

SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

March 26, 2009

- PRESENT: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
Councillor Reg Rankin, Vice Chair
Councillor Tim Outhit
Councillor Debbie Hum
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Andrew Younger
Councillor Sue Uteck
- REGRETS: Mayor Peter Kelly
- STAFF: Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Robert Orr, Collection and Processing Coordinator,
Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Division Planning Coordinator, Solid
Waste Resources
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 3rd Floor, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 22, 2008 & January 22, 2009

MOVED by Councillor Younger , seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the minutes of May 22, 2008 & January 22, 2009 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

It was agreed that item 8.1 would be dealt with prior to item 6.2.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit , seconded by Councillor Lund , that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Removal of Recyclables from Curb

C An information report dated March 18, 2009 was before the Committee.

Councillor Uteck advised that while she appreciated the report it offered no new solution to home owners regarding this issue. She stated that the solution may be coordination between Halifax Regional Police and Youth Live and noted that she would personally follow up with Superintendent Robin McNeil.

The Councillors, including Councillor Uteck, agreed that a better solution was necessary, however, they did not want to tie up Transportation and Public Works or Police resources.

Mr. Jeff Rogers, Regional Coordinator of By-Law Enforcement Services, clarified what resources were called in to respond to the removal of recyclables from curbs. He advised that police would respond to an identified pattern , however, laying charges was difficult as prosecutors required a witness. He stated that a photo could be used for this purpose.

MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee receive and table the information report dated March 18, 2009. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. REPORTS

6.1 ICI Cardboard - "Recycle Market Conditions Update " Notice

C A copy of the Recyclable Market Conditions Update notice dated February 27, 2009 was before the Committee.

Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager of Solid Waste Resources, indicated that this notice is being included in the current monthly invoice provided by private collectors to property owners. He advised that the local paper market companies had agreed to extend ICI cardboard with paper until June 30, 2009 when the new By-Law would come into place. Mr. Bauld stated that staff planned to bring the By-Law amendments and Notice of Motion to Council at the end of April or the beginning of May 2009. Legal Services is reviewing the staff report and draft By-Law. In closing, he advised that this was not new to the industry and they were supportive.

8.1 Placement of Waste at Curbside -Times - Councillor Mosher

C Correspondence from Councillor Mosher dated February 13, 2009 was before the Committee.

The Committee noted that they would not be requesting a staff report regarding this matter as they felt that the system that was currently in place worked well and that tickets were issued to residents who did not abide by the timelines.

MOVED BY Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that a letter be written to Councillor Mosher in response to her request.

Mr. Bauld advised that he would write a response to Councillor Mosher outlining the reasons why the request was not feasible.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 Enerkem Technologies

- C A memo from Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager of Solid Waste Resources dated March 17, 2009 was before the Committee.
- C A Power Point presentation was submitted.

Mr. Bauld introduced Mr. Dino Mili, Enerkem Technologies. For the benefit of newer Councillors; he gave a brief history of waste management since amalgamation in 1996. He stated that staff had been tracking HRM's diversion rate on a monthly basis since then and that it was holding at 59%; noting that systems had worked very well over the past 10 years and the collection satisfaction rate was at 93%. Mr. Bauld advised that staff regularly received expressions of interest and unsolicited proposals such as the one that Mr. Mili was about to present. He noted that the Highland Energy Project which Council had approved was an example of such a privately funded unsolicited program and proposal. In closing, Mr. Bauld noted that Mr. Mili had visited HRM's Otter Lake front end processor at the Waste Conference in 2008.

Mr. Mili provided the presentation on Enerkem Technologies. The following highlights were noted:

- C Enerkem Technologies was looking for inexpensive feedstock from landfills to turn into ethanol fuel;
- C Their agenda was aimed at a renewable fuel mandate;
- C The fuel has greenhouse gas reductions;
- C HRM was a desirable location as it was more forward thinking than most areas when it came to waste management as it was already mitigating a substantial part of Enerkem's production process by composting and eliminating methane;
- C This opportunity would create green tech and clean tech jobs;
- C A bypass flare was part of the refineries only in case of emergency as Enerkem dealt with syngas (ethanol) which was combustible;
- C There would be no smoke stacks at the plant;
- C Having such fuel available would diminish foreign imports;
- C In Quebec, Enerkem was working with a local brick manufacturer to include fallout ash in their brick construction which enabled Enerkem to break down products with PCPs, arsenic and other items treated with hazardous materials.

The Chair thanked Mr. Mili for his presentation.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Mili responding to questions.

Mr. Milil advised that Enerkem did not use any water in their process, therefore, water consumption would not be an issue. He stated that they did have to cool the cooling towers and scrubbers, however, that water could be used for other applications as well. He also indicated that Enerkem was investigating algae cultivation growth as a way to capture high quality CO₂. He noted that algae required heat and CO₂ which the refinery would have, therefore, the algae could be used for mass and to use up excess heat as it was carbon positive. In summation, Mr. Mili noted that depending on the situation water would be utilized to cool, however, air and in some cases water recovered from waste would be used instead.

Mr. Mili advised that harmful metals from landfills were coated in carbon and neutralized in the refinement process.

Mr. Bauld noted that staff had done quite a bit of internal investigation as well as had discussions with the Community Monitoring Committee who would be hearing Mr. Mili's presentation that evening.

MOVED BY Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee:

1. **Approve option 3 of the memo dated March 17, 2009 which states *for staff in 2009/10, in partnership with MIRROR NS and the Community Monitoring Committee, to investigate by visiting and speaking to officials in Edmonton and Westbury, i.e. conduct due diligence, and report back to SWRAC on the findings in early 2010; and***
2. **Request that staff reevaluate the date provided in option 3 as stated above; and**
3. **That the evaluation of the Enerkem proposal be based on actual operations in Edmonton.**

A discussion on the motion ensued.

Regarding part 3 of the motion, Mr. Bauld advised that the Edmonton plant would take approximately 24 to 30 months to implement.

Mr. Mili advised that Enerkem was proposing the investment and was not asking HRM to buy their equipment.

When asked if the ethanol was contaminated; Mr. Mili indicated that it was approximately 99% clean and the other 1% of elements were some form of hydrocarbon. He noted that, in the end, more hydrocarbon had to be added as per the Canadian requirement to avoid ingestion. Mr. Mili advised that no arsenic or metals remained in the ethanol and that the fallout was tested regularly.

Mr. Mili stated that Enerkem received a government grant of 20 million dollars from the city of Edmonton for their plant and as part of that process Enerkem provided the city an opportunity to take part in the cash flow of the project. Mr. Mili advised that HRM would not be required to take such a risk in what the net cost would be unless they wanted to; noting that the only negotiation would be what Enerkem would accept as a tipping fee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one wishing to speak at this time.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Placement of Waste at Curbside -Times - Councillor Mosher

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 4.

9. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2009.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

The following items were added as information:

1. Waste /Resource System Mass Balance
2. Tonnage Report