

ANNUAL CMC PUBLIC MEETING, April 6, 2023

CMC CHAIR'S YEAR-END REMARKS for FISCAL 2022-23

It continues to be trying times for the Community Monitoring Committee and the Otter Lake Landfill affected communities. Since our last AGM, in June 2022, where I became Chair, I have been trying to get up to speed on everything that this committee is trying to accomplish. Most have been understanding in my being newly in this volunteer role. I thank you.

These are the highlights from this year:

Unfortunately, the plan to deactivate the front-end processor and waste stabilization facility has been realized, despite community's overwhelming opposition. Performance audits have shown that the facility is over the 10% threshold for compostable waste and the tactics in the compliance plan are not replacing what the FEP and WSF used to do. The compliance plan requires an enhanced plan be put in place if these audits continue to be over the threshold.

Without those processes or a more up-to-date technological replacement for them, we continue to believe HRM is renegeing on its legal responsibilities to you, the affected community.

Part of the work that this Committee did is appeal to the Department of Environment and Climate Change, but it was denied. Our agreement is with Halifax Regional Municipality, and it is that relationship that will suffer due to the continued lack of caring to our community's voice. We, as a community, were clear that we did not want to have the FEP and WSF deactivated.

Questions related to the governance of the CMC were brought up to Council, and as I began my time as Chair, there were negotiations actively happening between HRM and Halifax Waste Resource Society, on ensuring the governance of the CMC was appropriate. Until an amended agreement could be agreed to, Council tied the hands of the CMC by decreasing our budget. HWRS and HRM were able to work together, and signed an amended agreement, highlights of the amended agreement are:

- CMC will decrease its membership from 15 to 10, 6 appointed from the HWRS and 4 from HRM.
- The CMC executive committee will be dissolved, replaced with a communications committee.
- The Executive Director position will also be dissolved.
- Two new positions of CMC administrator and CMC Liaison Assistant will be filled in the near term.

Financially, once the negotiations completed, our 2022-23 budget was reviewed and we received \$70,000. This allowed us to hire Scott Morash, as our environmental consultant. For 2023-24, our budget will be \$79,000, which is down from previous years by \$11,000.

We have also purchased a hand-held field olfactor meter to measure the strength of the odours for better monitoring. With the hiring of our environmental consultant and this meter, we hope to ramp up our monitoring activities, along with ensuring that continued failed performance audits will result in either an enhanced compliance plan or the reactivation of the FEP and WSF.

Now it's your turn. Have you any questions you want to put to us on last year's events?