



**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY  
STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
September 10, 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair  
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice- Chair  
Deputy Mayor Darren Fisher  
Councillor Bill Karsten  
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll  
Councillor Reg Rankin  
Councilor Steve Craig

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Coordinator  
Mr. Josh Judah, Solicitor  
Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee are available online:  
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCenv/140910ESSC-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. and the Standing Committee adjourned at 11:14 a.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 5, 2014 and July 3, 2014**

Councillor Watts noted a correction in the July 3, 2014 minutes on page 5. She noted that under the Regional Chairs update should note increased funding for municipalities and not the Committee.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Watts that the June 5, 2014 and the July 3, 2014 minutes be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:       12.1   Barriers to District Energy  
                      12.2   Webcasting of Standing Committee meetings.

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

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

**5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE**

**6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE**

**7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE**

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Halifax Input – Nova Scotia Regulatory Review**

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated August 28, 2014*

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Coordinator advised the Committee that the report before them was to reflect Regional Councils position to the provinces solid waste regulatory review. The recommendations were based on the input from members of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee at a special working session held on July 31, 2014. She reminded the Committee that this input had to be provided to the province by the end of September.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend Regional Council approve and forward the Regulation Review input as outlined in Attachment B of the August 28, 2014 staff report to the Province of Nova Scotia for review and consideration.**

Councillor Watts wanted to know if under the product stewardship section of the report, to include a statement that clearly states that municipalities have the first right of refusal. She also added that under

the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to include a statement of having a 'partnership approach' included. She felt that a statement should be included that the municipality is committed to the 300 kg goal but a further discussion needs to be happen regarding particular interests of HRM.

Councillor Rankin stated that the report had the capability of doing good things for HRM. He felt that the report should be written in easier language so that the public could better understand it. He did not feel that the province should be providing a cost benefit analysis on everything. He added that bans are good for municipalities and the province would be able to sort out the details.

Mr. Mike Labrecque, DCAO advised that the report was constructed with what was heard at the ESSC working session on July 31, 2014. There were two things such as Extended Producer Responsibility and Material bans. He added that when material bans are imposed there has to be a program and those programs will have a cost.

Councillor Karsten agreed that trying to find a cost benefit analysis can be problematic. He did not think that staff should be advocating on the cost benefit analysis to the province and the report should be re-worded. He also added that the 300 kg target was not captured clearly and should be written as a 300 kg provincial target.

**MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Rankin to amend #4 of attachment B to include statement indicating that HRM supports a 300kg provincial goal and understand that it is a provincial goal.**

Councillor Rankin agreed that residential garbage across the province is easy to asses and is similar across the province. He argued that HRM has about 70% of the Industrial Commercial and Institutional (ICI) garbage and would be penalized by attempting to meet an overall target of 300kg. He stated there needed to be another measurement for ICI because HRM has proportionally more ICI waste than the rest of the province.

The amendment was now before the Committee. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Watts felt there should be a cost benefit analysis on material bans, adding that there needs to be careful thinking done before instituting bans on what the costs might be. She suggested that a statement needed to be included in the report indicating that HRM is supportive of the province in having an EPR program. She indicated that it was important to let the province and residents know that HRM is supportive of the program but to be careful of possible financial implications.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Rankin to include a statement that HRM supports the EPR approach of the Province and looks forward to working in partnership with the Province on its implementation. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Karsten felt if material bans were going to be put forward it should be done, if it is important to do, it should not be necessary to try and figure out a cost benefit analysis before moving forward.

Councillor Rankin agreed that a cost benefit analysis would just complicate a material ban. He added that the public would like to see this progressive legislation move forward.

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Karsten to exclude statement (ii) from item 2 'Material Bans' from Attachment B.**

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Coordinator advised that any ban of material requires the municipality to set up a program for provision and management of that material as they are the receiver of that waste and there are costs associated with setting up those programs. There also needs to be markets established for banned materials before implementation of material bans.

Councillor Craig indicated that he did not support the amendment as he felt that the municipality should know the full cost of a material ban before implementation. The vote on the amendment was now before the Committee. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The amended motion was now before the Committee. Brief discussion ensued.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair thanked staff for their work on the report and feedback gathered to provide to the province.

**9.2.1 HRM's Potential Participation in the Earth Hour City Challenge 2015**

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated August 14, 2014*

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Deputy Mayor Fisher that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommends Halifax Regional Council not engage the Municipality to participate in the Earth Hour City Challenge in 2015/16.**

Deputy Mayor Fisher explained that he understood not spending the money to participate in the official Earth Hour Challenge, but he wanted to ensure the municipality would be engaged through social media to promote the event of Earth Hour.

Ms. Jane Fraser, Director Planning and Infrastructure stated that Earth Hour is something that HRM has been supporting and will continue to support. She expected that the municipality would continue its involvement as it had in previous years. In response to Councillor Watts, Ms. Fraser explained that the motion was written so that the municipality could consider participating in future years.

**9.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**9.2.1 Regional Chairs – Councillor Watts**

Councillor Watts stated that there had not been a meeting of Regional Chairs since the last ESSC meeting but would provide an update and the next Standing Committee meeting.

**10. MOTIONS - NONE**

**11. IN CAMERA**

**11.1.1 In Camera Minutes – July 3, 2014**

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the July 3,, 2014 In Camera Minutes as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**11.2 Personnel Matter**

**11.2.1 Citizen Nominations to Halifax Water – Private and Confidential Report**

This matter was addressed during the regular Committee meeting.

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

- 1) **Nominate the highest scoring proponent to Regional Council for appointment to the Board of Halifax Water.**
- 2) **Not release this report to the public.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12. ADDED ITEMS**

**12.1 Barriers to District Energy – Councillor Watts**

Councillor Watts advised that she was looking for an update from staff on the Cogswell redevelopment plan and the potential for district energy for that project.

Ms. Fraser stated that it might be a bit premature for an update at this time, she noted that the redevelopment plan does speak to looking for opportunity for district energy. She added that in the Cogswell Land Plan they would be coming back to Council to for periodic updates on things they can do and there would be opportunity to talk about the scope of service when the request for proposal comes back to Council.

Mr. Mike Labrecque, DCAO advised that he would also speak to Councillor Watts of some of her specific areas of concern and if there was still a requirement for a report she could bring that request back to the next ESSC meeting.

**12.2 Webcasting of Standing Committees**

In agreement the Committee requested that the next meeting be webcast. The Committee did request that the cost of webcasting and some information after a few meetings on how many residents are tuning into the webcasts.

**12.3 Councillor Watts – Status Sheet Item**

Councillor Watts requested that the date of the Communications Tower Right of Way be looked into and see if there is an update.

**12.4 Clean Foundation – Request to Present**

Councillor Dalrymple advised that the Clean Foundation would be coming in to present on the 2014 Rain Yards Program at an upcoming Committee meeting to which the members of ESSC agreed.

**12.5 Deputy Mayor Fisher – Update on End of Use Light Bulbs**

Deputy Mayor Fisher requested an update on the status of end of use light bulbs from municipal buildings.

Mr. Labrecque advised that an update would come as a written report to the Committee in the near future.

**12.6 Councillor Rankin – Blue Mountain / Kearney Lake Park**

Councillor Rankin requested an update on the Blue Mountain/Kearney Lake Park status at the next meeting.

**13. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 2, 2014**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Quentin Hill

**Environment and Sustainability  
Standing Committee Minutes  
September 10, 2014**

Legislative Assistant