

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
June 10, 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  
Mr. Robert Orr, Collection & Processing Coordinator, Solid  
Waste Resources  
Ms. Millie Hull, 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 - May 6, 2004**

**MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the minutes of May 6, 2004 be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

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

- 7.1 Jim Bauld - International Waste Update
- 7.2 Councillor Smith - Schaefer Carts Representative

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

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Councillor Smith called for members of the public wishing to address the Committee. Councillor Rankin noted Mr. Mason was in attendance but had briefly stepped out and may wish to address the Committee at a later time.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

5.1 **10% Challenge - Enhanced Diversion - Information Report**

- An Information Report prepared by Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration.

Mr. Jim Bauld began by introducing Mr. Robert Orr, Collection & Processing Coordinator, to the Committee.

Mr. Bauld presented the Information Report indicating it was a result of a discussion from the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the issue of residential diversion. He advised that the first 5 years, once the system was up and running, staff and contractors, be it curbside or operations side, focused on quality of the product. It was felt that quality in the organics in the first 5 years was crucial and with the right incentives, for example, varying tipping fees, bylaws, monitoring,

education and the green carts, there was good participation and satisfaction. This had been shown over the years through surveys and monitoring. Mr. Bauld advised that studies were conducted in August and November 2003 and January 2004 which conclusively showed that there were still organics and fibre hidden in the residential black bags. It also showed that 100% participation in the commercial stream had not been achieved.

Mr. Bauld stated that Section A of the Information Report summarized the current communication and education campaign, programming and initiatives on diversion and quality. Section B, page 3, highlighted the new initiatives that are to be rolled out this year and indicated that some are already at the development stage.

Mr. Bauld noted that confirmation had been received to engage 4 Youth Corps members, 2 funded by Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour and 2 volunteer who are Costa Rica students, to be on the waterfront acting as environmental ambassadors for all major events for July and August.

Councillor Sloane informed the Committee that she had attended the Northern Lights Festival and that there was source separation was on site. She noted that every second announcement requested that refuse be placed in the designated areas. She felt these announcements were instrumental to the success of source separation at this event. She suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to the organizers for a job well done.

Mr. Bauld concluded that the focus is leading to a highly publicized event in September, called "The 10% Challenge". The event will recognize the efforts of HRM residents for their assistance in developing the strategy and their participation in source separation, at home or work, on a weekly basis. He further concluded that the challenge is geared toward those who need a little more guidance.

After receiving clarification on what can be placed in a green bin, Councillor Mosher indicated that she will forward a message to Mr. Orr that she received from a resident regarding green bin contents, with a request he follow it up.

During discussion on the Information Report, Councillor Rankin raised the concern that newcomers to the area may not be given appropriate orientation to the solid waste protocol and suggested that an information package be attached to the occupancy permits. Ms. Lewis advised that an information package is currently attached to the occupancy permits and will follow up to ensure that the correct information is included.

Mr. Bauld noted that there is an opportunity to use highly-visible and brightly-coloured billboards. One side can display the message the system is working well and all but one objective was accomplished, the 60% diversion target set by Council in 1996. The side showing can display what is still hidden in the garbage bags.

During discussion on the 10% challenge, Councillor Rankin expressed the desire to encourage friendly community competition in the 10% challenge feeling this may assist in getting community buy-in.

Responding to a question from Councillor Meade regarding a compost information package being attached to the occupancy permits, Ms. Lewis indicated that there is a portion within the information package that could be filled in by the home owner requesting a green cart if they do not get it at point of the occupancy.

In response to a question from Councillor Meade regarding backyard composters in rural areas, Mr. Bauld stated that \$50,000 had been originally identified for the 04/05 operating budget for a large backyard composting program, however, it did not receive approval.

Councillor Sloane suggested a possible contest between communities, not only for beautification but also for waste reduction. She also suggested that maybe there could be a billboard saying for example, "clean this community" or "best looking community", to give some sort of self pride to each community. Another suggestion was to bring the Community Councils and proactive groups within the communities onside to assist in fostering the growth.

Councillor Rankin suggested that consideration be given to forwarding the Information Report to Council. Mr. Bauld will follow up on this request.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Operations Report**

- A Report entitled Waste/Resource System Mass Balance was before the Committee for its consideration.

Mr. Robert Orr presented the report to the Committee indicating that the report was for one month only, April 1 - 30, 2004. Mr. Orr indicated that due to the late spring not as much leaf and yard waste has been diverted as last year.

In response to a question from Councillor Meade regarding apartment buildings having space for recycling, Mr. Bauld indicated that there is documentation in the development agreement for space requirements for designated recycling. Mr. Bauld will contact Mr. Ed Thornhill, Manager, Permits and Inspections, Planning and Development Services to confirm that this is being followed up.

### **6.2 Cell 2 Closure**

Mr. Bauld gave a verbal update indicating that in 2004/05 Capital Budget, \$3,700,000 had been identified for the closure of cell 2. He stated that approval had been obtained from Department of Environment & Labour for the construction of the cell's closure cap systems. Mr. Bauld and Mr. Orr had met with MIRROR NS and CBCL to review the design, quantity and unit pricing and had reached an agreement with MIRROR NS within that price range. Mr. Bauld stated that Procurement had confirmed the money is now available and the contract with MIRROR NS, Section 16 stating they will construct new enclosed cells, will be brought forth to Council for information.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin regarding how soon the closure be constructed, Mr. Bauld indicated that construction can begin as early as next week. After a brief discussion, Mr. Bauld stated the closure of cell 2 is on schedule and reiterated that MIRROR NS will be on site next week to begin construction. An information report will be coming to Council at a future date.

## **7. ADDED ITEMS**

### **7.1 International Waste Update - Jim Bauld**

Mr. Bauld gave a verbal update advising that he had received a call from Susanne Brennan, International Disposal Services Inc., indicating that ground had been broken for the international waste treatment facility in Burnside. He further advised that it is expected to be up and running by August. He noted that approval had been given from Department of Environment and Labour. He also indicated that the CFIA, MIRROR NS and HRM will be monitoring the construction closely.

### **7.2 Schaefer Carts Representative**

Councillor Smith advised that a representative from Shaffer Carts will be in the Halifax area on Monday if anyone wanted to meet with him. Mr. Bauld noted that he will be meeting with the Director of Sales for Schaefer Carts, on Thursday at 3:00 pm in Mr. Bauld's office and extended an invitation to the Committee if anyone would wish to join them.

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed the next meeting will be held on September 9, 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 3:15 p.m.

Millie Hull  
Legislative Assistant