



**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
July 2, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair  
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Darren Fisher  
Councillor Brad Johns  
Deputy Mayor Lorelei Nicoll  
Councillor Bill Karsten

**STAFF:** Ms. Jane Fraser, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Josh Judah, Solicitor  
Ms. Phoebe Smith, 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/150702essc-Agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 2:09 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 11, 2015**

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicoll

**THAT the minutes of the June 11, 2015 meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:      12.1    Information Item 4: Changes at the Curb Education Campaign  
                      12.2    Extended Producer Responsibility  
                      12.3    Solid Waste Regional Chairs Committee Update

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Johns

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE**

**6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE**

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

**8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**8.1 Correspondence – NONE**

**8.2 Petitions – NONE**

**8.3 Presentations**

**8.3.1 Sheila Cole re: Healthy Cities for Healthy Life**

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A presentation dated July 2, 2015
- A handout entitled “Healthy Cities for Healthy Life: Report by Sheila Cole”

Ms. Sheila Cole delivered a presentation to the Committee that highlighted the many measures that the Halifax Regional Municipality has taken to improve the environmental health of the municipality and its residents. She noted that she has learned through her experience with the UN Habitat World Urban Forum that Halifax is considered a global leader for its solid waste policies as well as non-smoking, scent-

free and pesticide by-laws amongst other initiatives promoting healthy living. She emphasized that many of these achievements came about through a multi-stakeholder decision making process.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the historical perspective on how many of the current environmental policies were initiated. Ms. Cole agreed to make her presentation available to the public on the Committee website. The Chair thanked Ms. Cole for her presentation.

**8.3.2 John Hawkins and Colleen Rollings, Heritage Gas re: 2015 Update, Natural Gas Supply and Pricing**

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A presentation dated July 2, 2015

Ms. Colleen Rollings provided an update on the expansion of Heritage Gas in 2015. She indicated that the company has been implementing the Residential Retrofit Assistance Plan, bundling pipelines to achieve the business goals mandated by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, and working closely with HRM staff on the cost-sharing project on Penhorn Drive and Sarnia Avenue in Dartmouth. She noted that a 2009 policy restricts meter set installations along the streetscape and advised that Heritage Gas would like a review of this policy to provide more access to natural gas in the municipality.

Mr. John Hawkins delivered a presentation on gas supply and pricing, noting that Heritage Gas is working to mitigate the impact of the loss of natural gas sources in the Maritimes including Deep Panuke and Sable Island by: establishing long term transportation contracts on pipelines to provide access to Central and Western Canada gas sources beginning in 2016 and United States sources in 2017; securing local storage with Alton Natural Gas Storage for natural gas reserves; and allowing large industrial customers to source their own gas.

Ms. Rollings and Mr. Hawkins responded to questions from Committee members. Ms. Rollings indicated that conversations on possibly revising the metering policy have been initiated with HRM's Traffic Management division. Mr. Hawkins noted that Heritage Gas has implemented changes to its service rules to make it easier for customers to convert to natural gas, citing for example that customers are now able to convert a single appliance if desired. In response to a question on GIS mapping, Ms. Rollings noted that the company is providing GIS data to HRM staff that will facilitate greater cooperation among utilities. The Chair thanked the presenters for providing this information to the Committee.

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Water Quality Overview – HRM 2014**

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 7, 2015

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten

**THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct the staff report dated May 7, 2015 to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board for its information.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Committee recognized Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager of Energy and Environment for his leadership and innovation on environmental issues on behalf of the municipality and congratulated him on his new position as Chief Administrative Officer for the Region of Queens Municipality.

**9.2 COMMITTEES – NONE**

**9.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE**

**10. MOTIONS – NONE**

**11. IN CAMERA**

**11.1 Minutes – June 11, 2015**

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicoll

**THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee approve the In Camera minutes of June 11, 2015 as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**No In Camera session was held; the June 11, 2015 In Camera minutes were approved during public session.**

**12. ADDED ITEMS**

**12.1 Changes at the Curb Education Campaign**

The following was before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- A staff information report dated June 18, 2015

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Johns

**THAT the staff information report dated June 18, 2015 be forwarded to Regional Council for information.**

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator responded to questions of clarification from the Committee. Ms. Lewis agreed to circulate a link to the campaign's Facebook page to Committee members. Responding to a question regarding feedback from the education campaign, Ms. Lewis indicated that a public opinion survey would be conducted later in the summer to identify the public's level of understanding of the changes to curbside collection.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12.2 Extended Producer Responsibility**

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicoll

**THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report on the process and current status of Extended Producer Responsibility.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12.3 Solid Waste Regional Chairs Committee Update – Councillor Watts**

Councillor Watts noted that there was a significant discussion of full and shared models of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) at the recent meeting of the Solid Waste Regional Chairs Committee. She also noted that at the recent meeting of the Board of Directors for the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, a resolution supporting continued consideration of EPR models was passed.

**13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

- 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. (if required)  
Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.**

The Chair indicated that the "if required" meeting scheduled for August 6, 2015 will likely be held.

- 15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Ms. Phoebe Smith  
Legislative Assistant