor Rankin inquired what was the commercial figure for recycling for 2001-2002. Mr. Smith stated staff could forward that information to the Councillor.

With regard to commercial recycling, Councillor Rankin stated it is his understanding an external study will be conducted which will have to address the private recyclers as well. He further stated that HRM would like to, on a sustaining basis, find out what is happening with that sector of the industry. He suggested this should be done sooner rather than later in order to be able to refine the assumptions.

Ms. Lewis then reviewed a new initiative with Bedford Condominium Properties to decrease the contamination in the organic stream. In response to a question of Councilor Hines, Ms. Lewis noted this initiative would involve approximately 1,500 units. Councillor Smith inquired how will monitoring of this program be done. Ms. Lewis responded that it will involve HRM and the hauler.

There being no further questions, Councillor Smith thanked Ms. Lewis for her presentation.

As there was now a quorum, the Committee returned to the unaddressed agenda items.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bauld requested the following items be added to the agenda:

- 6.1 Organic Green Cart Program
- 6.2 Backyard Compost Bin Sale

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Councillor Mosher noted a correction in the minutes on Page 5. She clarified her comments with respect to Clean Nova Scotia and requested the minutes be amended as follows:

It was also suggested that solid waste educational material could be included with the material sent out by Clean Nova Scotia through their energy audit program whereby they provide homeowners with an energy audit of their home.

Mr. Smith stated he believes this information is part of the Water Resources package. Councillor Mosher noted she recently had an energy audit conducted at her home and it was not included in the information package she received. Mr. Bauld noted the material was supplied in the past but it is possible that they ran out. He agreed to follow up on this.

MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that the minutes of February 27, 2003 be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(Councillor Sloane took her place at the meeting at 2:45 p.m.)

4.2 Update - Approval Process: C & D Applications

Mr. Bauld gave an update regarding RDM Recycling Limited noting they were issued a license this week, under By-Law L-200, for a C&D disposal facility at their site in Harrietsfield, thus completing all municipal approvals. He noted the only remaining approval is to come from the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment. With respect to this approval, Mr. Bauld referenced a newspaper ad respecting the 14 day period for any residents of the area to make comments about the proposed C&D disposal operation at that location. He noted this will be the last approval required for the facility.

In response to a question of Councillor Sloane regarding complaints of an odour from RDM, Mr. Bauld stated as part of the approval process RDM was required to submit an odour management plan. He noted there is a large pile of gyproc on the site which is saturated with water, thus giving off gases. As part of the approval process, HRM worked with RDM to install a temporary cover and some collection infrastructure pipes with a fan to draw up the odour through a charcoal filter. Mr. Bauld noted the intent is once RDM receives approval from the Department of the Environment, this material will be disposed of.

Mr. Bauld then provided the Committee with an update regarding Halifax C & D Recycling. Mr. Peter Dwyer, William Alexander Associates, the consultant for Halifax C & D Recycling, was in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Bauld stated it is the intention of the applicant to have the HRM and provincial approvals concluded by mid-May and to establish a disposal facility early in the summer.

Councillor Smith thanked Mr. Bauld for the update.

5.2 Update on Odour Control Activities at Otter Lake

This item was addressed later in the meeting.

5.3 Municipal Cooperation - Landfill Space

- C Correspondence from Mr. Ian Glasgow, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of East Hants, dated February 20, 2003, re: Solid Waste Management - Residuals Disposal Service, to Mr. George McLellan, CAO, was circulated to the Committee.

Mr. Bauld reviewed the correspondence noting there is a request from East Hants for HRM to accept up to 5,000 tonnes of waste from East Hants in order to assist them in meeting the Nova Scotia Department of Environment requirements. He noted similar correspondence has been sent to other municipalities in Nova Scotia. With regard to the request, Mr. Bauld stated the HRM strategy is to manage the material generated within HRM and there is no fundamental principle that anticipates accepting waste from outside the region or exporting waste. He noted the issue of capacity of the Otter Lake facility would also be an issue.

Councillor Rankin suggested this matter should be referred to the Community Monitoring Committee, which has a mandate to look after the affairs of the solid waste facility at Otter Lake, for comment.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that the correspondence from East Hants be referred to the Community Monitoring Committee for comment and deliberation of this issue by the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee be deferred until such time a response is received.

Mr. Smith noted staff's position is that Otter Lake does not have the extra capacity to deal with this request. He noted HRM is working jointly with other municipalities on other issues such as compost contingency plans.

Councillor Sloane expressed concern that if HRM accepts solid waste from other municipalities, it will expedite the closure of cells at Otter Lake. She stated she did not agree with forwarding the request to the Community Monitoring Committee as this issue should not be explored.

In discussion of the motion, Councillor Rankin stated if the issue is HRM does not have the capacity to accept additional solid waste, a decision on the request could be made now. However, the Councillor stated the decision should not be on the basis that HRM cannot

accept another municipality's solid waste. Councillor Rankin suggested, as a courtesy, the correspondence could be sent to the Community Monitoring Committee.

Mr. Smith noted the Otter Lake facility had to be expanded to deal with HRM's waste, so it would not make sense to add a further amount on a long-term basis. He stated he had no problem with advising the Community Monitoring Committee of the issue.

Councillor Rankin stated since capacity is the basis of the response, he agreed to withdraw his motion and put forth the following motion:

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that a response be sent to East Hants declining the request and that the letter also be referred to the Community Monitoring Committee for its information. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5.2 Update on Odour Control Activities at Otter Lake

With the use of overheads, Mr. Smith provided the Committee with an update on odour control activities at Otter Lake and illustrated the drilling program currently taking place at the site. Mr. Smith noted there will be a report to Council regarding this issue as there are financial implications with respect to the cell closure being necessary earlier than expected.

Mr. Smith stated the Council report will be provided to the Committee, but staff would like the matter to go to Council for the Committee's next meeting.

Responding to a question of Councillor Sloane regarding potential harnessing of fuel, Mr. Smith stated this has been explored but the amount and strength will first have to be determined.

Councillor Rankin expressed concern with unsubstantiated claims regarding odours recently made in the media, noting this creates difficulty for local representation and it harms the community. Mr. Smith noted staff is working with the local Councillor on a neighbourhood newsletter to fill in some of the information gaps.

Responding to a question of Councillor Smith regarding funding, Mr. Smith stated staff is seeking a capital budget project approval from Council. This is not additional funding, rather it is earlier funding.

Councillor Rankin requested that when this matter goes to Council that it reflect three to four years in advance and what is happening overall and not just with this particular cell. Councillor Smith thanked staff for the report.

6. ADDED ITEMS

6.1 Organic Green Cart Program

- C A staff report prepared for Brian T. Smith, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, regarding the organic green cart program, was circulated to the Committee.

Mr. Bauld briefly reviewed the staff report, which was in response to questions raised by Councillor Sloane during the 2003/2004 Regional Council budget deliberations, and responded to a couple of questions of the Committee.

Councillor Smith thanked staff for the report.

6.2 Backyard Compost Bin Sale

- C A advertisement for an upcoming backyard compost bin sale was circulated to the Committee for its information.

Mr. Bauld noted there would be 1,200 backyard compost bins for sale on April 5 & 6, 2003 at two locations: Mic Mac Mall and the Ideal Home Show. Any not sold at this sale will be stored and sold over the next few months on future weekends. HRM's cost per bin is \$12.00.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

Councillor Smith requested that information be provided at that meeting regarding the disposal of the demolition debris from Northbrook School in Dartmouth.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Patti Halliday
Legislative Assistant

