

**Community Monitoring Committee
Minutes of March 3, 2011
6 p.m.
Future Inns
Bayers Lake, Halifax**

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Jack Mitchell	Chair
Ellery Oicle	Vice Chair
Bob Angus	Secretary/Treasurer
Tom Robertson	Director
Don Mason	Director
Lindsay Gates	Director
Mike Becignuel	Director
Councillor Peter Lund	Director
Councillor Reg Rankin	Director
Councillor Steve Adams	Director
Ken Meech	Executive Director

Also Attending:

Gordon Helm	Manager, Solid Waste HRM
Steve Warburton	Warburton Communications

Regrets:

Murray Power	Director
Councillor Russell Walker	Director
David McCaughan	Director

1) Approval of the Agenda

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** (Mason/Lund):
that the agenda be approved.
MOTION carried.

2) Approval of the Minutes of January 19, 2011

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** (Robertson/Mason):
that the minutes of January 19, 2011 be approved as circulated.
MOTION carried.

3) Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Report of the technical committee

The chair of the technical committee, Tom Robertson, and member Don Mason gave a detailed report on the recent meetings relative to the Earth Energy Project for the landfill. It was noted that these sessions have concluded with the HRM staff agreeing to assume leadership of the project. The next event is a meeting at the landfill with a consultant, organized by HRM staff to assess the feasibility of the proposal. The meeting will be held on Friday, March 11. The committee also tabled a number of articles and meeting minutes for the record.

The CMC chair, supported by Councillor Rankin, thanked the committee for a great job, in particular having the HRM staff assume the lead role. It was noted by the technical committee that a sum of \$50,000.00 would be required to install piping in the next cell (Number 6) before August to be able to create a pilot for a future project. Councillor Adams suggested the proposal be sent to the Western Community Council for support, if useful. In addition, Gordon Helm, manager of HRM Solid Waste, noted that the consulting expense for the preliminary look may be found in the CMC budget residual for 2010/2011.

b. Video presentations to schools

This item was deferred to the end of the meeting.

4) Product Packaging and Clear Garbage Bags

Bob Angus provided an overview of the two issues he had placed on the agenda and noted that more effort should be placed on changing product packaging to reduce the waste at the landfill. He made suggestions on a course of action to begin the process by contacting the packaging industry and arranging site visits for these officials to see firsthand the benefits of changes. Gordon Helm shared discussions he had held at the provincial level on this subject and noted that there is progress in this area.

Mr. Angus also took the opportunity to express his concern with the proposed changes to the garbage by-law, specifically the required use of clear bags. He suggested from discussions with the RCMP that residents should be concerned about theft of personal information. Gordon Helm took note of the concern and indicated that he would discuss it with the RCMP.

5) Update from Gordon Helm

The chair introduced Gordon Helm to provide an update on a number of issues.

a. Garbage by-law

Mr. Helm explained the proposed changes to the garbage by-law and noted that the public hearing on the matter is set for the evening of Tuesday, March 8.

b. Waste characterization study

An update was given on the waste characterization study. Phase 1 is complete, with Phase 2 scheduled to be completed by the end of March. The analysis to

examine potential technologies to reduce waste to the landfill will be underway in April.

The chair entertained questions from the members and then thanked Mr. Helm for taking the time to keep the CMC informed on issues impacting the waste strategy.

6) Reappointment of Ellery Oicle

Reappointment of Ellery Oicle to the committees was discussed. Due to back problems, Mr. Oicle has decided not to reoffer for membership. He thanked the chair and committee members for their friendship and support over his six-year tenure. The chair and others expressed many thanks to Mr. Oicle for his commitment and dedication to the committee, and hope that in the future he will rejoin the group.

7) Halifax Waste Resource Society AGM

The executive director indicated the annual meeting for the Halifax Waste Resource Society is tentatively scheduled for June 13, provided the room is available at the Keshen Goodman Library. For the record, the room is not available so the executive director will be advising of a new date and potentially a change in venue. Also connected to the annual meeting of the society is the production of the annual report of the CMC, which will be developed in next month. Any suggestions for input are welcome.

8) Deferred Item

The chair opened the subject on video presentations to schools and asked Steve Warburton to review with the committee the approach that has been developed by him and the chair to go forward. The review also included suggestions for a pamphlet to accompany the video, as it could be adapted for different audiences. The committee agreed that the proposal for presenting to school children and the creation of a pamphlet were good concepts.

The members asked about the sense of moving forward with the development of videos for other elements of the solid waste program such as the murf, compost, Cand d, etc. The committee took the position that production should be undertaken by the CMC to complement the video on the Otter Lake facility. The chair noted that Warburton Communications would be asked to provide a proposal on next steps and cost. It was understood that the presentations to schools would include the chair, Steve Warburton and other members of the committee from the local area if interested.

9) Comments on Future Changes to Landfill Site

The final item of the meeting was requested by Councillor Rankin, who advised of his concern regarding comments by the manager of Solid Waste on the potential to make changes at the landfill site down the road. It has been suggested that the WSF facility and or/the FEP process serve a different function. Councillor Rankin noted that the existing arrangement in place between the community and HRM is a contractual arrangement that provides a commitment to remove organics before disposal to the landfill, which was a

strategic element of the solid waste strategy that provided comfort to the community when accepting the landfill in the area.

Councillor Rankin advised that, with the approval of the chair, he approached John Merrick, solicitor, to seek his guidance in drafting a communication to HRM to remind and put on the record the contractual arrangement that covers the existing operations at the Otter Lake facility, and that any changes contemplated must be reviewed and vetted with the CMC on behalf of the community. The letter will suggest that observations or suggestions for potential changes should be restricted from public discussion until there has been consultation with the community, beginning with the CMC group, who act as overseers for the community.

The committee endorsed entirely the approach proposed by the chair and Councillor Rankin, in particular the sending of the letter from John Merrick on behalf of the committee.

10) Adjournment

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** (Robertson/Oicle):

that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION carried.