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Item No. 11.3.1
Halifax Regional Council
November 10, 2015

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Chair, Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

DATE: October 6, 2015

SUBJECT: Membership on the National Zero Waste Council

ORIGIN

Motion from the October 1, 2015 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 3 (a) of the Terms of Reference of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee which state that the Committee shall advise the Council on matters respecting solid waste management, including the responsibility to receive reports and to keep the Council informed respecting all matters related to the solid waste management program in HRM.

Public Appointment Policy – Governing citizen appointments to HRM Agencies, Boards, Committees and Commissions and to External Bodies approved by Halifax Regional Council in August 2011.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommends that Regional Council appoint a member of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to serve on the National Zero Waste Council, the appointment to be made through an Expression of Interest to members of the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee.

BACKGROUND

On April 23, 2013, Halifax Regional Council accepted the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' invitation for HRM to become a member of the Steering Committee of the National Zero Waste Council (NZWC) and appointed Councillor Karsten to be HRM's delegate to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee was mandated to research and develop the action plan for the implementation and full scale launch of the Council.

Upon the conclusion of the Steering Committee's mandate, Councillor Karsten became an ad hoc member of the Board of NZWC through his position on the Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development Committee of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Effective since the September 2015 FCM Board of Directors meeting, Councillor Karsten is no longer a member of that committee and as such, he is no longer a Board Member of NZWC.

Membership is open to local, provincial, federal or territorial government entities as well as for-profit businesses or business organizations; not-for-profit organizations; or other public or academic entities which support the guiding principles, mission and vision of the NZWC and can demonstrate a commitment to waste prevention. Once approved, membership is valid for two years.

Please refer to Attachment 1 of this report for an overview of NZWC.

DISCUSSION

At the October 1, 2015 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meeting a motion was before the Committee through a Councillor Request form submitted by Councillor Karsten. The Committee determined to request that the Executive Standing Committee consider recommending that Regional Council appoint a member of the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee to serve on the National Zero Waste Council, and for the appointment to be made through an Expression of Interest to members of the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee.

Upon review of the Terms of Reference for the Executive Standing Committee, it was determined to forward the motion directly to Regional Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this report. There is no membership fee and required meetings of the National Zero Waste Council may be joined via telecommunication at no cost to the municipality.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee is comprised of six elected officials. Meetings are held in public unless otherwise indicated and the agenda and materials are posted to the HRM website.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

By participating on the National Zero Waste Council, HRM will help advocate for waste prevention and reduction in the design, production and use of goods.

ALTERNATIVES

The Committee did not provide alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Overview of the National Zero Waste Council

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant, 902-490-6732

Attachment 1 – Overview of National Zero Waste Council

All information below was retrieved from the National Zero Waste Council website found at www.nzwc.ca

The Council

The National Zero Waste Council is a leadership initiative bringing together governments, businesses and non-government organizations to advance waste prevention in Canada. Founded by Metro Vancouver in collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in 2013, the Council has united, among others, five of Canada's largest metropolitan regions – Metro Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax and Edmonton – with key business and government leaders, academia and non-profit organizations in a call for national action and systems change to address waste generation.

A focus on waste prevention and on cross-sector collaboration uniquely positions the Council as an agent of change driving innovation in the design, production and use of goods in support of a circular economy. In just two short years, the Council has strategically grown its membership and network of partners, undertaken national outreach and engagement, and delivered a first set of "lighthouse" projects through its member-led working groups. With a focus on product design and behaviour change the Council is taking action on the factors that drive waste generation in support of a high quality of life, environmental sustainability and economy prosperity while consuming fewer resources and less energy.

VISION

Canada united in the achievement of zero waste, now and for future generations.

MISSION

To act collaboratively with business, government and the community, at the national and international level, as an agent of change for waste prevention and reduction in the design, production and use of goods.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Commit to collaboratively working with business, government and community partners to develop new solutions.
2. Adopt a waste prevention and reduction framework that positions Canadian cities and businesses to compete globally in an emerging resource-constrained economy.
3. Align with global and international initiatives.
4. Stress the economic, social, and environmental benefits associated with the conservation of resources
5. Consider local and global consequence and long term impacts.

Committed to catalyzing change in; the design of products and packaging to reduce materials intensity and allow them to be more easily reused, recovered and recycled; and, in behaviour, among all stakeholders and sectors of society with the goal of reducing the amount of waste entering the waste stream, the work of the National Zero Waste Council for 2013-2015 will be focused on three priority areas and advanced by the Council's working groups which are responsible for developing and implementing strategic projects.

PRIORITIES

Implement National Communication Campaigns

Develop and support national communication and education campaigns to build public awareness that products and packaging can and should be designed to prevent waste, with benefits for the economy, the environment and lifestyles.

Advance Policy Development

Research and assess opportunities for policy harmonization that will facilitate producers to improve the design of products and packaging, and pursue targeted initiatives to help facilitate this shift in identified product streams.

Facilitate Knowledge Exchange and Dialogue

Support and leverage existing initiatives and opportunities that promote best practices and facilitate knowledge exchange between industry, government and other key stakeholders.

MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO:

- Acknowledge the guiding principles of the Council, including those embodied in the vision and mission statements, and agree to act in conformance with and support both.
- Demonstrate a commitment to waste prevention and reduction by submitting a Statement of Intent as part of the application process (see support documents below).
- Demonstrate organizational support for the Council by submitting a supporting letter or resolution as part of the application process (see support documents below)
- Identify a lead politician or senior staff to support the work of, and participate in, the NZWC.
- Be available to serve on NZWC working groups and committees.
- Be in substantial agreement with the policy positions of the NZWC.
- Attend the NZWC AGM to the best of their ability.
- Place the NZWC logo, and a link to the NZWC website, on their organization's website, and have their website linked on the NZWC website (The name of the NZWC nor its logo cannot be further used without explicit permission).
- Agree not to use the Council to promote their commercial interests.

Membership applications are reviewed for approval by the NZWC Management Board on a bi-monthly basis. Once approved membership is valid for two years. Note that membership in the NZWC does not imply a partnership with the Council.

If you have any questions about membership or require assistance with the application process please contact the Secretariat at 604-451-6685 or admin@nzcw.ca.