

SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JUNE 8, 2006

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair  
Councillor Jim Smith  
Councillor Gary Meade  
Councillor Krista Snow  
Councillor Bill Karsten

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

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

## **2. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 10.1 Solid Waste Collection - HRM Churches
- 10.2 Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Event - June 3, 2006, Mic Mac Mall

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

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the minutes of March 20, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **4.1 Information Report - Weekly Summer Green Cart - Alignment with Tax Rate**

- An information report dated May 15, 2006 was submitted.

Mr. Bauld reviewed the Information Report. In his remarks, he advised that when collection services were initially approved, it was not the intention at the time to line up the delivery of service with the tax split delineation. The weekly summer green cart service has been an 'add-on' service and this is why it does not line up with the tax rate.

Highlights of his remarks are as follows:

- to add the summer service to the rural area, an additional \$46,000 would be required, and this is not in the proposed operating budget.
- if staff withdrew the service from the five communities in the rural tax rate that are receiving it now, approximately \$5,000 would be saved.
- review of the summer service in the rural area shows participation rates in the rural area are the lowest, i.e. of 57 homes monitored over three weeks, only 2 participated. This raises the question of whether it would be cost effective to extend the service in the rural areas.
- if the service was to be cut back, an opportune time would be to look at making a change in July 2008, where that would be the beginning of the next five year cycle for collection contracts.

At 2:09 p.m. Councillor Hum entered the meeting.

Councillor Smith asked for staff to provide information on the number of homes in the five rural tax rate areas. Mr. Bauld indicated he would provide this information.

In response to a question by Councillor Karsten, Mr. Bauld advised that he would be hesitant to spend funds on a Needs Assessment for enhanced summer service in the rural areas as the original intent of enhanced summer service was to assist those areas with the most problems. In the rural areas, there are not the issues of odour and flies as there are in the urban areas.

**MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the status quo be maintained for this summer and for the summer of 2007 in regard to weekly summer green cart collection, and staff explore options of aligning it with the urban tax rate for the 2008 year, with implementation considered for 2009.**

Mr. Bauld noted that this decision may have ramifications for councillors who do not serve on this committee, and he suggested that the matter be provided to Council for information.

The Chair concurred and advised that staff could provide the information at a Committee of the Whole session.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Steve Taylor, Enviro Waste, addressed the Committee and advised that his company does thousands of pickups for condominiums, and is pleased to report that they have full participation and compliance, and full service in every building. He added that there is practically no resistance from the building owners to participate in the program, and if they find there are buildings not in compliance, they will advise the City and staff will go back to the owner and provide more education.

Mr. Taylor referred to the Green Newsletter that was recently distributed and the enforcement statistics which indicate a good level of compliance, and noted that three of his customers were written-up recently for noncompliance, and within a day they were fully compliant. He added that the customers appreciate that the municipality does not get 'heavy handed' when it comes to enforcement.

On another matter, Mr. Taylor referred to a recent court case, and strongly emphasized the need for HRM to have a contingency plan for staff.

Mr. Taylor responded to questions.

Mr. Bauld referred to Mr. Taylor's comment on the court challenge and contingency plan and pointed out that he was scheduled to provide an update at a meeting of In Camera Council on June 13, 2006, however, this was moved to June 20, 2006.

The Chair suggested that perhaps staff could do something in regard to a press release concerning Mr. Taylor's comment that the industry is taking notice that the enforcement is working and people are readily complying.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Tonnage Report**

- A report regarding Waste/Resource System Mass Balance Year to Date (YTD) 01 April 2006 - 30 April 2006 was submitted.

Mr. Bauld provided an overview of the report noting that there were three non-typical operating days. This represents 13% and probably influenced the tonnages on refuse and organics. He noted that there is a significant change in C & D (i.e. 35%) and, overall, diversion rates of 54%. Mr. Bauld pointed out that this was only a 30-day snapshot.

Mr. Bauld advised that in future he could provide a rolling 12-month summary plus a monthly summary to the Committee, if it wished. The Chair agreed and also requested a report as of the end of the fiscal year, i.e. March 2006, with regard to percentage diversion.

With regard to the report for the end of March 2006, Mr. Bauld advised that he could e-mail this to the Committee members.

Mr. Bauld responded to questions.

**8. REQUESTS / CORRESPONDENCE - None**

**9. NEW BUSINESS - None**

Councillor Snow requested that for the next meeting the following item be added to the agenda:

Garbage Receptacle at Canada Post Community Mailboxes.

The Chair suggested that a representative from Canada Post be invited to attend the next meeting.

**10. ADDED ITEMS**

**10.1 Solid Waste Collection - HRM Churches**

This item was added to the agenda at the request of Councillor Snow.

**MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Karsten that staff provide an information report on the feasibility of providing churches with the same service that residences receive. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Meade noted that there are fire departments that have monthly lunches or dinners, and the garbage generated is not picked up either; the staff take it home and put it out with their own garbage.

**10.2 Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Event - June 3, 2006, Mic Mac Mall**

Mr. Bauld circulated a summary of statistics in regard to the Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Event which was held June 3, 2006 at Mic Mac Mall.

In reviewing the information, Mr. Bauld noted that the event was well attended and, overall, the satisfaction rate indicated that it was well received.

The Chair suggested that staff provide this information to Councillor McCluskey.

In response to a question by Councillor Snow, Mr. Bauld advised that two similar events are planned for the fall for the rural areas.

Councillor Snow asked Mr. Bauld to e-mail her the results from the event in Fall River.

Mr. Bauld advised that although the schedule is not confirmed, the next event will probably be held in the Eastern Shore. The Chair suggested that staff advise the Councillors when the next event is scheduled.

In response to a question by Councillor Karsten, Mr. Bauld advised that there are no funds in the budget to hold two urban mobile depots in one year.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair expressed appreciation to staff for the work put into this event, noting that it has been a very successful idea.

### **10.3 Correspondence to Mr. Wayne N. Rogers from Mr. Jim Bauld dated April 4, 2006**

At the request of Councillor Hum, the Committee agreed to move this item up from the Information Items for discussion on the regular agenda.

A letter dated April 4, 2006 to Mr. Wayne Rogers from Mr. Jim Bauld was submitted.

Councillor Hum asked Mr. Bauld if staff was satisfied that this matter was resolved.

Mr. Bauld advised that following this letter, he sent another letter to Mr. Rogers containing the cemetery report which he requested, and that Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning will be contacting him to follow up on that aspect. Mr. Bauld added that Mr. Rogers has not contacted him since the letters have gone out so he believes that he has satisfactorily answered Mr. Rogers questions concerning the Otter Lake operation.

**11. NEXT MEETING DATE - September 2006**

**12. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.