

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 10, 2013.....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETION.....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.....	3
4.1	Status Sheet Update.....	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS.....	3
5.1	Information Report dated November 26, 2012 regarding Solar Orientation Regulation.....	4
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS.....	4
6.1	Correspondence.....	4
6.1.1	Presentation Request from Oathill Lake Conservation Society.....	4
6.1.2	Presentation Request from the Ecology Action Centre.....	5
6.1.3	Correspondence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).....	5
6.1.4	Correspondence from the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board regarding the Consolidation of Watershed Advisory Boards.....	6
6.2	Petitions - NONE.....	6
6.3	Presentations.....	6
6.3.1	Nova Waste Solutions Inc. /Fourth State Energy.....	6
6.3.2	Heritage Gas.....	8
7.	REPORTS.....	11
7.1	Staff Reports.....	11
7.1.1	Supplementary Recommendation Report dated January 10, 2013 regarding support for Atlantic Wood Works.....	11
7.1.2	Recommendation Report dated January 3, 2013 regarding Terms of Reference for Regional Watershed Advisory Board.....	11
7.1.3	Staff Report dated January 21, 2013 in regard to Alterations to the Clean Nova Scotia Partnership Agreement.....	13
8.	MOTIONS - NONE.....	13
9.	ADDED ITEMS.....	13
9.1	Councillor Watts – Information Report regarding the Financial Impact of Modifications to the RRFB Budget.....	13
10.	NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE.....	15
11.	NEXT MEETING DATE - March 7, 2013.....	15
12.	IN CAMERA.....	15
12.1	Approval of In Camera Minutes – January 10, 2013.....	15
13.	ADJOURNMENT.....	15

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. in the Dartmouth Chamber at 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 10, 2013

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts that minutes of January 10, 2013 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the in camera minutes of January 2013 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 9.1 Councillor Watts – Information Report dated February 7, 2013 analysing the impact of modifications to the RRFB budget model

The Standing Committee agreed to discuss item 6.1.4 in conjunction with item 7.1.2. It similarly agreed to defer, to the next meeting, discussion of the Information Report dated January 10, 2013 regarding Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Regional Park and Birch Cove Lakes Watershed Study Projects (Information Item 2).

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Update

The Standing Committee agreed to remove the following items from the status sheet:

- January 10/13: East Port Energy
- January 10/13 Future RRFB municipal funding opportunities
- January 10/13: Inviting QUEST to deliver a presentation
- January 10/13: Municipal Wood First Policy
- November 1/12: Heritage Gas
- October 4/12: Fusion Halifax bid for HRM to become a Fair Trade Town
- June 7/12: Green Building Standards and the Centre Plan
- April 16/12: Solar Orientation in Regional Plan

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Information Report dated November 26, 2012 regarding Solar Orientation Regulation

The Information Report dated November 26, 2012 was before the Standing Committee.

Councillor Watts acknowledged receipt of reports from Genivar and Green Power Labs and wished to know if staff was awaiting a report from QUEST.

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager of Energy and Environment explained that when the Genivar and Green Power Labs studies were completed, it became clear that more integrated work was needed. As a result, staff has asked QUEST, in collaboration with its stakeholders, to study this matter further.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Presentation Request from Oathill Lake Conservation Society

An Information Report dated January 29, 2013 outlining the Conservation Society's request was before the Standing Committee.

The Chair asked Mr. MacLellan to comment on the request before them.

Mr. MacLellan noted that the Oathill Lake Conservation Society of Dartmouth is well established and has proved effective in engaging various levels of government as well as Halifax Water, which is reviewing their proposal. He felt that the presentation request tied in nicely with the Standing Committee's work on lake stewardship.

Councillor Nicoll wished to know if the Society works in collaboration with the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board.

Mr. MacLellan replied that it is a registered charity and is not bound by HRM boundaries.

Councillor Fisher asked if the presentation was related to the consolidation of the HRM's three Watershed Advisory Boards into a single entity.

Mr. MacLellan clarified that the presentation request does not touch on the Watershed Advisory Boards.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee accept the presentation request and invite the Oathill Lake Conservation Society to an upcoming meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.1.2 Presentation Request from the Ecology Action Centre

The following were before the Standing Committee:

- An Information Report dated January 29, 2013 outlining the Ecology Action Centre's request
- A summary of "On Solid Ground: Community Voices for Changing Nova Scotia's Mining Policies," an Ecology Action Centre report dated December 2012

The Chair indicated that the Ecology Action Centre had approached him about the possibility of giving a presentation to Regional Council. However, he felt it best to direct their request to the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee accept the presentation request and invite the Ecology Action Centre to an upcoming meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.1.3 Correspondence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

The following documents were before the Standing Committee:

- Membership and administrative information for the Steering Committee of the National Zero Waste Council
- A backgrounder on the National Zero Waste Council
- Draft Terms of Reference for the National Zero Waste Council

The Chair explained that FCM is requesting that an HRM Councillor join Councillors from Greater Vancouver and Greater Toronto on the Steering Committee for the National Zero Waste Council.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to prepare a report exploring the possibility, and budget implications, of HRM joining the Steering Committee of the National Zero Waste Council.

Councillor Watts asked that the staff report be ready for the Standing Committee's next meeting.

Councillor Fisher hoped that HRM would seriously consider joining the Steering Committee as it nicely complements HRM's policy objectives.

The Chair indicated that the inaugural meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in a few weeks, likely before the requested staff report would be completed. He also clarified that Regional Council, not the Standing Committee, will decide if HRM should be involved and which Councillor should be appointed.

At Councillor Fisher's suggestion, the Standing Committee agreed that a member of the Standing Committee and/or a member of the Solid Waste Resources team should sit in on the inaugural teleconference of the Steering Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.1.4 Correspondence from the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board regarding the Consolidation of Watershed Advisory Boards

The Standing Committee agreed to discuss this matter in conjunction with item 7.1.2.

6.2 Petitions - NONE

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Nova Waste Solutions Inc. /Fourth State Energy

The following documents were before the Standing Committee:

- A document entitled "Imagine a World Without Waste" prepared by Nova Waste Solutions, Fourth State Energy and PyroGenesis
- A printed copy of Mr. Mader's PowerPoint presentation

Mr. Stephen Mader, President and CEO, explained that Fourth State Energy is a global organization with roots in Nova Scotia. He believed that his company's world-leading technology will be critical in supporting HRM's efforts to reduce waste.

Mr. Mader provided an overview of his company's partnership with PyroGenesis Canada, which builds the Plasma Resource Recovery System (PRRS). With this process, collected waste is shredded and solarized at 5,000 degrees Celsius, transforming organic matter into synthetic gas that can be cleaned and used to generate electricity. Current clients include the US Air Force, the US Navy, and Carnival Cruise Lines. This technology is also used in the mining sector.

PRRS, he continued, produces no secondary waste. It is efficient, safe, cost-effective and environmentally responsible. He described it as an alternative to the landfill, which takes up a lot of space and emits greenhouse gases. He noted that HRM will have important decisions to make in the near future about waste. The landfill at Otter Lake is reaching capacity as 30,000 additional tons of waste will be produced in HRM by 2025. Building a new landfill and shipping garbage to the new site will be costly. He encouraged HRM to consider the Fourth State Energy solution.

Mr. Mader explained that PRRS can help HRM meet ambitious waste-reduction goals while preventing further environmental degradation, such as landfill leaching. In the first year of operations, the energy captured from this process will be enough to do 25 million loads of laundry. He believed this option to be more responsible than spending additional funds on Otter Lake or opening a new landfill.

He then outlined some of the economic benefits of the recovery system, estimating that it could generate \$50 million of business and create general labour, technical and highly-skilled positions. He explained that Fourth State Energy intends on developing co-op placements with Dalhousie University and Nova Scotia Community College students, and welcoming 50-100 international customers per year to its demonstration site. He believed that Halifax could become a centre of excellence for waste recovery.

He thanked the Standing Committee for the opportunity to present and looked forward to working with HRM to advance this important project.

The Chair thanked Mr. Mader and invited members of the Standing Committee to ask questions of clarification.

Deputy Mayor Rankin wished to know if the Plasma Resource Recovery System was operational in Canada.

Mr. Mader explained that Fourth State Energy currently has clients in the United States, but not in Canada. American clients include the US Air Force for whom PyroGenesis developed a plant that processes 10 tons of waste per day. This is Fourth State Energy's largest plant to date. He noted that it is technically feasible to move from a 10-ton model to a 100-ton model.

Deputy Mayor Rankin wished to know what Fourth State Energy used as feedstock.

Mr. Mader explained that his company is capable of processing all waste, with the exception of nuclear waste. It can even process hospital waste.

Councillor Watts asked if the recovery system presented regulatory challenges.

Mr. Mader replied that PRRS, if introduced to Nova Scotia today, would exceed all provincial environmental standards. It also surpasses standards in several American states, like Florida, and in several Canadian provinces. To this, he added that the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment is supportive of his project.

The Chair wished to know how Fourth State Energy envisaged partnering with HRM.

Mr. Mader explained that his company would like a contract to treat HRM's waste. He then outlined the environmental benefits and cost savings if HRM chose Fourth State Energy's plasma process instead of expanding landfills.

The Chair noted that the presentation comes at an opportune time as HRM is undertaking a solid waste strategy review.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to prepare a report on the viability of Fourth State Energy's proposal.

Deputy Mayor Rankin noted that it is difficult to find host communities for landfills and welcomed the possibility of eliminating them outright. He requested that the report identify key staff that Mr. Mader should meet with to discuss his project, including the Chief Administrative Officer.

Councillor Nicoll clarified that the motion is for an information report, not at recommendation report.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager of Solid Waste Resources asked Mr. Mader to provide HRM with a business case to assist in the drafting of the report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.3.2 Heritage Gas

Ms. Alice McCarron, Vice President of Marketing and Business Development for Heritage Gas, explained that her goal is to improve communication with Council over the next 6 months. She then introduced her colleagues, Mr. Michel Sarrouy, Vice President of Engineering and Construction and Mr. Larry Moores, Manager of Sales.

Ms. McCarron explained that the presentation will touch on the following:

- Heritage Gas' expansion plans for 2013;
- Lessons learned from the Willow Street pilot project;
- Heritage Gas' residential marketing strategy; and
- Working with HRM

Mr. Sarrouy noted that Heritage Gas has grown 20% per year since 2003, with 2012 being its best year so far. Currently it has over 4,300 meters in Nova Scotia, which represents approximately 20,000 households. The majority of its customers, 3,800 of the 4,300 meters, are in HRM.

Ms. McCarron added that Heritage Gas customers have reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 146,000 tons and done so all the while saving up to 40% on their heating bill. Referring to a system map, which was subsequently submitted to the Clerk, she noted that Heritage Gas' coverage in the urban core is significant. Despite this, there are residents who have access to natural gas but have not opted to convert.

Mr. Sarrouy explained that the natural gas system extends from Dartmouth to Cole Harbour and Woodside, criss-crosses peninsular Halifax, and passes through parts of Fairview, Rockingham and Clayton Park before extending into Bedford. To this, Heritage Gas is hoping to add 27 km of new lines in 2013 to reach 800 new customers. In addition to working with institutional customers, like the Halifax Regional School Board, Heritage Gas will also be focusing on residential outreach.

On residential uptake, Mr. Sarrouy described a pilot project undertaken with HRM in 2012 to increase uptake along Willow Street. This street had been selected because HRM was already doing road repairs and it was thought to be less disruptive if natural gas installation took place at the same time. Unfortunately, the project was not a great success, with Heritage Gas only signing up 7 new customers. Mr. Sarrouy believed that the delayed roll out of the project discouraged increased uptake.

Mr. Moores explained that Heritage Gas is introducing new programs to surpass current uptake levels of 8-10%. The first initiative will help customers convert - rather than replace - their heating systems, so long as the systems are less than 10 years old. He believed that the resulting cost savings would make natural gas accessible to a lot more residents. Secondly, Heritage Gas will help customers select the equipment clients need to access natural gas. Coming in March, this program will clarify the installation process and provide product options to guide consumers through the decision-making process. Finally, Mr. Moores indicated that Heritage Gas will lead more aggressive marketing campaigns, reaching out 5 or 6 times to a potential customer, instead of 1 or 2.

On how HRM can facilitate gas installation, Mr. Sarrouy noted that new subdivisions are being approved without gas lines in the plans. He asked that HRM strengthen bylaw enforcement to ensure that gas lines are shown in the plans right from the approvals stage. Moreover, he indicated that HRM by Design has hampered downtown development and that Heritage Gas continues to find it difficult to install meters on heritage buildings. He asked that HRM commit to working with the company to solve these challenges, which prevent increased uptake in the urban core.

To this, Ms. McCarron added the difficulty of receiving permits quickly. Heritage Gas is keen to work with HRM to streamline the process, especially during construction season as delays of even one or two weeks are costly. She also reiterated her commitment to improving communication with Councillors so they, in turn, can relay information to their constituents.

The Chair thanked Ms. McCarron, Mr. Sarrouy and Mr. Moores for their presentation and invited members of the Standing Committee to ask questions of clarification.

Councillor Watts found the presentation to be very informative and thanked Heritage Gas for their attendance. On the pilot project, residents of Willow Street had informed her that Heritage Gas had not done a good job selling the advantages, including the long-term financial benefits, of gas. She was therefore pleased that the company will begin selling equipment to enable conversion. She asked for confirmation as to whether Nova Scotia's Department of Energy is undertaking an analysis of the Willow Street project.

Ms. McCarron replied in the affirmative, noting that the Province will be conducting a study on the level of uptake on Willow Street, and elsewhere, to find out what factors

convinced residents to sign up or not to sign up. As the study is still at the Request for Proposal stage, the Province has yet to select the consultant who will lead the study.

Councillor Watts wished to know if consumers still have access to rebates to offset installation costs.

Mr. Moores explained that in the 2013-2014 season rebates of up to \$2,000 are offered to residential consumers.

Councillor Watts noted that she has received many complaints from businesses about the length of time it takes to install gas lines.

Mr. Sarrouy noted that Heritage Gas did not receive a lot of complaints in 2012. He encouraged business owners to contact the company directly with their concerns.

Councillor Fisher explained that he has never been contacted directly by Heritage Gas. He was pleased that Ms. McCarron planned on changing this. He then asked Mr. Sarrouy to account for the discrepancy in gas prices across Canada.

Mr. Sarrouy explained that the entire eastern seaboard has suffered from a temporary imbalance in the market since December while prices south and west have remained at their normal level. Prior to this period, Heritage Gas rates were very competitive. He was hopeful that the price would drop shortly, once technical problems are resolved off Sable Island.

To this, Mr. Moores added that the price of gas today, despite the imbalance, is 24% less expensive than oil. While the savings rate fluctuates over time, overall, consumers of gas can expect savings of 20-40% on their power bill.

Councillor Nicoll wished to know if Heritage Gas has successfully reached its growth projections. She also wished to know about plans for Cole Harbour, noting that large customers, like Cole Harbour Place, seem to be favoured for hook-up.

Mr. Moores indicated that residential uptake is 8-10%. The company's new programs, discussed earlier, along with strengthened training for sales staff, are designed to push uptake above 10%.

Councillor Nicoll, referring to Ms. McCarron's comments about the permit process, wished to know if Heritage Gas provides HRM with its annual plan.

Mr. Sarrouy indicated that his company regularly meets with HRM staff.

Councillor Watts noted that for many residents, natural gas installation is cost prohibitive. She hoped that the programs described by Mr. Moores would help make installation attainable.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff Reports

7.1.1 Supplementary Recommendation Report dated January 10, 2013 regarding support for Atlantic Wood Works

The supplementary recommendation report was before the Standing Committee.

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

- **Acknowledge the request from Atlantic Wood Works to consider wood materials as a viable construction material in future municipal construction projects that provides demonstrable economic, social and environmental benefits**
- **Acknowledge its support for Resolution 19A of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities**
- **Receive and accept the industry submissions from the concrete associations**
- **Not make a further policy recommendation on this matter to Regional Council**

Councillor Watts commended Atlantic Wood Works for their presentation of September 6, 2012 to the Standing Committee and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities for adopting a Wood First resolution. Based on this, she had hoped that the Standing Committee could lead a thoughtful discussion on wood and other environmentally-friendly options for HRM buildings. Unfortunately, this was not how it played out in the community. Councillor Watts was particularly disappointed with claims that wood makes building codes less stringent. She refuted this claim on the basis of information provided by members of the building, design and construction industry.

The Chair was similarly disappointed with how the debate unfolded, noting that he would have preferred a more positive discussion with industry. He thanked Mr. MacLellan and his staff for their work.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.2 Recommendation Report dated January 3, 2013 regarding Terms of Reference for Regional Watershed Advisory Board

The following were before the Standing Committee:

- The Recommendation Report dated January 3, 2013
- Correspondence from the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board (item 6.1.4) dated January 7, 2013

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend the Terms of Reference for the Regional Watershed Advisory Board, as per the attachment to the report dated January 3, 2013, to Halifax Regional Council.

Councillor Watts acknowledged the points of concern raised by Pierre Clement, in his letter on behalf of the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board. She wished to know if the roles and responsibilities of the consolidated Watershed Advisory Board, particularly in reviewing planning applications, would be significantly different from those of the existing Watershed Advisory Boards.

Mr. MacLellan indicated that the proposed Terms of Reference are based on what is authorized by the HRM Charter. It does not diminish the authorities currently exercised by the Watershed Advisory Board; it simply consolidates them into a single entity and adds a policy component to their work.

Ms. Kelly Denty, Manager of Development Approvals noted that the consolidated Watershed Advisory Board, like its predecessors, will review some, but not all planning applications: if a requirement for input is written into the applicable planning strategy, then the application will be forwarded. Otherwise, in the absence of legislative authority, the application will not be referred to the new Watershed Advisory Board. Ms. Denty also emphasized the importance of having Council direct the Watershed Advisory Board rather than having the Watershed Advisory Board direct itself. She explained that, in some circumstances, the current Boards have been applying standards that go above and beyond what HRM can implement.

Councillor Watts observed that the appointment of one citizen at large per Community Council seemed like a good way to ensure representation across HRM. She assumed that each Community Council would make these appointments. She also assumed that concerned citizens can submit proposals and comments to the consolidated Board.

Councillor Fisher wondered what would happen if a Community Council did not receive a sufficient number of qualified candidates to fill the citizen at large position.

Mr. Derk Slaunwhite, Solicitor replied that staff had not thought about this when they drafted the Terms of Reference. In light of this concern, he suggested that the Standing Committee may wish to make the following modification:

- Replace "One citizen at large representing each Community Council" with "One citizen at large may be appointed by each Community Council"

The Chair noted that the consolidated Board will have up to 11 citizens. He wished to know the number of citizens that currently sit on the Watershed Advisory Boards.

Mr. MacLellan replied that approximately 15 citizens currently sit on the three Watershed Advisory Boards.

Councillor Watts suggested that the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board should, at its first meeting, hold a discussion with staff about its roles and responsibilities to make sure expectations are clear and that gaping holes are identified.

Deputy Mayor Rankin agreed that the new Board should discuss their roles. However, he did not want to see the Board's responsibilities increased or for the planning applications process to slow down. HRM, he continued, must be as efficient as possible in processing applications. For these reasons, the Watersheds Advisory Board should only be consulted when planning strategies require that they be consulted.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

At the request of the Chair, Mr. MacLellan explained that the Terms of Reference will be before Regional Council towards the end of February. If approved by Regional Council, then HRM will make a call for applications. Existing Watershed Advisory Boards will continue their work until the consolidated Board is operational.

7.1.3 Staff Report dated January 21, 2013 in regard to Alterations to the Clean Nova Scotia Partnership Agreement.

A staff report of January 21, 2013 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council that it direct staff to terminate the partnership agreement with Clean Nova Scotia for a Fleet Fuel Reduction Project and initiate an agreement for a two-year Rain Yards project, as proposed by Clean Nova Scotia (attached to report dated January 21, 2013), with previously allocated funding of \$50,000 from the Sustainable Communities Reserve. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. MOTIONS - NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Councillor Watts – Information Report regarding the Financial Impact of Modifications to the RRFB Budget

An Information Report dated February 7, 2013 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee receive the Information Report dated February 7, 2013 and forward it to Regional Council recommending that a letter be sent from Regional Council to the Nova Scotia Minister of the Environment requesting consideration of changes to the deposit-refund program for beverage containers in order to enable increases in diversion credit funding for municipal waste programming to counter the rising costs of increased diversion (as

mandated by the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act's* 300 kg/capita goal)

Councillor Watts thanked staff for bringing this report forward and expressed concern over the loss of diversion credits. With a provincial review underway, she felt that the timing was right to vocalize HRM's concerns over the future of the Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB).

Councillor Nicoll asked staff to provide an overview of the Hogg Report, which dates from 2011.

Mr. Helm explained that the Hogg Report was commissioned by the Province in 2011 to review RRFB's funding model. The RRFB has successfully diverted glass and recyclables from the landfill since 1995 but in recent years, revenues have stalled while operational costs, like transportation, continue to rise. The Hogg Report found that if the RRFB carried on with business as usual, its operational expenses would outstrip its revenues by 2015. In other words, there will be no money left to redistribute to municipalities to support municipal waste programs.

Following the release of the Hogg Report, the Province challenged the RRFB to change its plans. Mr. Helm explained that the RRFB's reworked business plan was presented in December 2012. It calls for, among other things, a reduction in per capita funding for diversion programs. This would amount to a reduction of 30% in funding HRM currently receives from the RRFB.

In January 2013, the Department of the Environment invited waste management stakeholders, including HRM, to provide comment and to advance recommendations on changes to, among other things, the beverage container deposit refund program.

Mr. Helm explained that program duplication has led to operational inefficiencies. Residents no longer need to go to an RRFB Enviro Depot because HRM runs a blue bag pick-up service. He proposed, as a solution, that beverage containers be picked up and processed by municipalities, and by municipalities only. In this scenario, the 10 cent deposit could be reduced to 5 cents, and a portion of these profits could be transferred to municipalities. He outlined, as a second option, increasing the deposit from 10 cents to 15 or 20 cents. This would provide more revenue for the RRFB and, indirectly, for municipalities. Of the two, he believed the first to be more efficient and sustainable.

Deputy Mayor Rankin was disappointed that HRM had not been contacted to provide input on the business plan RRFB presented to the Province in December. He wished to know if the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities was studying the issues at play. He agreed with the first option, that is, that there should be a single recycling program, run by municipalities and not the RRFB, to avoid competition and redundancies.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE - March 7, 2013

12. IN CAMERA

12.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – January 10, 2013

In lieu of convening in camera, the Standing Committee approved the in camera minutes of January 10, 2013 in public session, under Item 2, Approval of Minutes.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.

Ted Aubut
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Information Report dated November 29, 2012 regarding Green Building Standards and the Centre Plan
2. Supplementary Information Report dated January 10, 2013 regarding Blue Mountain Birch Cove Regional Park and Birch Cove Lakes Watershed Study Projects