

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

May 5, 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, IAM  
Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, SWR  
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, SEMO  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:14 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 7, 2011 & April 26, 2011 (*special meeting*)**

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the minutes of April 7, 2011 and the special meeting minutes of April 26, 2011 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- 9.1 Blue Bag Additional Plastics Stream
- 9.2 Councillor Dalrymple – Discussion re: written submissions deadline for the Save Our Lakes project

The Standing Committee agreed to discuss Item 9.1 following Item 6.

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

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Anti Idling By-Law**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff report dated April 15, 2011.
- Submissions from David Bethune and David Schroeder.

During a brief discussion, the Standing Committee made the following suggestions:

- identify whether turning the engine off pollutes more than if it were idling, as the cycle takes three minutes to bring the vehicle back into normal operating conditions
- publicly endorsing other anti-idling programs throughout HRM

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

- 1. Not proceed with drafting an anti-idling by-law in 2011/2012; and**
- 2. Develop and continue a public engagement program using the March 2006 Reducing Idling in Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Project.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

- 5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**
- 6. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE**

Item 9.1 was discussed at this time.

### **9.1 Blue Bag Additional Plastics Stream**

A staff report dated April 26, 2011, along with FAQs dated May 5, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, provided an overview of the April 26<sup>th</sup> staff report to the Standing Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council that they authorize the inclusion of additional plastics (#3, #5, & #7) and include hard plastics of #6 other than foam type plastics in the blue bag for municipal collection and processing.**

The Standing Committee entered into a brief discussion with staff clarifying that the September 12, 2011 start date is to allow for public education and notification. Members urged staff to be proactive in its communication with Miller Waste respecting overseas marketed materials.

### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 STAFF REPORTS**

#### **7.1.1 Community Garden Heavy Metal Study**

A staff report dated April 7, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

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

1. **Accept the Community Garden Heavy Metal Study Report as outlined in Attachment One of the staff report dated April 7, 2011;**
2. **Direct the following policy to staff:**
  - That Community Gardens growing vegetables on municipal property either:**
    - a. **Test the soil for heavy metals, organic matter and acidity; or**
    - b. **Install a raised bed with imported clean soil; and**
3. **Forward a copy of the April 7, 2011 staff report to the Chief Medical Officer for the Capital District and ask for a written response based on the findings of this study; and**

**4. Forward the April 7<sup>th</sup> staff report to Regional Council as an information report.**

Councillor Watts suggested that it would be helpful for the Chief Medical Officer to provide comment to the Standing Committee on her interpretation of the Community Garden Heavy Metal Study Report.

Councillor Sloane suggested that straw bales be used to make the raised beds instead of wood.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.1.2 Water Quality Monitoring - Lake List Amendments**

A staff report dated April 13, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

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

- 1. Accept Halifax Water's request to add Lisle Lake and Miller Lake to the Halifax Regional Municipality's (HRM) Water Quality Monitoring Program; and**
- 2. Forward the staff report dated April 13, 2011 as an Information Report to the current Watershed Advisory Boards.**

Councillor Dalrymple indicated that this matter had been discussed at a recent Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society (SWEPS) meeting, as well as at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport's Annual General Meeting. He requested that the April 13, 2011 staff report be forwarded to SWEPS for their information, to which the Standing Committee agreed.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.1.3 Electric Vehicles**

A staff report dated April 15, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

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

- 1. Direct Staff to prepare a Corporate Plan for location and investment of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure for Corporate Fleet Vehicles;**
- 2. Direct Staff to prepare a Policy for the incorporation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in new Facility Development and Recapitalization projects;**

3. **Engage with the Development Community and Nova Scotia Home Builders Association regarding reviewing the recommended actions from the British Columbia Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment Guidelines;**
4. **Engage with the Nova Scotia Automobile Dealers Association regarding expectations on market penetration of electric vehicles in Nova Scotia;**
5. **Direct Staff to review revenue opportunities offered with the deployment of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure; and**
6. **Forward this report and recommendation to the Transportation Standing Committee and Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee for recommendation and other Committee direction on this subject.**

Councillor Watts noted the importance of reviewing the environmental impacts and identifying the implications there may or may not be to HRM's green print plan, urban design and public space.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.1.4 European Fire Ants**

A staff report dated April 15, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee forward the staff report dated April 15, 2011 as an information report to Regional Council.**

The Standing Committee entered into a brief discussion, noting the importance of public education.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.1.5 Update on Lakes Banook & MicMac**

A staff report dated April 13, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee forward the staff report dated April 13, 2011 as an information report to the Watershed Advisory Boards.**

Councillor Dalrymple requested that the April 13, 2011 staff report be forward to the Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society for their information.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **7.1.6 Solar City (verbal update)**

Verbal update provided on solar city, to which the Standing Committee requested staff provide a written update.

#### **7.1.7 Discussion re: Projected Items for Review/Discussion over the next 3-6 month period**

Staff provided an overview of the Standing Committee Agenda Planning Guide, which is a three (3) to six (6) month overview of items being considered for the agenda of the Standing Committees. The objective is to have most of the requests for information and reports being generated through Councillors and the Standing Committee rather than being staff initiated.

Councillor Fisher requested a status update respecting the motion passed during the Standing Committee's February 3, 2011 meeting request a staff supplementary report respecting Green Approach to Procurement.

During the discussion, several members noted various conferences, lectures and information sessions being held throughout HRM; suggesting that members and staff try to attend as many as possible and report back to the Standing Committee with updates.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the Environment and Suitability direct staff to provide a copy of the presentation from the Green Belt Atlantic conference held on May 5, 2011 for discussion at the next Standing Committee meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **8. MOTIONS – NONE**

#### **9. ADDED ITEMS**

##### **9.1 Blue Bag Additional Plastics Stream**

Item addressed earlier in the meeting, see page 4.

##### **9.2 Councillor Dalrymple – Discussion re: written submissions deadline for the Save Our Lakes project**

Councillor Dalrymple requested that staff ask Stantec to extend the deadline for written submissions respecting the Save Our Lakes project, for an additional two months past the original May 19, 2011 deadline, to which the Standing Committee agreed.

#### **10. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

#### **11. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 2, 2011 (meeting location - Dartmouth Council Chambers, 90 Alderney Drive)**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell  
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS  
May 5, 2011

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1. Climate Change Workshop – Eastern Passage/Cow Bay
2. Correspondence from Hans Cunningham, President, FCM, dated April 19, 2011  
re: Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program