

**Community Monitoring Committee
Minutes of July 19, 2011
SPECIAL MEETING
6 p.m.
Boardroom, Otter Lake Waste Facility
Mirror, NS**

PENDING APPROVAL

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Jack Mitchell	Chair
Bob Angus	Vice Chair
Tom Robertson	Director
Lindsay Gates	Director
Mike Becignuel	Director
Councillor Peter Lund	Director
Councillor Reg Rankin	Director
Ken Meech	Executive Director

Regrets:

Murray Power	Director
Councillor Steve Adams	Director
Councillor Russell Walker	Director

1) Updates

The chair convened the session to receive updates on several issues.

- Vice chair, Bob Angus, will liaise with Dalhousie Eco-Efficiency, as they are interested in establishing an MOU to research the solid waste system for environmental improvements. This MOU would provide an opportunity for masters students to conduct research for class projects. It was agreed that Mr. Angus would pursue this matter in the fall.
- Councillor Lund noted that HRM staff have confirmed, based on advice from a St. FX professor, that no business case exists for a geothermal project.

2) Attracting New Members to the CMC

The chair noted that Lindsay Gates will assume the role of attracting new members to the CMC.

3) Website Proposal

The chair reported that a proposal will be received from Jason Timms for a website, which will be coordinated with the vice chair.

4) School Presentations

A brief update was provided by the chair on school presentations, which total 12 at this point.

5) Cell 6

The commencement of both Cell 6 and the road to access the clay fill have yet to begin.

Concern was expressed about the delay, as the Department of Environment has approved the projects. There was speculation that the delay is part of the contract negotiations with Mirror. Councillor Rankin provided background on the belief that actions are underway to reduce the costs of operating the landfill facility, which is an issue for HRM. However, should there be actions to back away from the waste strategy, CMC has reason to be concerned, as the committee exists to ensure the strategy is sustained in the interests of the community. This issue is well-covered in the solicitor opinion obtained from John Merrick, which provides the background history of the strategy and the approval of HRM council in 1996. The key issue is that any change to the policy requires public consultation and council approval.

The committee was also concerned by the lack of communication from HRM staff to the CMC on potential activities or changes at the Otter Lake Facility. This is not acceptable, and it was agreed that a letter to the mayor and council on the subject would be formulated.

It was MOVED and SECONDED (Robertson/Lund):

that the legal review and opinion be provided to the mayor, CAO and council.

MOTION carried.

Committee members also agreed that the mayor and CAO should be requested to meet with CMC soon to review this issue as well as the role and function of CMC.

6) Adjournment

Having completed the business of the evening, the meeting adjourned.