

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
SOLID WASTE/RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING
March 7, 2001
Boardroom 1, 2750 Dutch Village Road

Present: Councillor Gary Meade, Chair
Councillor Gary Hines
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Ron Cooper
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Jim Bauld, Diversion Planning Coordinator
Brian Smith, Director, Solid Waste Resources
Laurie Lewis, Collection & Processing Coordinator
Kurt Pyle, Planner
Fred Wendt, Waste resource Analyst
Mary Lawrence, Administrative Assistant to Brian Smith

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Item number 5 added to the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2001 MEETING

MOVED by Councillor Meade and seconded by Councillor Sloane that the Minutes of February 22, 2001 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**3.1 First Draft C & D License By-Law**

Fred Wendt, Waste Resource Analyst, did the presentation on the C & D License By-Law. Mr. Wendt explained the purpose of the By-Law was to encourage diversion of materials from the landfill, encourage value added processing, provide for opportunity for proper disposal and reduce the impacts of operations on the environment.

Mr. Wendt went on to explain that the definition of the By-Law would include what makes up construction and demolition material (same as DEL), and what guidelines are to be used for construction and demolition processing/recycling operations, disposal sites, transfer stations and used building material sites. Mr. Wendt also stated that licenses be required for transfer stations, construction and demolition processing, and disposal sites.

Mr. Wendt pointed out that outstanding issues still surrounding the C & D License By-Law are setting minimum recycling rates, bonding and phasing out existing stockpiles.

Councillor Cooper questioned why there was no wording on transfer stations having to be licensed in the draft By-Law. Kurt Pyle stated that this was an oversight and would be added. Councillor Cooper questioned the 90 day storage that is recommended, he stated that 90 days would create a liability and would be the wrong way to go for the transfer station, suggested if materials come in the morning why not out by the end of the day. Kurt Pyle stated that same day turnover is unrealistic, areas like the Eastern Shore would not have enough materials to warrant sending a truck down. Councillor Sloan suggested once a week. Mr. Wendt stated that this is an issue that will need to be resolved.

Mr Wendt mentioned that he has had meetings with all three construction and demolition operations to discuss the phasing out of current stockpiles, bonding or letter of credit to enforce adherence to the license. Bond money would be used to clean up a site if the business vacates or ceases operations.

Mr. Wendt went on to present the recycling targets. He stated that the existing operations now claim to recycle 60 - 95%, and that the recycling targets could be phased in over a three year period; 50% in year one, 60% year two and 75% in year three. Mr. Wendt presented cost figures associated with the bonding or letter of credit, based on public risk to remove stockpiles.

Councillor Stone questioned the 50 percent for the first year, if our target is 60 - 95 percent, what do we do now in recycling for residential use. Mr. Smith stated that the public responded immediately to the recycling campaign allowing us to achieve the 50 to 60 percent diversion rate. The By-Law draft will have these numbers and staff will be looking for feedback from others to see if they are realistic.

Councillor Hines asked about stockpiling and the need to address it progressively to prevent no movement occurring over a long period of time. Mr. Wendt stated that the objective would be to have controls in place for different stages to prevent this from happening.

Councillor Cooper pointed out that "not recommended" should be written into the report under the Alternative section. Mr. Pyle noted that this was an oversight and would be corrected.

Councillor Cooper questioned looking at temporary licensing, and amendments to land use By-Laws may cause some people to get out of the business. Mr. Wendt stated that the diversion should be started now, focus on transfer stations and others until the planning amendment is in place.

Councillor Cooper asked if there were minutes from the open house presentation. Mr. Wendt stated that there was no formal meeting but could provide a summary of the survey that was done with each operator. Councillor Cooper would like to see updates on public consultation as this progresses.

Councillor Hines questioned if the minimum of \$1 million third party liability insurance would be enough. Councillor Cooper asked what would fall under the definition of scrap metal.

4. SOLID WASTE QUESTIONS FROM 2001-02 BUDGET REVIEW

Mr. Smith explained that there were some questions from the committee-of-the-Whole, the most urgent were covered in the report discussed as Item 5 of this meeting.

5. ADDED ITEM

5.1 Green Cart Collection Frequency and Nuisance Control

Laurie Lewis, Collection & Processing Coordinator, presented a report on Green Cart Collection Frequency and Nuisance Control that was put together in response to nuisance complaints and the possibility of doing a weekly collection of the green carts. Ms Lewis stated that Solid Waste has an intense communication program, T.V. ads, Web Site, etc. going on to show how to reduce the nuisance issue that the public is experiencing with the green carts. The reduction in nuisance complaint calls shows the success of this campaign.

Ms Lewis pointed out that when a cost analysis was done between weekly and by-weekly collection, the haulers were not able to identify any cost savings; they would have to purchase new equipment that would be amortized over the remaining 2.5 years of the collection contract.

Ms Lewis outlined several options for implementing a weekly pick-up including a user pay model for residents who want or need the weekly pick-up, carry the cost in the operating budget, or cost share with the residents who require extra pick-ups.

Councillor Sloan suggested raising more funds from the larger industries. Mr. Smith stated that industries pay tipping fees so the more waste they produce the more they pay. Councillor Sloan questioned why not leave the by-weekly pickup in the rural areas and have weekly pick-ups in the urban core area where needed. Ms Lewis reported that reducing green cart collection in the rural areas would have a negative impact on collection, customer service and participation rates. She also reported that there are no know potential cost savings to support enhanced weekly collection. Councillor Sloan introduced a motion to provide weekly green cart collection during the summer months in Area 1 but this motion was not second.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Brain T. Smith, Director of Solid Waste