

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
September 8, 2005**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair  
Councillor Debbie Hum  
Councillor Gary Meade  
Councillor Bill Karsten  
Councillor Dawn Sloane

**REGRETS:** Councillor Harry McInroy  
Councillor Jim Smith  
Councillor Krista Snow

**STAFF:** Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources  
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid  
Waste Resources (Delegated to Jim Myers and Brian Phelan)  
Mr. Robert Orr, Collection & Processing Coordinator,  
Environmental Management Services  
Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Environmental Management Services  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:46 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED** by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Meade that the minutes of June 29, 2005, as distributed, be approved. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**Additions:**

8.1 Solid Waste Resource Roundtable

**MOVED** by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the agenda, as amended, be approved. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** - None

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

6. **TONNAGE REPORT**

- The Waste/Resource System Mass Balance, Year to Date 01 April 2005 - 31 July 2005, was before the Committee.

Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, advised that HRM's diversion rate, which was previously decreasing, is up to 56%, despite approximately 1500 new homes built each year. Mr. Bauld indicated that Solid Waste Resources hopes to get see the diversion rate at 60% or higher.

Councillor Sloane noted that in the report, recycling is indicated as having a -13.38% change. Mr. Rober Orr, Collection & Processing Coordinator, advised that this number is largely due to the current high market price of paper.

Councillor Meade inquired as to how the 30,817 C & D system total figure was obtained, to which Mr. Bauld advised that each C & D facility is licensed by HRM and must submit monthly reports for monitoring purposes.

The Committee discussed the backyard composting sale process and were advised by Ms.

Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, that a truckload is the minimum order and they will attempt to sell the compost in advance, to avoid over-ordering. Ms. Lewis further informed the Committee that advertising would be done in conjunction with the supplier, and through the use of HRM's website.

Councillor Hum suggested that Solid Waste Resources use parent-teacher organizations in local schools to promote the backyard compost sale. This could also provide environmental education to schools. Councillor Sloane added that environmental education in schools, in particular, the 10% challenge, is important.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 10% Challenge - Update**

- An Information Report dated September 1, 2005 - 10% Challenge Update #3 - was before the Committee.

Councillor Hum commended the Naturally Green newsletter for the environmental information it provides the public.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Ms. Lewis advised that school presentations discussed in the report are given on an inquiry basis. She further informed the Committee that staff and students have received education on waste separation in most schools and that schools are considered a public building and may be issued a summary offence ticket if they do not comply with waste diversion rules.

Councillor Sloane thanked staff for attending open houses at the George Dixon Centre and St. Mary's Elementary. She further noted that she has received positive feedback on the Naturally Green newsletter.

Responding to further questions from the Committee, Ms. Lewis advised that waste diversion information was published in local university off-campus publications and new student guides. Councillor Sloane requested that copies of these publications be provided to the Councillors on the Committee for their information.

Councillor Rankin congratulated staff for the success of their solid waste diversion efforts.

Mr. Bauld informed the Committee of a television advertisement for the Otter Lake facility currently airing. The ad focuses on the cost of building and maintaining land fill sites versus the environmental and financial benefits of recycling.

### **7.2 Source Separation at HRM Buildings and Parks**

Mr. Brian Phelan, Superintendent, Parks & Open Spaces, RPAM, provided an overview of source separation efforts at HRM's buildings and parks, during which the following was noted:

- C There are currently 31 four-stream recycling bins in HRM parks, out of 300 parks.
- C Four-stream includes: organics, paper, waste, and recyclables.
- C In March, Mayor Kelly kicked off Phase One of the Capital District waste diversion plan with the installation of a four-stream recycle bin in Grand Parade.
- C There are currently 11 four-stream recycle bins throughout both Dartmouth and Halifax sides of the Capital District, and after Phase Two, another 20 bins will have been installed. Intentions are to build into this year's budget for an additional 25 - 30 bins.
- C Miller Waste has been contracted to empty the bins three times per week, plus power washing of the bins. Miller Waste will be reporting to HRM numbers in terms of usage of the bins.
- C HRM owned buildings will be equipped for four stream waste separation by October 2005.

Councillor Sloane wished to thank special events staff for implementing four-stream waste diversion at HRM special events. Councillor Sloane also noted that the Lions Club volunteered at the Halifax waterfront Natal Day activities and did an excellent job of ensuring proper waste separation.

Councillor Karsten noted that at the Natal Day events at Alderney Landing, the source separation bins were hidden behind food vendors. Councillor Karsten requested clarification regarding who holds responsibility for ensuring waste diversion is properly carried out at HRM events.

Mr. Bauld advised that Solid Waste staff have been attending special events meetings for the past three years to ensure that waste diversion is properly carried out, however, he will follow up on the location of waste diversion bins at the Natal Day event to ensure that they are located more strategically at future events.

The Committee briefly discussed HRM's recent acquisition of the PowerVac sidewalk cleaner. Mr. Phelan advised that HRM is currently leasing the machine, and if they are pleased with the performance of the PowerVac, the lease payments will be applied against the purchase price.

The Chair thanked Mr. Phelan for attending the meeting.

## **8. ADDED ITEMS**

### **8.1 Solid Waste Resource Roundtable**

Mr. Bauld advised that a tentative date of November 28, 2005, has been set for the Solid Waste Resource roundtable discussion to look at how to further enhance diversion. Mr. Bauld advised he would keep members of this Committee advised of the date, time and location of the roundtable and invited them all to attend.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATES**

The Committee agreed that a further September meeting would not be necessary. Tentative meeting dates for October 27, 2005 and November 24, 2005 were agreed upon.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant