

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

May 22, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Debbie Hum
Councillor Gary Meade
Councillor Mary Wile
Councillor Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Krista Snow

STAFF: Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid
Waste Resources
Ms. Sandra T. Riley, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Councillor Karsten, called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm in the Media Room, City Hall.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Tim Outhit as the newest member of the Committee. Councillor Outhit informed the Committee that he is the President of NovaKnowledge, and as such has heard of the accomplishments of the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee, on which he congratulated them.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 28, 2008

MOVED by Councilor Hum, seconded by Councilor Hendsbee, that the minutes from February 28, 2008 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

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

Added items:

- 9.1 Backyard Composts - Councillor Meade
- 9.2 Upcoming Events - Mr. Jim Bauld

MOVED by Councilor Hum, seconded by Councilor Meade, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Memorandum - Net Waste/Resource System Mass Balance - May 09, 2008

Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, gave a brief overview of the memo stated above, along with the attachment Item 6.1.1 - Net Waste/Resource System Mass Balance - YTD 01 April 2007- 31 March 2008. Mr. Bauld reminded the Committee that in the February meeting, Councillor Rankin commented that the Solid Waste/Resource System Mass Balance reports provided at each meeting did not reflect the net tonnage disposed annually. He advised that the memorandum and attachment before the Committee outlines and clarifies that concern.

Mr. Bauld stated that this is the first time that Staff has calculated the net diversion rates and reiterated the second last paragraph on the memorandum, which states:

As a caution, there are a variety of methodologies to measure diversion. Some municipalities (not HRM) include dewatered sewage sludge and recovered automobiles. The NS Dept of Environment's methodology is a comparison of total tonnes disposed per capita in most recent year compared to 1989 - the base line year. HRM's methodology is a percentage of total tonnes received from the total tonnes generated, in the same current year.

Mr. Bauld advised that this is more reflective of the participation by the general public. A discussion ensued with the following concerns of the Committee clarified by Mr. Bauld:

- All C & D private facilities are licensed by HRM - ByLaw L-200 and Administrative Order 26
- The facility has to file a Management Plan annually for HRM's review
- If ByLaw requirements are not met, the license will not be renewed
- Approximately twenty-eight hundred tonnes of metal were recovered at the Otter Lake facility last year and sold to local markets at over \$100 a tonne.

6.1.1 Net Waste/Resource System Mass Balance - YTD 01 April 2007- 31 March 2008

Mr. Bauld gave the Committee a brief overview of the circulated Waste/Resource System Mass Balance with the year to date (YTD) of April 01, 2007 to March 31, 2008 containing both residential and commercial annual totals, with the following clarifications:

- Refuse went down substantially since the 6-bag maximum was put into place
- Residential has not gone down that much but is more influenced by enforcement than education outreach, but also by the economy and the market.
- Total refuse tonnage for both residential and commercial went down in the past two years as a result of higher awareness of environmental concerns - climate change, education and outreach - monitoring and recession.
- Historically, at the Otter Lake facility, refuse has risen by 2% per year

Councillor Hendsbee commented that there should be an environmental news release on these facts to inform the members of the public of the progress. It was decided that Staff will draft a press release.

Councillor Outhit enquired about regulations for disposal of electronic equipment. Mr. Bauld gave clarification stating that all electronics will be banned from disposal at Otter

Lake in February 2009.

Councillor Karsten requested clarification on whether there were continued problems at Otter Lake with e-waste programs. Mr. Bauld advised that 5 tonnes a week of electronic equipment that was not in good condition was being taken to the Otter Lake landfill.

Mr. Bauld advised that he had issued a memorandum in April 22, 2008 which spoke of the decrease in e-waste to the Otter Lake facility. He further advised that when tonnage drops, HRM receives a rebate. Councillor Hendsbee advised that this fact should be stated as part of the press release to acknowledge that the reduction of refuse cause a reduction in cost.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Karsten advised Councillor Outhit that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee - much like Community Councils - have stakeholders who occasionally attend and participate in meetings to allow an opportunity for public participation. As there was one member of the public in attendance, he was advised on the opportunity to voice his concerns/questions. He declined.

It was noted by the Committee that Mr. Donald L. Mason, an external member of the Committee, is gravely ill. The decision was made to have a 'get well' card submitted to him from the Councillor's office.

8. CORRESPONDENCE - None

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Backyard composts

Councillor Meade request information on backyard composts. Mr. Bauld informed the Committee that bi-annually, backyard composts are for sale, and that 775 units were sold with close to 100 units remaining. He advised that 800 units were sold two years ago. He stated that HRM normally bears the cost of shipping them back, however the units are often sold to adjacent municipalities, who buy them, so there are no transportation costs. Units were sold to Farmer Clem's and forms were filled out with payments received in advance and they picked them up.

9.2 Upcoming Events

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid Waste Resources, advised the Committee of several upcoming events including the following:

- Saturday, June 07, 2008, an Open House of the recycling facility; 200 residents in the two hour span of the open house; the fourth annual.
- The Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Event

Ms. Lewis advised that PDF file attachments of notification of these events will be available as well as notices being posted in the newspapers for the next two Saturdays. She further advised a notification (paid for by Yellow Pages) will be printed of incorrect information given to the public with last years version of the 10-bag limit. She stated that both the 10-bag and the 6-bag versions were printed, so to halt confusion, a notification will be given for correction.

Councillor Hum expressed concern as to whether schools will be notified to which Ms. Lewis informed the Committee that there has been communication to the schools and school groups have attended.

Ms. Lewis proceeded to present to the Committee four television commercials (approximately 15 seconds each) regarding litter management. These were 'naturally green', thought provoking/visually strong messages depicting the littering of recyclables, coffee cups, cigarette butts, and slices of pizza, while asking the question (You wouldn't do that here - So why would you do that here?) of whether the individual would thoughtlessly 'litter' these items in other avenues. These commercials will be aired during the months of June and August. Ms. Lewis advised that recognition for PSA (Public Service Announcement) status is being sought in order to get more air time.

Councillor Karsten advised the Committee that he is attempting to have the RFB do a generic advertisement.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed concerns regarding off-road dumping as well as the litter issue.

Councillor Wile requested clarification on the prospect of putting sand or 'kitty litter' in near-empty paint cans. Mr. Bauld explained that there were two options: either leave the top off the can and let the paint dry out, with the other option being to put sand or kitty litter in the can to absorb the paint, after which it would be okay to put in the garbage. He stated that this would be an alternative to driving all the way to an environmental dumping site.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next scheduled Committee meeting will be held on June 26, 2008 at 2:00 pm in the Media Room, City Hall.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:43p.m.

Sandra T. Riley
Legislative Assistant