

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
SOLID WASTE/RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2001  
Boardroom 1, 2750 Dutch Village Road

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Present: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair  
Councillor Gary Hines  
Councillor Jim Smith  
Councillor Gary Meade  
Councillor Russell Walker  
Jim Bauld, Diversion Planning Coordinator  
Brian Smith, Director, Solid Waste Resources  
Laurie Lewis, Collection & Processing Coordinator  
Ken Meech, CAO  
Kurt Pyle, Planner  
Mary Lawrence, Administrative Assistant to Brian Smith

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. PRESENTATION BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no presentations.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2001 MEETING**

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin and seconded by Councillor Meade that the Minutes of February 5, 2001 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

None

**5. OPERATIONS UPDATE****5.1 Tonnage Report, April 1, 200 - January 31, 2001**

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Collection & Processing Coordinator, reviewed the Year-To-Date Tonnage Report on Refuse, Organics and Recycling. Ms. Lewis went on to explain the fiscal year over year comparisons and the percentage difference, the monthly comparison for January 2000 and 2001 and the percentage difference. Ms. Lewis also reviewed the 2000-01 Budget tonnage and what the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter projections were in comparison, also showing the difference in 1999 actual tonnage of the three material streams.

**5.2 Residential Materials Quality Improvement Programs**

Ms. Lewis circulated Statistics on Curbside Stickers Program for Recycling, Green Cart and Black Bag Waste. The objective of the program is to reduce contamination at curbside. The sticker program is now going on in several areas. Councillor Rankin asked if the processing plants have seen an improvement in what is delivered to the facilities? Ms. Lewis stated that plant operators are pleased with the new efforts of the Solid Waste staff. As the information comes in from the haulers it is sent over to our Division Planning Group who will then follow up at the neighbourhood level.

Councillor Walker asked if the stats on Green Cart reflected collection of one or two weeks? Ms. Lewis will verify and get back to him at the next meeting. Councillor Walker asked if haulers give out 1,000 stickers, will it cost HRM extra? Ms. Lewis stated that it is a good time of the year to be doing this stickering program as some of the haulers finish up their route early. Mr. Smith stated that the Councillors are very helpful when the program is in effect in their areas. The questions was raised if it was more than one sticker per household, Ms. Lewis stated only one sticker per household, i.e. if more than one black bag over the limit than only one sticker is applied and up to the limit is taken away.

### **5.3 Compost Facilities**

Mr. Smith presented some background information on the Compost Plant Community Relations. HRM has contracts/partnerships in place for the provision of organic compost processing for two facilities 1) Miller Waste, Gloria McCluskey Avenue in Burnside Industrial Park, and 2) New Era Farms, Evergreen Place in Ragged Lake Industrial Park.

Staff work regularly with the plant operators, N.S. Department of Environment and Labour, and Community Liaison Committees for each plant to monitor operating issues, community complaints, etc. Staff suggested that should a petition be received regarding a composting facility that it should be referred to SWRAC for review/response.

Both plants have been dealing with a number of issues relating to feed stock (green cart contents), peaking (leaf collection and Christmas Trees), product marketing (supply/demand for finished compost) and further storage and processing of "overs" (bulkier materials that require further time for processing into compost).

## **6. DIVERSION INITIATIVES**

### **6.1 Communication and Education Update**

Mr. Jim Bauld, Diversion Planning Coordinator, provided an update on current activities. The Communication & Education Programs now in effect are "Precycling" showing on the Local TV station and on the HRM Web page (4 pages) with Tips; the "Recycle Right" showing on Cable TV, in the Daily/ monthly newspapers and on billboards; "Naturally Green", HRM environmental newsletter, will be out in March 2001 and distributed to 155,000 homes/apartments; HHW Schedule is in the daily newspapers, also Kent Building Centres and Paint Recycling Company Ltd. in Burnside have a drop off for customers to return paint cans; Home Show 2001 will be held on March 8,9 and 10<sup>th</sup> with displays of Solid Waste Programs.

## **6.2 Regional Chairs, RRFB and Stewardship Updates**

Mr. Bauld provided a similar summary of provincial waste diversion work.

Regional Chairs: A letter was sent from Mayor Kelly to NSDOE&L objecting to revenue being used to fund Provincial operations.

RRFB: Regional Communications Contract for 2001/02 should provide approx. \$225,000 to HRM. Newspaper Stewardship will provide \$250,000 in advertising in daily newspapers. Pilot Program of Fluorescent Lights being accepted at limited Enviro Depots. Residential Paint (mid 2001) will be accepted at most Enviro Depots.

Voluntary Planning: Meeting with Voluntary Planning, NSDOE&L and municipal waste staff.

Other: Enviro Glass depot in Westphal-accepts window and windshield glass, and light bulbs.

Councillor Rankin asked if liquor bottle deposits go into the pool? Mr. Bauld responded yes. Councillor Walker asked what is the bottle recovery rate? Mr. Smith responded, approximately 85% recovery rate.

## **7. CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE STRATEGY**

### **7.1 Progress Report**

Mr. Bauld did a presentation on Moving Forward with Management of C & D Materials. The process was approved by Council in December 2000: Originally combined license by-law with planning amendments - similar consultation process for adopting these two elements, SWRAC to lead process, local Public/Industry consultation required.

Mr. Bauld stated that the issues surrounding the by-law are consistent development controls, maximize recycling, and appropriate disposal of residue.

Mr. Bauld gave the progress to date: Consultations with the Industry in the form of an open house and a SWRAC meeting January 22, surveys of existing recycling operators, public meetings with Joint PAC on January 10, Chebucto CC on February 5, North West PAC on February 12, Harbour East PAC/CC on February 21, Marine Dr PAC on February 26, Penn West CC on Feb 28, and scheduled meeting with Marine Dr PAC on March 5.

Mr. Bauld stated that the findings to date are: need to expedite the HRM process to meet 2001 construction season; need for controls on operations fiscal year 2001/2002; general agreement on the need for License By-Law from industry; need to ensure maximum diversion from disposal and locational requirements are a local concern.

In response, Staff would like to see is to be able to proceed with an interim license by-law with a specific time horizon. Some controls are known and should be in place this construction season. Staff will continue with public consultation for required planning amendments for processing facilities and disposal sites; and amend the license by-law once the planning documents are adopted.

Mr. Bauld stated that the elements of the proposed C & D License By-Law should define processing, disposal, transfer stations, retail outlets, a list of materials that must be recycled, tracking of materials, controls on operation, hours of operation, bonding, require an operational plan, and have a contingency plan (fire, hazardous materials, etc) in place. Outcome of interim approval through License By-Law would result in control of existing operations, maximize recycling and diversion of C & D materials and reduce existing C & D materials stockpiles.

Councillor Rankin asked the question what do we need to do and can we stop stock piling? Kurt Pyle advised that presently there is no control through the Land Use and Zoning By-laws. He stated that the Land Use By-Law needs to be amended but the staff proposal provides: 1) a starting point for a level playing field for all HRM C & D operators, 2) interim by-law until all the land use amendments are done. Councillor Rankin asked if you could have a licencing by-law without planning amendments? Staff explained that the license by-law would provide a good first step, but the planning amendments would still be required to provide comprehensive control of the C & D industry.

## **7.2 Proposed Changes in Process**

Mr. Bauld recommended that the public process to implement the C & D waste management strategy be amended and for staff to provide a draft License By-Law to SWRAC for review and recommendation for approval by Regional Council; that staff continue with the process for amendments to the MPS and LUB; and that these recommendations be referred to Regional Council for endorsement.

The Committee agreed unanimously with the recommendations. The draft license by-law is to be brought forward to the next meeting of SWRAC on March 7<sup>th</sup> for comments before going to Regional Council.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ken Meech suggested SWRAC members have an opportunity to tour the Waste Management Facilities and meet plant operators. Miller Waste have arranged such a meeting on February 28, for the Burnside Compost Plant and the Recycling Plant. Staff will try to arrange similar tours at Otter Lake and New Era.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**