

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

April 7, 2011

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Lund, Chair
Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Barry Dalrymple
Lorelei Nicoll
Jennifer Watts
Dawn Sloane
Darren Fisher
Jackie Barkhouse

STAFF: Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset
Management
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment
Management Office
Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager, Utilities Coordination, Transportation
and Public Works
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 3, 2011 & March 9, 2011 (special meeting)

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the minutes of March 3rd and March 9, 2011 special meeting be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

6.1.8 Chris Benjamin, Healthy Laws Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, on behalf of Members of Pesticide Free Nova Scotia, dated April 6, 2011 re: FeHEDTA

6.1.9 Jim Bracken, President of Heritage Gas Limited, dated April 5, 2011

6.1.10 Graham Read, dated April 7, 2011 re: FeHEDTA

9.1 Councillor Watts – Discussion re: Illegal Garbage Dumping and Recycling

9.2 Councillor Watts – Discussion re: Status of HRM's Bottled Water Policy at City Hall

9.3 Councillor Lund – Discussion re: Litter from News Flyers

9.4 Information Item 4 – Briefing Note dated April 7, 2011 re: Community Monitoring Committee Letter

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Staff Report – Invasive Species (deferred March 9th)

A staff report dated January 12, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

The Committee entered into a brief discussion with staff responding to questions of clarification respecting:

- staff's action plan
- pesticide permitting related to new Provincial regulations and HRM's 2010/2011 budget
- education respecting: Giant Hogweed, European Fire Ants and Black Legged Ticks

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment Management Office, advised that a staff report will be coming forward respecting European Fire Ants.

Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management, indicated that HRM has stepped up to offer education to its residents; however, matters related to invasive species is a Provincial mandate.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee endorse and recommend to Halifax Regional Council the following service delivery expectations related to Invasive Species for the 2011/2012 fiscal year:

1. That staff prioritize efforts and staff resource allocation to Water Resource Management in 2011, and plan for an update to the Alien Invasive Species Strategy in 2012/2013;
2. That no new budget requests be made for invasive species management efforts in 2011/2012;
3. That no new service delivery related to Alien Invasive Species Management be planned for 2011/2012;
4. That staff continue to provide public information on the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) website on current recommendations related to invasive species management issues; and
5. That staff forward, for budget consideration in 2012/2013, a resourcing plan to enable municipal advancement on invasive species management.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.2 Staff Report – Corporate Knights Sustainable Cities Rankings 2011 (*deferred March 9th*)

A staff report dated February 9, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

Following a brief discussion, **MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee accept the staff report dated February 9, 2011 and forward to Regional Council for information.**

Councillor Sloane expressed concerns respecting HRM's density and issues with sprawl. She noted that HRM tax payers do not want to pay towards items they do not receive.

Councillor Fisher indicated that the Harbour East Community Council recently requested staff initiate the process to allow urban farming within residential areas.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

- 6.1.1 Karen Stephenson, Director of Regulatory Affairs & Stakeholders Relations, Scotts Canada Ltd., dated March 11, 2011 re: Chelated Iron (FeHEDTA) be added to HRM's Pesticide By-Law permitted list**
- 6.1.2 David Thompson, Chair of Landscape Nova Scotia Environment Committee, dated March 11, 2011 re: Addition of Chelated Iron to HRM Permitted Pesticides List**
- 6.1.3 Diana Parker, Research Director of Eco-Care Technologies Inc., dated March 14, 2011 re: FeHEDTA**
- 6.1.4 Lauren Strachan of Neudorff North America, dated March 14, 2011 and March 21, 2011 re: Chelated iron and the HRM Pesticide Bylaw**
- 6.1.5 Submission from Lauren Strachan on behalf of Dr. Bernd Nowack dated March 15, 2011 re: Statement about comparison of EDTA and HEDTA**
- 6.1.6 Nathan Boyd of Nova Scotia Agricultural College dated March 16, 2011 re: FeHEDTA**
- 6.1.7 Ron Zimba dated March 20, 2011 re: HPR IDLE-FREE for our kids – a plan to save \$250,000 in fuel & clear the air for our kids**
- 6.1.8 Chris Benjamin, Healthy Laws Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, on behalf of Members of Pesticide Free Nova Scotia, dated April 6, 2011 re: FeHEDTA**
- 6.1.9 Jim Bracken, President of Heritage Gas Limited, dated April 5, 2011**
- 6.1.10 Graham Read, dated April 7, 2011 re: FeHEDTA**

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee accept the correspondence, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations – None

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF REPORTS

7.1.1 Administrative Order 23: Inclusion of FeHEDTA

A staff report dated March 10, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- 1. Endorse FeHEDTA being included in Administrative Order 23 (Permitted Pesticide List);**

2. **Request staff to provide a follow up report on the practicality, cost and benefits of aligning Administrative Order 23 with the Provincial allowable List; and**
3. **Endorse Policy that Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Operations will not use FeHEDTA in municipal turf care operations.**

Following careful consideration and deliberation, Councillor Dalrymple suggested the motion be amendment that the Environment and Sustainability Committee forward the March 10, 2011 staff report to Halifax Regional Council without recommendation, to which the Standing Committee agreed.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee forward the March 10, 2011 staff report to Halifax Regional Council without recommendation.

It was noted that a separate staff report would be provided in conjunction with the Standing Committee's report to Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.2 Anti Idling By-Law

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff report dated March 11, 2011.
- Email submissions from Luc Erjavec of Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices, Steve Gomes and Ron Zima of The Children's Clean Air Network.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

1. **Direct staff to prepare and present a recommended Anti Idling By-Law within business year 2011/2012; and**
2. **Direct staff to include the budgeting of educational and enforcement resources to accompany an Anti Idling By-Law for 2012/2013.**

Councillor Nicoll suggested that motion's wording include the scope of the public engagement and education time frame, to which the Standing Committee agreed.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

1. **Direct staff to prepare and present a recommended Anti Idling By-Law within business year 2011/2012, which would include the scope of the public engagement and education time frame; and**
2. **Direct staff to include the budgeting of educational and enforcement resources to accompany an Anti Idling By-Law for 2012/2013.**

Councillor Lund stepped down as Chair at 2:36 p.m. and Councillor Hum assumed the Chair.

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Watts, amend the motion to include direction to staff to develop a marketing strategy, including the budgeting/common marketing resources in conjunction with partners.

Following a brief discussion and without a vote on the motion, the Standing Committee agreed to address the By-Law before proceeding with a review of marketing and partnerships.

The original motion before the Standing Committee:

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

1. **Direct staff to prepare and present a recommended Anti Idling By-Law within business year 2011/2012, which would include the scope of the public engagement and education time frame; and**
2. **Direct staff to include the budgeting of educational, marketing strategy and enforcement resources to accompany an Anti Idling By-Law for 2012/2013.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Lund assumed the Chair at 2:47 p.m. and Councillor Hum took her seat.

7.1.3 2020 Greenhouse Gas Corporate Reduction Target

A staff report dated March 21, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to:

1. **Develop a new Corporate Local Action Plan to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 25 to 30% below 2008 levels by 2020; and**
2. **Return to this Committee with the draft plan for review of the proposed target and recommended actions for further direction, input and ultimate endorsement prior to a recommendation going to Regional Council.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.4 Fair Trade Towns

A staff report dated March 4, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- 1. Endorse staff continuing community collaboration and engagement and support of the community lead initiative of Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) achieving Fair Trade Town designation;**
- 2. Instruct Staff to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with stakeholder community groups;**
- 3. Upon development of the MOU, arrange a presentation to the Environment and Sustainability Committee to precede with a recommendation of endorsement to Regional Council; and**
- 4. Include promotion of Select Nova Scotia branding with any promotion of Fair Trade branding.**

The Standing Committee entered into discussion.

Councillor Watts expressed concern with HRM following the fair trade guidelines. She provided an example of HRM's bottled water policy, noting that bottled water is still being brought into City Hall.

Staff responded to questions of clarification respecting the difference between fair trade and free trade.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Lund stepped down as Chair at 3:06 p.m. and Councillor Hum assumed the Chair.

8. MOTIONS

8.1 Councillor Lund

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council request staff to develop appropriate "Rural Road Standards" (through revisions to the "Red Book") such that streets and Open Space Design Subdivisions are safe and functional but are also less environmentally damaging than the roads that are now required to be built under current regulations.

Councillor Lund expressed concern that the discussion respecting the development of rural road standards is not scheduled for review under the Regional Plan until 2012 and noted the importance this matter being completed.

The Standing Committee entered into discussion regarding the cost implications.

It was noted that the Transportation Standing Committee is reviewing a similar issue, of which staff has provided a report. It was suggested that information provided within the staff report to the Transportation Standing Committee could be used to respond to questions raised by the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

Following further discussion, questions were raised respecting the proposed time line of the Regional Plan coming forward to Regional Council. Staff suggested the Committee determine this before making a decision to expediting the matter forward.

Without a vote on the original motion, it was **MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee, request a staff report outlining the proposed schedule of the Regional Plan coming forward to Regional Council and that the report identify the time line when the Rural Road Standards will be addressed.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.2 Councillor Lund

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council request staff to work with the Province on amending the Provincial Erosion Sediment Control Guidelines to account for climate change and to review appropriate Provincial and Municipal policies and regulations relating to properly controlling drainage on new site developments, during and following development, in order to minimize impacts to receiving waters.

Councillor Lund provided a brief overview to the Standing Committee respecting discussions he has had with staff regarding siltation run off from recent developments within his District and HRM. He requested that HRM staff and Halifax Water review this matter and the current regulations in place and work with provincial Department of Environment staff to assist in the development of a solution.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Lund assumed the Chair at 3:32 p.m. and Councillor Hum took her seat.

Councillor Barkhouse exited the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

9. ADDED ITEMS

The Standing Committee agreed to discuss Item 9.4 at this time.

9.4 Information Item 4 - Briefing Note dated April 7, 2011 re: Community Monitoring Committee Letter

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to respond to the Community Monitoring Committee to advise that based on their letter, staff from IAMS and TPW are developing a community engagement plan in accordance with the Community Engagement Strategy, approved by Council December 9, 2008 (<http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/081125cow3.pdf> and <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/100413cai02.pdf>), and will seek input to that plan's development through the committee at their next meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1 Councillor Watts – Discussion re: Illegal Garbage Dumping and Recycling

Staff advised that there are three reports coming forward respecting:

- Blue Bag Additional Plastics
- Public Engagement and Education Plan
- Increasing Solid Waste Tip Fees

The Standing Committee expressed concern regarding the following:

- illegal dumping; additional bags being placed on other residents property
- unwanted distribution or misplacement of flyers and newspapers
- misplacement of phonebooks; being placed on lawns and at the end of driveways

It was noted that similar concerns were raised during a recent Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council meeting regarding unwanted flyer distribution. Letters of concern have been sent by the Community Council to the Halifax Herald and Transcontinental.

A report will be provided to the Standing Committee outlining concerns raised during the meeting.

9.2 Councillor Watts – Discussion re: Status of HRM's Bottled Water Policy at City Hall

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing committee request the CAO review and implement the motion passed by Halifax Regional Council respecting HRM's Bottled Water policy at City Hall. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.3 Councillor Lund – Discussion re: Litter from News Flyers

This matter was discussed under Item 9.1, see page 11.

9.4 Information Item 4 - Briefing Note dated April 7, 2011 re: Community Monitoring Committee Letter

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting, see page 11.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 5, 2011

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS
April 7, 2011

1. Information Report dated March 14, 2011 re: School Travel Planning
2. Information Report dated March 15, 2011 re: Green Approach to Procurement
3. Information Report dated March 21, 2011 re: Partners for Climate Protection
Milestone 5 Recognition
4. Briefing Note dated April 7, 2011 re: Community Monitoring Committee Letter