

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**September 27, 2007**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Karsten, Chair  
Councillor Hendsbee  
Councillor Hum  
Councillor Rankin  
Councillor Meade

**REGRETS:** Councillor Martin  
Councillor Snow  
Councillor Wile

**STAFF:** Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources  
Mr. Robert Orr, Collection and Processing Coordinator, Solid Waste Resources  
Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid Waste Resources  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor, that the minutes from May 24, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Due to difficulty in finding a convenient time for all members of the Committee, the tour of the Otter Lake facility has not been held. Mr. Bauld indicated staff can take members of the Committee on a tour at any time.

Additions:

1. Backyard Composters for 2008
2. Transit Strike - how it will affect Solid Waste Resources

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

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

4.1 **Wilderness Common Advisory Committee Meeting - Otter Lake**

An email was sent from Jan Skora indicating he is the contact for the Wilderness Common Advisory Committee. A request will be sent to Mr. Skora requesting an update.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE**

7. **REPORTS**

7.1 **Update - Outstanding and Future Priorities**

Mr. Bauld discussed the memorandum updating the SWRAC of outstanding and the future priorities of Solid Waste Resources.

### **7.1.1 Reports for Regional Council in September**

- Interim Closure of Cell 3B - going to Regional Council October 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved in capital budget.
- By-law S-604, Public Hearing - TV ads start next week and contractors will start monitoring number of bags
- RFP 07-133, Highway 101 Landfill Monitoring and Improvements - Awarded by Council
- Weekly Summer Green Cart - Proposal will be brought to Regional Council in January identifying the implications of expanding weekly summer green cart collection to all of HRM

### **7.1.2 Provincial E - Waste Recovery Program**

Program starts in February 2008. At least 10 E-Waste Depots are required for the Municipality. Solid Waste is currently waiting for approval from the Provincial Government. HRM Solid Waste and UNSM have provided information and have forwarded concerns to the Province. The RFP will be made public and will be available for viewing on the Nova Scotia Government website.

### **7.1.3 Revised NS Composting Guidelines**

Following a study by the compost industry in Quebec, and with the Compost Council of Canada, the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment approved new higher standards for finished compost. Nova Scotia is currently in the process of initiating a task force to assess the issues. Mr. Bauld indicated that implementation of new regulations would need at least three years advance notice in order to meet requirements.

Councillor Rankin raised concerns:

- Will there be noticeable changes to compost?
- Will the Province provide financial assistance for the change over?
- HRM has provided leadership in composting, now another generation of composting? As it now stands, HRM is beyond many other areas of the province in regard to compost and its facilities.

Mr. Bauld agreed with the comments. At least 4-5 other municipalities have raised concerns.

### **7.1.4 RFP Collection & Transportation of Source Separated Solid Waste**

Discussion on the surety arose in regard to the RFP for Collection & Transportation of Source Separated Solid Waste. Review by Legal Services and Finance Risk Management indicated that bonding should increased value to minimum of six months value of the annual contract price.

#### **7.1.5 Request by MIRROR NS - Advance Partial Interim Closure Cell 4A**

Discussion was held on the partial interim closure of Cell 4A , construction approval and payments for the installation of the landfill gas collection system by MIRROR NS. Mr. Bauld indicated that he would like to use the same procedure as Transportation and Public Works giving approval for work to begin and be completed in the fall, with releases after December permitting payment on April 1, 2008 to coincide with the 2008 budget.

Councillor Karsten requested an itemized report be sent to Regional Council as part of the 2008 budget. Mr. Bauld noted that he would prepare a report which can be added to the budget information as an appendix.

Councillor Meade requested if it could be possible to have a BMX park set up on closed sites 4-5 years later. Mr. Bauld replied that this may cause contract issues, as MIRROR NS has environmental liabilities on the site for an extended period. All properties, for future use, would have to go through the provincial environmental approval process.

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, to support the advance partial interim closure of Cell 4A which will permit flexibility of invoice payment for April 1, 2008 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **7.2 Environment Week (verbal)**

Laurie Lewis provided a presentation on Environment week, June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. Open house was held at Otter Lake with approximately 100 residents touring the facility. It is anticipated that this will become a yearly event. The Major Urban Mobile HHW held, was well attended. Waste Reduction Week is October 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> and will focus on green businesses. A lunch and learn will be held for business. The third annual open house will be held at the recycling facility on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Mobile Hazardous Waste Drop-off will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> in Lawrencetown, the fourth of the year will be held in Fall River on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **7.3 Weekly Summer Green Carts and Reports of Bears**

Mr. Bauld provided a report on reports of bears. In conjunction with information provided by the Department of Natural Resources, the indication is that weekly green cart collection does not have any impact and does not decrease the number of bear sightings.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE- NONE**

9. **ADDED ITEMS**

9.1 **Backyard Composting - Councillor Meade**

Councillor Meade requested an update to the HRM backyard composting program in 2008. Staff will be looking at the program and indications are the program will run next year.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern that weekly green cart pickup will have a significant impact in backyard composting. Will this decrease the number of residences currently using backyard composts? Mr. Bauld replied that this issue will be taken into consideration, and that Back Yard Composting has a positive impact by reducing the amount of organics received weekly at the two compost facilities during the very heavy spring and fall leaf and yard waste season.

9.2 **Transit Strike**

Councillor Meade raised concerns with picketers stationed at the Otter Lake facility. It is normal that trucks be stopped for approximately to half hour before they are let through. They will follow the same contingency plan as was used in 1999 during the NSUPE strike. Mr. Bauld will discuss the issue with the Solicitor and CAO.

9.3 **Bag to Earth Group**

Councillor Karsten brought up the issue of the Bag to Earth group. Solid Waste do promote the use of the paper bags for composting, although HRM cannot support or advertise for individual groups or companies.

10. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next scheduled Committee meeting will be held on October 25th, 2007 at 2:00 pm at Halifax Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor City Hall.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Meade, that the minutes from May 24, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The meeting was adjourned to the In-Camera session at 3:35 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Melody Campbell  
Legislative Assistant