

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 5, 2003**

PRESENT: Councillor Jim Smith, Chair
Councillor Gary Hines
Councillor Gary Meade
Councillor Dawn Sloane

ABSENT: Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Reg Rankin

STAFF: Mr. Brian Smith, General Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Jim Bauld, Coordinator, Diversion Planning
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Coordinator, Collection and Processing
Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councillor Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

It was agreed to address Item 4.5 Weekly Summer Green Cart Collection Pilot Program following Item 4.1 New Residential Collection Contract - Update, and to address Item 4.4 Tonnage Report following Item 4.2 CRA Survey - On-Site Organics Management.

MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Meade, that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2003

MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Meade, that the minutes of March 27, 2003, be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Stephen Taylor, Enviro Waste Ltd., addressed the Committee with respect to tonnages, noting there are a number of factors that have changed since the commencement of source separated composting:

- C the volume of trees and brush hauled with the mixed waste
- C the disposal of wax cardboard
- C liquid in composting bins has decreased
- C customers are more aware of food waste and have been limiting it

There were no further public speakers.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 New Residential Collection Contracts: Update (verbal)

With the use of overheads, Ms. Laurie Lewis, Coordinator, Collection and Processing, provided a verbal update to the Committee members regarding the new residential collection contracts. Ms. Lewis reviewed the changes to the respective collection areas. She stated this information will be communicated to the individual Councillors. Also, notices, including a map of the area with all streets affected, will be circulated to households. The changes will also be detailed in the *Naturally Green* newsletter and a briefing session will be held for the Call

Centre operators.

In response to a question of Councillor Sloane, Ms. Lewis stated the information will also be put on the HRM web site and the radio information channel.

Councillor Meade noted a correction to the notice in that Big Lake is also a community and should be added.

Responding to a question of Councillor Smith, Ms. Lewis stated she would ensure that for those areas that crossover into another District, both Councillors will receive the information. In response to a further question of the Councillor, Mr. Smith noted similar collection changes have occurred in the past and staff are aware of the problems that may occur and will be monitoring for them. The purpose of door-to-door delivery of the notices is an effort to reduce the likelihood of problems.

Councillor Sloane suggested this would be a good time to also remind residents of the time frames for setting out waste for collection. She suggested this could be done by posting a reminder on the web site and in the *Naturally Green* newsletter.

There were no further questions of the Committee.

As agreed to during the Approval of the Agenda, the Committee addressed Item 4.5 Weekly Summer Green Cart Collection Pilot Program: Update (verbal) at this time.

4.5 Weekly Summer Green Cart Collection Pilot Program: Update (verbal)

With the use of overheads, Mr. Ken Donnelly, Lura Consulting, and Ms. Michele Casey, SNC Lavalin, made a presentation to the Committee regarding the weekly summer green cart collection pilot program. Mr. Donnelly noted three factors will be studied during the pilot program:

- C Vehicle tonnage for the three pilot areas and the one control area
- C Tonnage per household for both the pilot and control areas (A scientifically derived factor will be employed for the liquid that is lost when the organics are sitting in the carts receiving bi-weekly collection.)
- C Set out rate to determine if carts are placed out every week during the weekly collection pilot project

He noted a telephone survey will also be conducted requesting residents' views on how well weekly collection works, is it worth doing, and did it help resolve some of the nuisance issues

At the end of the study, Mr. Donnelly stated the answers to the following questions will be known:

- C Did weekly collection of organics increase organic diversion? If so, by how much?
- C Do people set their cart out more often with weekly service as opposed to bi-weekly service?
- C Is weekly service considered to be worth doing as a way of preventing nuisances, and do people feel it is economical?

Councillor Sloane suggested staff may want to explore the possibility of utilizing the City Watch system for the survey. Councillor Smith expressed concern that the system is becoming watered down and people may tend not to pay attention to the important messages.

Councillor Smith inquired if it would be possible to examine contamination rates in this study. Mr. Bauld responded that this was not an original goal of the study but it can be looked at. Ms. Lewis noted that staff would have records from the collectors conducting pickups who are looking in the green carts for contamination as part of the collection procedure. She noted that when they identify contamination, it is reported to HRM in their log.

Mr. Bauld circulated the notice that will be sent to residents regarding the weekly pickup pilot project, which he reviewed for the benefit of the Committee.

As agreed to during Approval of the Agenda, the Committee addressed Item 4.2 CRA Survey - On-Site Organics Management at this time.

4.2 CRA Survey - On-Site Organics Management

- C An Information Report prepared for Brian T. Smith, General Manager, Solid Waste Resources, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its information.

Mr. Bauld presented the Information Report to the Committee.

Responding to questions of the Committee, Mr. Bauld made the following points:

- C The recent backyard compost bin sale was well received despite the inclement weather. 925 bins were sold during the sale and 300 bins were sold to other regions.
- C This sale will be budgeted as an annual event in the future at mall parking lot locations during Compost Awareness Week.
- C Each spring and fall, the weekly limit at the compost plants is 480 tonnes and HRM is well over that. If the use of backyard compost bins can influence this, it will help.

As agreed to during Approval of the Agenda, the Committee addressed Item 4.4 Tonnage Report at this time.

4.4 Tonnage Report

- C The Waste/Resource System Mass Balance report, Year to Date: April 2002 - 31 March 2003 was before the Committee for its consideration.

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Coordinator, Collection and Processing, presented the report to the Committee and provided an update on the strategy to reduce contamination at condominium properties.

4.2 CRA Survey - On-Site Organics Management

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

4.3 Memorandum dated May 27, 2003: By-Law S-603 - Amendments to By-Law S-600

- C A memorandum from Brian T. Smith, General Manager, Solid Waste Resources, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration.

Mr. Smith presented the report to the Committee.

Councillor Sloane inquired as to how situations where the landlords refuse to provide tenants with the ability to compost should be handled. Staff advised that she should provide staff with the information, and they will follow up on the situation.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the amendments and staff responded to questions of clarification of the Committee.

Staff advised the Committee the report is scheduled to go before Council next week.

4.4 Tonnage Report

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

4.5 Weekly Summer Green Cart Collection Pilot Program: Update (verbal)

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

5. **ADDED ITEMS**

There were no added items.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Mr. Smith advised the Committee that Solid Waste Resources will be completing the system review within the next few weeks, and he suggested a meeting should be held in July to deal with this item. It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be tentatively set for Thursday, July 17, 2003.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Patti Halliday
Legislative Assistant