

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
SOLID WASTE/RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 13, 1998 @ 2:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, 2750 Dutch Village Road**

Present: Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin, Chairman
Councillor Ron Cooper
Councillor Jack Mitchell
Councillor John Cunningham

Others: Mark Bernard, Manager, Waste Resources
Jim Bauld, Operations Coordinator
Barbara I. Moar, Assistant Municipal Clerk

Regrets: Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Councillor Gordon Snow

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

In response to a suggestion by the Chairman, it was agreed that Agenda Item #7 would be brought forward and follow Agenda Item #4.

MOVED By Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Mitchell THAT the Agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no presentations requested by members of the public.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 1998

MOVED By Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Mitchell THAT the Minutes of March 25, 1998 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MARCH 25, 1998 MEETING - None**5. INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE**

Mr. Mark Bernard gave a brief presentation to update the members on projects that are being done this year and some of the things that staff are thinking about now and in the future. He stated that the budget year 1998/99 is the biggest year in terms of project development and implementation, and all the facilities will be in place and operating.

Mr. Bernard reported that the Otter Lake facility will begin its commissioning in July, 1998. It is on schedule and should take anywhere from 2 to 6 months. At that time, waste material will be processed at this facility and will be in full operation, but until that time the material will go to Cumberland County. Staff are currently in negotiations for new management of the MRF. This would include substantial upgrade due to the extra requirements for the anticipated additional material with the introduction of the organic carts. The composting facility in Burnside is under construction and is scheduled for compliance testing in October. At that time, they will be able to accept the organics collected by HRM for processing.

In response to a question from the Chairman on whether an operating permit would be required before commissioning, Mr. Bauld responded that for the FEP, the NSDOE had issued a construction permit but not an operating permit. He said for the Miller

composting facility, they have issued a combined permit - construction and operating. With respect to the FEP/WSF, Mr. Bauld said that before issuing an operations permit, an operations manual would have to be filed for NSDOE to review. The manual is still in the draft stage, and it was agreed that staff would liaise with the Community Monitoring Committee to review this manual before submitting it to the NSDOE.

Referring to a future increase in recyclables, Mr. Bauld said this would require added plant capacity, and pointed out that this was included in the request for proposals. Bidders were asked to indicate and cost how they would upgrade the capital investment of the facility to increase the capacity. Based on the tender, the higher the volumes, the greater the reduction in cost per tonne.

Mr. Bernard reported that NSDOE had issued the permit for the Ragged Lake facility and it is expected that construction would be starting soon. It is expected that commissioning and compliance testing would be carried out in November 1998. Staff are in the process of finalizing the source separated collection contracts. There will be eight collection areas, 5 year contracts beginning in July, and as carts are put in to various areas, the contracts will convert to three stream collection. Referring to the cart distribution, Mr. Bernard said it is intended to roll out 95,000 carts starting in July, continuing until some time in November, with completion expected in Spring of 1999 for residential customers.

Mr. Bernard reviewed ongoing and future challenges. He referred to ongoing communication and education stating that staff would continue to look for ways to improve the program. Disposal of household hazardous wastes is very expensive and staff needs to focus on ways to make some savings and provide better service. Staff would be looking at backyard composting to determine how it should fit and grow in HRM's system. Rationalization of transfer station depots needs to be looked in detail, some of which will be done this year. Staff will also be looking at on going waste reduction and separation programs, for example, apartment buildings. At some point, user pay design and implementation will also be looked at by staff.

Councillor Cooper asked if there is a timeframe for the ICI sector to be on line and operating properly. Mr. Bauld said staff have ongoing meetings with ICI and are working with Association groups. He said staff recognize that the ICI sector has a major role to play, and will continue to work with them as facilities become operational.

Councillor Cooper suggested that staff should look at setting a target date for the ICI sector. Mr. Bauld said both the private sector partners, Miller Composting and New Era Farms, have an incentive to source private sector ICI organics. They will be sourcing this from food and landscape waste sources. HRM will share in this revenue. Both of these companies have links with the major retail and wholesale companies with respect to

marketing compost; otherwise they would not be able to sell and move what they are producing. Mr. Bauld said it is in their best interest and HRM if they have an opportunity to divert ICI organics away from the front end processing to their composting facilities. They are guaranteed 20,000 tonnes from HRM.

The Chairman asked what percentage of waste is construction debris? Mr. Bauld responded that there is approximately 260,000 tonnes generated annually in HRM. In the latest report, it identifies that in the last 12 months, approximately 195,000 tonnes went through HRM's system, either in recyclables or mixed waste. Mr. Bauld said there is a substantial amount that is being diverted to the private sector now, but pointed out that some of that is being disposed of illegally. As there had been no response on the Wills complaint, the Chairman asked to have an update for the next Committee meeting.

MOVED By Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Mitchell THAT staff bring back a report on the Wills' property for the next meeting. MOTION PUT AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Referring to the previous discussion on the ICI sector, Mr. Bernard said that once this year's focus is completed, setting guidelines is an issue that staff would be addressing. Councillor Cooper stated that it was important to remember that ultimately it is HRM that is responsible for the success of this program. Staff agreed and stated that they would be concentrating on this aspect once the 95,000 carts are rolled out.

6. ORGANIC COLLECTION CART DISTRIBUTION PROJECT PLAN AND
7. ORGANIC CART COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION UPDATE

A staff report dated May 7, 1998 had been distributed to the members and Mr. Bauld briefly reviewed the report. The report gives an overview of the structure of the roll out team and others involved in the roll out of the collection carts. Mr. Bauld reported as part of the Communication and Education Program that there will be a special information session on May 19, @ 1:30 p.m., at Halifax Hall, for Council Members. At that time, the Mayor and Councillors will receive information kits similar to what will be distributed to home owners. There will also be a mini bin, a video and other materials distributed. He reported that there would also be sessions held with various media groups to focus on the message that the roll out of the carts is coming. Mr. Bauld pointed out that a projected distribution schedule, timelines etc. are included in the report. Councillor Cunningham said he was extremely pleased with the report and it has tied everything together that Council has talked about for so long.

MOVED By Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Mitchell THAT the staff report be adopted. MOTION PUT AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Cooper asked if there was a process in place to document reasons on why some residents may refuse to take the carts? Mr. Bauld said it is in the best interests of the region and residents of HRM to take a cart and that will be the message. He said it is recognized that there will be some people, for example, handicapped, seniors, etc. who feel they cannot use them.

Mr. Bauld said the intent is to encourage all residents to take the carts, try them, and then if they have a problem to call the call centre for assistance. He expressed the problems that would be created if residents do not take the carts. Mr. Bauld said the intent is to leave the carts at the curb and if during the follow up, they are still at the curb, staff would investigate to determine if the residents are on vacation, or if they will just not accept the cart. The Chairman said to be fair to the system the criteria had to be fair but it's also important to be rigorous in gaining acceptance from as many residents as possible. Mr. Bauld agreed stating that everyone has to do their part to make this work.

The Chairman said the Committee would be extremely interested to know how successful the communication and education program is working in the schools. He stated that the Committee would be looking for some feedback on this very important part of the program.

Councillor Cooper referred to an E-mail from Councillor Hendsbee regarding roll out of the carts in his district and further east. Councillor Hendsbee had expressed his concern with the lateness of the year for this roll out and the fact that his district does not have leaf and yard waste collection. Councillor Cooper asked if this had been looked at? Mr. Bernard said staff had not dealt with this yet but it would be addressed.

8. DISPOSAL OF WATER BASE PAINT

The Chairman referred to a request from the SWRAC last October to the DOE to remove water base paint from the list of household hazardous wastes. He asked if a response had been received from them? Mr. Bauld referred to a meeting that was held in April with DOE when this question was again raised and DOE was to respond but nothing has been received to date.

The Chairman gave some background on why the Committee had made this request, pointing out how wasteful it was to take water base paints to the household hazardous waste depots. Referring to costs related to disposal of these products, which is approximately 1/3 of HRM's \$400,000 budget for household hazardous waste disposal, the Chairman said there is also a cost to the public to transport these water base paint cans to the HHW depots. These cans are received by Laidlaw who then truck it somewhere for disposal. He said it is very inappropriate and unnecessary to dispose of a water based product under household hazardous waste guidelines. The Chairman expressed his

extreme disappointment that DOE had such a policy and had not responded to the Committee on this issue.

MOVED by Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Mitchell THAT the Committee strongly urges the Province to attend to this problem, and give a favourable response, as quickly as possible.

The Chairman said it should be noted that the original request was made to DOE last October.

The Chairman called for the question and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chairman believed that this could remove some of the public demands for HHW depots, if these paints could be placed in garbage cans for regular pickup.

9. CUMBERLAND CONTRACT

Mr. Bauld reported that the former Cumberland Planning Commission had been replaced with a new authority called the Cumberland Joint Services Authority which includes the operation of the landfill, and that a meeting had been held with the Manger of Waste Services.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be June 24, 1998 @ 2:00 p.m.

Jim Bauld
Operations Coordinator