

Community Monitoring Committee
Minutes of September 13, 2012
6 p.m.
Prospect Road Community Center

PENDING APPROVAL

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Jack Mitchell	Chair
Bob Angus	Vice Chair
Tom Robertson	Director
Mary Lyn Saturley	Director
Lindsay Gates	Director
Murray Power	Director
Mike Becignuel	Director
Elizabeth Salton	Director
Councillor Steve Adams	Director
Councillor Reg Rankin	Director
Ken Meech	Executive Director

Also Attending:

Ken Reashor	Director of Public Works, HRM
Gordon Helm	Manager of Solid Waste, HRM

Regrets:

Councillor Russell Walker	Director
Councillor Peter Lund	Director
Andrew Giles	Director

1) Welcome and Introductions

The Chair convened the meeting and introduced Elizabeth Salton as a new member of the CMC. He also noted that Andrew Giles was a new member, but was unable to attend this meeting.

2) Approval of Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED (Angus/Becignuel):

that the agenda be approved with the addition of an update from Gordon Helm on the odor issue at the landfill.

MOTION carried.

3) Business Arising From The Minutes

a) Update on Geo-thermal Project

Mr. Helm provided an update on geo-thermal project. He noted that it has been concluded that at this point it is not feasible.

b) Update on Regional Plan Review

Ken Reashor provided an update on the regional plan. The review is underway which includes centre plan 1— economic stimulus in the city core, active transportation plan, and a solid waste review.

4) Proposed Closure of Cells & Solid Waste Education Program

Gordon Helm provided advice on the proposed closure of cells and also the integration of the solid waste education program. The education program was intended to incorporate the HRM presentations as key elements of the presentation offered by the CMC representatives. However, the Chair suggested that private money may be offered to the CMC to continue its presentations to the schools. The chair was unable to share the identity of the potential donor and the members suggested that prior to any willingness to accept private money, the issue be reviewed, discussed, and approved by the CMC.

5) RFP Process

Gordon Helm provided an overview of the RFP process that is seeking to contract a consultant to undertake a complete review of the solid waste strategy, including the landfill operations at Otter Lake. It was also noted by Ken Reashor that HRM will be seeking to retain a consultant to lead and manage the consultation process flowing from the solid waste review.

Questions were raised about the consultation process. Most importantly, it was the opinion of Councillor Rankin that the issue will need to be approved by the council prior to any RFP on this initiative.

6) Odor Problem at Mirror

The final item addressed by Gordon Helm was his invitation to CMC to have a presentation with Mirror to review the history and actions associated with the major odor problem last winter. It was agreed that a date would be arranged for the presentation.

7) Status and Authority of CMC

At this point, the HRM representatives were asked to leave the meeting so the CMC could discuss a legal issue relative to the status and authority of CMC. The Executive Director shared the background with the members, referencing a number of contacts from HRM deputy CAO advising that the CMC was required to seek their approval first before requesting independent legal advice. The message was also to confirm their opinion that the CMC was in effect accountable to the administration in the expenditure of funds .The issue to resolve is whether the CMC is an arm's length organization with a level of

independence in their role as watchdog for the community to ensure the effective operation of the landfill and facilities.

It was MOVED and SECONDED (Rankin/Angus):

that the executive director proceed to obtain legal advice from John Merrick on the issue of the CMC's status and level of independence in performing their key role of oversight of the otter lake landfill, facilities and authority to access budget for said purposes.

MOTION carried.

8) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for November, subsequent to the municipal election.

9) Adjournment

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