

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 6, 2004**

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

REGRETS: Councillor Russell Walker

STAFF: Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid
Waste Resources
Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - OCTOBER 30, 2003

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that the minutes of October 30, 2003 be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The following items were added to the agenda at this time:

- 6.1 Councillor Sloane - Garbage Disposal on Residential Properties
- 6.2 Councillor Mosher - Garbage Clean-up
- 6.3 Councillor Meade - Update on Composting Bin Sale
- 6.4 Councillor Meade - Composting Facilities - Truck Odour

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

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Smith called for members of the public wishing to address the Committee. No one came forward.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 International Waste - Update

- C A supplementary staff report prepared for Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration.
- C Correspondence from Mr. Donald Mason, Executive Director, Community Monitoring Committee, regarding the above, was circulated to the Committee.

Mr. Bauld presented the supplementary report to the Committee, noting approval by HRM is not required, but staff believed it was prudent to have comment from MIRROR NS and the Community Monitoring Committee.

Responding to a question of Councillor Sloane regarding the fee for disposal of international treated waste, Mr. Bauld stated the Administrative Order has a clause that states if there is

waste that requires special handling HRM has the authority to increase the fee by 50 percent. He noted that the actual cost will not be known until the waste is received. The Councillor requested that this be examined following the first month of operation to determine if the cost is appropriate. Mr. Bauld noted that every load that comes in will be monitored.

Councillor Meade referenced the correspondence from the Community Monitoring Committee noting a lot of the international waste is paper and he inquired how that is handled. Mr. Bauld explained the inspection process at the front end processor, noting if the matter is put on the conveyor line, there would be no fibre or plastic matter that would be retrievable, however metal could be. He noted the hydroclave treatment temperature is 100° Celsius.

Councillor Rankin noted Mr. Mason was in attendance to address the Committee regarding the motion contained in the correspondence from the Community Monitoring Committee, if the Committee so wished. Mr. Bauld stated his interpretation of the letter is that the CMC is recommending that there be no net increase in waste going to Otter Lake. He further stated that HRM's diversion programs will focus on that to see if it can be achieved.

Councillor Sloane noted many of the new cruise ships have source separation. She suggested information could be obtained to determine how many of the 120 ships that will be arriving have this capacity. Mr. Bauld noted the CFIA may require that all international waste needs to be treated at the hydroclave facility before it is separated. He agreed to check into this for confirmation.

4.2 Operations Report - 03/04 Summary

C The Waste/Resource System Mass Balance Year to Date 01 April 2003 - 31 March 2004, was before the Committee for its information.

Ms. Lewis briefly reviewed the report for the Committee.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Rankin regarding the trend with respect to residential diversion, Mr. Bauld stated the Solid Waste Resources Business Plan identifies this as a concern. However, he noted other municipalities have experienced similar problems in the fourth or fifth year of a solid waste diversion program. Programs have been identified in the business plan to focus on the ICI and residential sectors which include additional monitoring and curbside education. He noted the focus for the last several years has been on quality but there will now be a shift in focus to quantity as well. With respect to new residents, Ms. Lewis stated it is also planned to enhance the information regarding the program provided to them. Mr. Bauld further noted that last year staff have spoken to the owners of over 5,000 condominium units and provided education and training sessions.

In response to comments of Councillor Sloane regarding program education for university students, Mr. Bauld stated he met with the Environment Committee at Dalhousie in January

to discuss this, particularly with respect to reaching off campus students, and staff are working with them on this issue. With respect to amending the Nova Scotia Tenancies regulations to require that the landowner and tenant both be clear on their responsibilities to meet the source separation requirements, Mr. Bauld stated this requires Executive Council approval and some amendments will be brought forward during the September-October session for consideration.

Councillor Sloane also expressed concern with the lack of recycling facilities in public venues and suggested this may need to be examined.

Responding to a question of Councillor Mosher, Ms. Lewis stated the increase in organics would be related to unusual events such as Hurricane Juan and other weather conditions that increase leaf and yard waste. She noted there is no way to ascertain participation of the cart system without conducting some monitoring. Councillor Mosher inquired if a revised operations report, with the time frame of Hurricane Juan removed, could be generated. Ms. Lewis stated this could be done.

Councillor Rankin suggested staff should be looking at another generation of communication to address HRM's corporate image and how to get neighbourhoods involved in the program, perhaps granting rewards or recognition for neighbourhood efforts.

Councillor Sloane agreed and suggested a radio campaign as something to consider. Councillor Mosher suggested advertising on Metro Transit buses, or other HRM facilities, as other options. Councillor Meade also suggested Councillors' newsletters are another option for providing information.

Councillor Smith stated he has received complaints regarding six unit apartment buildings having only one green bin. In response, Mr. Bauld stated By-Law S-600 was amended in July 2003 to require the owner of apartment buildings to provide containers in a common area and to require that the tenants use them to meet the requirements of the By-Law and the Department of Environment. With respect to enforcement, Mr. Bauld stated a request has been put forward to allow summary offence tickets to be issued for infractions of this By-law. Once this is approved, it will provide better enforcement.

With respect to special events, Mr. Bauld stated staff have been attending special events committee meetings to ensure all venues are serviced for the three waste streams. In addition, a proposal has been submitted to engage the Youth Corps for the summer to be on the waterfront acting as goodwill ambassadors for source separation. Mr. Bauld also noted that hotels are monitored as part of standard practice.

It was also suggested the local cable channel and the community information radio station could be used for promotion.

4.3 Weekly Summer Green Cart Collection

With the use of overheads, Mr. Bauld made a presentation to the Committee regarding weekly green cart collection in HRM for eight weeks commencing on Monday, July 5 for residents currently receiving weekly recyclable collection and Collection Area 5. He noted the cost is slightly higher than estimated. The estimated cost was \$180,000, but the total actual cost will be \$191,709 + HST.

Councillor Mosher expressed concern with the start date of the weekly collection. The Councillor stated the motion was for July and August and weekly collection should start on July 2. Mr. Bauld responded that to accommodate this staff would have to go back to the contractors to get a price for the extra days. He noted many residents will be away July 2nd and 3rd due to the long weekend, and suggested the extra cost may not be worthwhile. Councillor Mosher reiterated the motion adopted by Council was for July and August. Mr. Bauld stated staff would take the Councillor's comments under advisement and report back to the Councillor.

In other business, Councillor Rankin inquired about the status of the draft business plan referenced at the October 30, 2003 meeting. In response, Mr. Bauld stated he will pull the plan, the O'Halloran report, and the Waste Characterization Study and Audits together and bring it back to the Committee to form a plan to go forward to address the complacency in diversion issue.

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. ADDED ITEMS

6.1 Councillor Sloane - Garbage Disposal on Residential Properties

Councillor Sloane expressed concerns with garbage, such as old furniture, being dumped on residential properties by other residents. One particular case she cited was with respect to a abandoned building at the corner of Creighton/Gerrish. She inquired if it would be possible to have Police Services monitor for this activity during the weekends as By-Law Enforcement do not work on the weekends. Mr. Bauld noted By-Law Enforcement will have staff working evenings and weekends during June, July and August. Councillor Smith noted a lot of areas throughout HRM are experiencing the same problem and suggested Councillor Sloane address this issue directly with Police Services.

6.2 Councillor Mosher - Garbage Clean-up

Councillor Mosher inquired if garbage on municipal property is an issue for Solid Waste Resources or By-Law Enforcement. Mr. Bauld responded that HRM would be responsible for

removing garbage from its property. If the garbage is in the ditches along the roads, Technical and Underground Services would respond. With regard to shopping carts, they are addressed under the Nuisance By-Law that is being developed which will hold the owner of the shopping cart responsible if it is removed from their property. Mr. Bauld stated if items, such as furniture, are left at the curb on the wrong collection day, it would be a By-Law Enforcement issue.

6.3 Councillor Meade - Update on Composting Bin Sale

Councillor Meade requested an update regarding the recent composting bin sale. Mr. Bauld stated there was a glitch with the advertising in the newspaper by the supplier which negatively affected the sale. Of the 1425 composters for sale, approximately 500 are remaining. Since that time, a few other municipalities have purchased a couple hundred and the municipality is holding back 50 for its own use.

6.4 Councillor Meade - Composting Facilities

Councillor Meade inquired if there is any requirement for regular steaming of the trucks that deliver waste to the composting facilities. Mr. Bauld responded that there is nothing in the contract regarding this that he is aware of. However, he agreed it would be good business practice and he stated he could speak to the contractors about it.

6.5 Councillor Meade - Request for Additional Member for the Committee

Councillor Meade suggested Councillor Snow should be appointed to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee as an additional member as the Antrim site is located in her District. **MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee recommend to the Membership Selection Committee that Councillor Snow be appointed to the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee as an additional member. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed the next meeting will be held on June 10, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the Committee moved In Camera to deal with Legal Matter - Contract Negotiations.

Following the In Camera Session, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Patti Halliday
Legislative Assistant