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Item No. 11.3.1
Halifax Regional Council
March 15, 2011

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Councillor Peter Lund, Chair, Environment and Sustainability Standing
Committee

DATE: March 10, 2011

SUBJECT: **Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Terms of
Reference**

ORIGIN

The January 6th, February 3rd and March 3, 2011 Environment and Sustainability Standing
Committee meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council approve the Terms of Reference for the
Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee as outlined in Attachment 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND

On November 30, 2010, Halifax Regional Council approved the formation of six Standing Committees of Council. The draft Terms of Reference for the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee was before the Committee at their first meeting held on January 6, 2011.

DISCUSSION

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee adopted the Terms of Reference at their March 3, 2011 meeting.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meetings are open to the public.

ALTERNATIVES

No alternatives were provided by the Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Terms of Reference

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerks Office, 490-6519

Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee Terms of Reference

1. Objective

The principle role of the Environment & Sustainability Committee is to provide advice to Council on matters relating to the Environment & Sustainability including but not exclusive to Solid Waste Resources, energy security and sustainable parks, forests (urban & rural) and open spaces and water resource management.

The objectives of the Committee are to a) fulfill the requirements as outlined in the Terms of Reference of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee of Council and the Energy and Underground Services Committee of Council and to b) assist Council in meeting sustainability and energy objectives, the promotion of policies appropriate to promote and protect water resources, parks, open spaces and green environment in HRM.

2. Composition

Up to eight (8) members of Regional Council – one (1) appointed from each Community Council and two (2) at-large appointments

Term: two years

Chair & Vice-Chair: Elected by the members annually in November

Community Council Appointments	Members at-large	Ex officio
Marine Drive, Valley & Canal Community Council Member North West Community Council Member Harbour East Community Council Member Chebucto Community Council Member Western Region Community Council Member Peninsula Community Council Member	Two (2) At Large Members to be nominated by the Community Councils.	Mayor Kelly

3. Duties and Responsibilities

3.1 Solid Waste Resource Management

3.1.1 To advise Regional Council on matters respecting solid waste management, including the responsibility to receive reports and to keep Council informed respecting all matters related to the solid waste management program in HRM.

3.1.2 To appoint a member of the Standing Committee as HRM's representative on the Provincial Solid Waste Chairs Committee.

3.1.3 Liaison with Regional Resource Utility Board of Nova Scotia to promote policies and programs in the best interest of HRM at the Provincial Resource Board

3.2 Energy Choice & Security

3.2.1 To promote and enable a variety of energy choices for HRM residents

3.2.2 To promote and enable sustainable & renewable sources of energy in HRM

3.2.3 To promote the achievement of HRM's greenhouse emission reduction commitments

3.2.4 To promote diversification of municipal revenue streams through investments in utilities such as natural gas, wind energy & district energy

3.2.5 To promote ways to maximize HRM's capital dollars through co-location of utilities and coordination of projects

3.2.6 Involvement in policy development on undergrounding of services

3.2.7 Liaison with Heritage Gas and similar utilities at a governance level to encourage, promote and enable the provision of natural gas services to the residents and businesses of HRM

3.4 Parks & Open Spaces

3.4.1 To encourage the appropriate policy structure to address amount, use and protection of parks, forests (urban & rural) and open spaces for the use and enjoyment of the residents of HRM,

3.4.2 Other related activities in the area of parks & open spaces as identified by the Standing Committee and approved by Regional Council

3.5 Water Resource Management

3.5.1 Involvement in policy development and oversight of policies appropriate to promote and protect water resources in HRM

3.5.2 Liaison with Halifax Water including the nomination to Regional Council of one (1) member of the Standing Committee as one (1) of the Regional Council appointments to the Board of Halifax Water to act as a liaison between the Standing Committee and Halifax Water and ensuring that the Harbour Solutions project and other services managed by Halifax Water continue to meet community expectations

3.5.3 Other related activities in the area of Water Resource management as identified by the Standing Committee and approved by Regional Council

3.6 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

3.6.1 To progress policy related to municipal climate change adaptation and mitigation, including the policy requirements of the Infrastructure Secretariat's Gas Tax Funding program

- 3.6.2 To promote community adoption of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures
- 3.6.3 To provide governance oversight of the HRM Climate Change Risk Management Strategy

3.7 Other matters as may be determined by Regional Council

4. Administration & Procedures

- 4.1 The Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee shall meet no less than four (4) times annually, preferably monthly, or as determined by the Committee
- 4.2 Administrative and the meeting procedures shall be in accordance with Administrative Order 1 of the Municipality

5. Staff Liaison

Management support and liaison shall be through the office of the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management in coordination with the Sustainable Environmental Management Office, and divisions of Transportation and Public Works that support Solid Waste Resource management and Energy projects in HRM

6. Standing and Advisory Committees

Water Shed Policy Advisory Committee	Advisory on Policy	TBD