

ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 17, 2006

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Mosher, Chair
Councillor Sue Uteck
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Debbie Hum
Councillor Stephen Streach

REGRETS: Councillor Len Goucher
Councillor Stephen Adams

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Manager, Environmental Performance
(Energy and Utilities)
Carl Yates, General Manager, Halifax Regional Water Commission
Mary Ellen Donovan, Acting Director, Legal Services
Stephen King, Manager, Environmental Performance
(Air and Land)
Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 20, 2006

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Uteck, that the minutes of January 20, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Uteck, that the Order of Business be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. REPORTS

5.1 Underground Wiring - Project Criteria

- A report dated February 21, 2006 on the above noted was before the Committee.

Ms. O'Toole advised staff is trying to keep the costs low by developing a common trench noting, this is currently underway with an expected conclusion in April. She advised staff has identified a way to have natural gas, power and telephone in one trench. She advised there may be a way to compress and make the trench smaller which would result in a cost reduction. She advised NS Power and Aliant have agreed to cost share undergrounding in the pole free area. NS Power would pay for moving the wires down and HRM would pay for the underground civil infrastructure. HRM pays 80% of the civil infrastructure for telecom.

In response to Councillor Mosher, Ms. O'Toole advised there was no cost sharing with Heritage Gas but there would be some saving both to Heritage Gas and the underground wiring project as there would be some common costs.

In response to Councillor Smith as to how HRM is involved in private developments, Ms. O'Toole advised primarily the focus to date has been on the Capital District with the exception of the work on the common trench. She advised NS Power has agreed to pay half the cost of the development by HRM of the common trench, management agreement, engineering design standards and financial recommendations of how the installation of the infrastructure will be paid for.

Councillor Uteck suggested the Cost Sharing Opportunity Coordination weighting scale be amended to reflect more than 15%.

Councillor Kent suggested the wording "HRM owned development" be included under the examples to provide clarity under Cost Sharing Opportunity Coordination.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the wording "HRM owned developments" be included under the examples identified under criteria #5, Cost Sharing Opportunity Coordination. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Smith, that criteria #2, Benefit to Pedestrian Realm, be decreased to 15% and criteria #5, Cost Sharing Opportunity Coordination be increased to 20%.

It was suggested and the committee agreed that the title of criteria #5 be changed to Capital Project Opportunity Coordination be included as part of the motion.

The motion now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Smith, that

- 1. Criteria #2, Benefit to Pedestrian Realm, be decreased to 15% and criteria #5, Cost Sharing Opportunity Coordination be increased to 20%.**
- 2. Criteria #5, Cost Sharing Opportunity Coordination be changed to Capital Project Opportunity Coordination.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the Committee recommend Regional Council approve the criteria attached to the February 21, 2006 staff report to assess the merits of underground wiring projects as a tool to prioritize projects and allocate resources. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Alderney 5 Energy Project

Mr. Julian Boyle, provided an updated on the Alderney Five Energy project.

- The project is approximately \$3 million,
- Involves direct cooling from Halifax Harbour, a bore hole seasonal storage cooling system and gas fired micro turbine,
- Bore hole seasonal storage involves charging up the ground in the winter months and then in peak time extract that cold energy and use it in the air conditioning in the building,
- There are approximately sixty holes, four inches in diameter each which are sixty feet deep,
- Cooling would come from the bore hole system in the peak time of the year during the summer months.

7. **ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Julia Horncastle
Legislative Assistant