

AGENDA

6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 22, 2026
Virtual Meeting, Community Monitoring Committee

	Agenda Item	Action	Materials Included
	Call to Order		
1.0	Approval of the agenda with/without amendments	Decision	• Agenda
2.0	Approval of the Oct.23, 2025 minutes with/without amendments	Decision	• Minutes, Oct.23, 2025
3.0	Members of the public in attendance invited to address the CMC with comments, questions, or submissions	Information/Discussion	
4.0	Proposed CMC budget 2026-2027 – <i>Reg Rankin, Chair</i>	Decision	• Proposed Budget 2026-2027
5.0	Appointments to fill HRM appointee vacancies on the Communications Committee and the Technical Advisory Group	Decision	• Communications Committee and Technical Advisory Group Membership
6.0	Align the Liaison Assistant's end-of-term date with the end-of-term date of other hires – Oct. 31, 2026 (i.e. rectify an inadvertent omission of the intended end date of the term of employment in the RFP that was correctly included in the letter of hire) – <i>Reg Rankin, Chair</i>	Decision	

7.0	Update on the Compliance Plan / the Nov. 2025 Performance Audit — <i>Jordan Vallis, Manager, Engineering and Contract Services, Solid Waste Resources, HRM</i>	Information/Discussion	
8.0	Brief overview of work undertaken by FluxLab at Otter Lake for an academic Canada-wide study on methane in landfills. (Report on results expected in early April.) — <i>Jordan Vallis, Manager, Engineering and Contract Services, Solid Waste Resources, HRM</i>	Information/Discussion	
9.0	New Federal Landfill Regulations & Otter Lake landfill — <i>Steve Copp, Landfill Manager, Mirror Nova Scotia</i>	Information/Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Federal Landfill Regulations • Biomass Magazine report
10.0	Report on Highway litter cleanup — <i>Jordan Vallis, Manager, Engineering and Contract Services, Solid Waste Resources, HRM</i>	Information/Discussion	
11.0	Information Report	Information	CMC Budget to Expenditures for the 9-month period ending Dec.31,2025
12.0	Adjournment		
<p>Immediately following adjournment of the regular meeting, an in camera session will convene to approve the in camera minutes of October 23, 2025. The minutes for approval will be distributed at the in camera session.</p>			



CMC Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 23, 2025
Virtual Meeting

CMC Members Present: The Chair Reg Rankin, Tekena Warikubu, Andrew Giles, John Cascadden, Nancy Hartling, Councillor Janet Steele, Hailey MacKinnon, Christa Schnare

Others Present: Jordan Vallis, Steve Copp, Rick Grant, Jason Timms, Betsy Chambers, Scott Morash

1.0 A motion to approve the agenda as circulated moved by Andrew Giles, seconded by Nancy Hartling. Motion carried.

2.0 A motion to approve the July 10, 2025 minutes as circulated, moved by John Cascadden, and seconded by Tekena Warikubu. Motion carried.

3.0 There being no members of the public in attendance, the Chair turned to the next item on the agenda.

4.0 The Chair commended the CMC contributions of Hailey MacKinnon, an HRM-appointee, and Scott Morash, CMC's Environmental Consultant whose terms expire Nov. 30, 2025 and who have decided not to reoffer. Reporting on the status of the positions, The Chair indicated the vacancy created by Ms. MacKinnon's departure will be filled through the HRM volunteer recruitment process, which is now under way. Teneka Warikubu and Christa Schnare, the remaining HRM-appointees, have accepted new two-year term appointments, now confirmed by HRM Regional Council, until Nov. 30, 2027.

5.0 Commenting on his report on HRM's Quarterly Performance Audits, Mr. Morash said the results were trending in the right direction, but the Otter Lake landfill has yet to reach the March 31, 2026 performance target of 10% set out in the Revised NSEC Compliance Plan of March 22, 2022, but it is very close to doing so. He noted the final data from the August performance audit showed total compostable waste by mass entering the landfill was below 10%. Jordan Vallis, HRM Manager of Engineering and Contract Services, Solid Waste, pointed out that for the fiscal year-to-date, "We are at 9.9%," based on the average results of the audits for May and August. He noted results of the November and February audits are to come, but "to date we are actually under the 10%."

Andrew Giles asked what the consequences would be if HRM failed to meet the performance target on March 31, 2026. Mr. Morash said in the current circumstances the NSEC could require an enhanced diversion plan, but was unable to explain why this had not been done. He also noted that HRM had not supplied, as required, an updated compliance plan. As a general observation he said the NSEC is currently inclined to be more patient with applicants when it comes to enforcement, in keeping with the government's broad pro business approach. Basically the options range from issuing a warning to initiating a prosecution – essentially the same as a summary offence ticket for failure to comply. One of those two things should have happened a year or more ago, he said.

The Chair suggested another option was reinstatement of the front-end processor and waste stabilization facility. He said the CMC should wait for the results of the next audit in November and look at all the options. He asked Mr. Vallis to provide the CMC with the results of the November audit in early January and to speak to the results at the next CMC meeting.

The Chair regretted the CMC no longer had the same access to NSEC staff and the CMC has not met with them in several years. Councillor Janet Steele asked if the department had been invited to attend a meeting or if a meeting with them had been attempted. While the department had not formally turned down engagement, he said, it was made clear that such an overture would not be welcomed.

Scott Morash said he met with the department's climate change engineer and the district manager responsible for Otter Lake four months ago to discuss his observations about the performance audits and to remind them of the conditions of the NSEC approval which allowed the operation of the front-end processor and waste stabilization facility to be suspended.

John Cascadden noted the public, according to the HRM survey, never approved of the landfill being turned into a truck and dump operation; the logic behind the 10% performance target had never been explained, and it was unclear how HRM proposed to divert 100% of its waste by 2050, given the difficulty of getting putrescibles down to 10%. He asked that answers to a couple of those issues be provided at the next meeting.

6.0 Rick Grant, the Liaison Assistant, was asked by the Chair to look into potential project ideas to better quantify methane at the Otter Lake Landfill or to support educational efforts to divert organics or possibly other materials from the site. In response he contacted Dr. David Risk and Shannon Betts and learned from her that HRM had been in touch with Dr. Risk to do work at the Otter Lake waste disposal site. Mr. Vallis explained Dr. Risk's FluxLab had recently contacted HRM Solid Waste and, as a result, FluxLab was now monitoring the tipping face at the Otter Lake site as part of a Canada-wide project. Ms. Betts offered to provide the CMC with information on this initiative and Steve Copp, the Mirror Nova Scotia Ltd. operator of the HRM site, followed through with a presentation on the infrastructure, old and new, for methane monitoring and capture at the landfill. (Presentation attached) He was confident that Otter Lake would meet the anticipated federal methane regulations for landfills. Mr. Copp also confirmed FluxLab representatives had been on site Oct. 8-10 at Otter

Lake. The Chair requested Mr. Vallis to provide a report on FluxLab's activities at the landfill together with its summary findings. Mr. Vallis offered to check with FluxLab to request that information although he cautioned their data gathering at Otter Lake was part of a cross-Canada study, which may not explicitly refer to the site by name in the final report.

7.0 The Chair indicated to the Communications Consultant a few places on the website that needed updating and asked that the Communications Committee oversee that work.

Andrew Giles moved, seconded by John Cascadden, that the Communications Committee report any modifications deemed necessary to the CMC website. Motion carried.

8.0 At the six- month point in fiscal year 2025-2026, the Chair reported a surplus of \$16,000. Consequently, the Chair said there was capacity for CMC to engage in a project or a study to support CMC's monitoring function. Andrew Giles cautioned against using this year's reduced spending to justify a budget cut by HRM, when in past years the CMC has required its full budget capacity to carry out its mandate.

9.0 John Cascadden moved, seconded by Andrew Giles, that the CMC members reassemble in camera. Motion carried. The regular meeting ended at 7:43 p.m.

SUBJECT:

PROPOSED CMC OPERATING BUDGET for Fiscal Year April 1,2026 to March 31,2027

Date Presented: January 22, 2026

To: CMC Members: Consideration for your Approval, subject to receiving ultimate approval by HRM

From: CMC Chair

Reference to CMC Administration (PART 2, number 1 of the assigned category of Budget expenditure):

- i) **The Chair of the CMC** continues to be provided an honorarium of \$ 4000. And for that, he or she will be responsible, on behalf of the CMC, for the oversight of the day-to-day efficiency of all part time staff. (Reference: Section 9.13 of the AGREEMENT between HRM and the Halifax Waste Resource Society (hereafter called The Agreement)).
- ii) **The CMC Communications Committee** (Reference: Section 5.11 of the Agreement) This new Committee continues to replace the Executive Committee.
- iii) There shall continue to be a part time **CMC Administrator** to prepare Agenda(s) for all CMC meetings, Communications Committee meetings, the taking and preparation of the minutes, preparation and submission of monthly invoices to HRM, maintaining all files and ensuring the timely web site and Facebook posting of the approved minutes of the CMC. (Section 9.12 of The Agreement)

Reference to CMC Social Media Services; Communications and Legal Services (PART 2, numbers 2, 3 and 4 of the assigned categories of Budget expenditures):

There are no significant changes to the nature of these above stated programs.

As regards to proposed changes to programs:

Reference to CMC Environmental Consultant Services (PART 2, number 5 of the assigned category of Budget expenditures):

For the current fiscal year 2025-26 there was an **increase in funding for CMC Environmental monitoring** to alignment, and complementary, with the requirement on HRM by the provincial DOE, to fully implement '**The Compliance Plan**' at the Otter Lake Landfill.

Reference to Other Professional Services below:

PART 2:

TO: CMC Members
FROM: CMC Chair

SUBJECT: CMC's 2026-27 OPERATING BUDGET

PART 2:

CMC Staff submits for the CMC Members' consideration the proposed 2026-27 budget as set out below in the total amount of \$ 79,000.

The essential purpose of CMC's program expenditures is also provided.

The detail provided below constitute the total envelope of \$79,000. The sub- budgeted amounts are allocated under six expenditures 'envelopes' as set out below.

1.CMC ADMINISTRATION **BUDGET**

CHAIR, HONORARIUM	\$ 4,000
COMMITTEE & COMMUNICATIONS MEETINGS	\$ 6,000
ADMINISTRATOR	<u>\$ 15,000</u> \$ 25,000

2.SOCIAL MEDIA SERVICES

MAINTAIN WEB SITE / MANAGE ZOOM	\$ 5,000
NEWSLETTERS' PUBLICATION	<u>\$ 7,000</u> \$ 12,000

3.COMMUNICATIONS

PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS ADVICE	
PREPARE NEWSLETTERS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS	
PREPARE PUBLIC MEETINGS	\$ 10,000 \$ 10,000

4. LEGAL SERVICES

Solicitor Services as required	\$ 5,000 \$ 5,000
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5. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
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6. OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

LIAISON ASSISTANT	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
TOTAL	<u>\$ 79,000</u>	

PART 3**Supplementary information on the amount of remuneration and the terms of engagement on CMC Staff Consultant Services:**

1. CMC Administrator: The term began on April 1st., 2025 to end on October 31, 2026, with renewal for one additional year, subject to agreement by both parties. Compensation for this position is \$ 15,000. per annum.

2. CMC Social Media Technician: The incumbent began his one-year term on November 1st, 2025. His term is to October 31st., 2026. His rate is \$85. per hour. And is eligible for one additional year, beginning on November 1st, 2026; subject to agreement by both parties.

3. CMC Communications Consultant: The incumbent began her first-year term on November 1st, 2025. Her rate is \$ 95. per hour. And is eligible for an additional year, beginning on November 1st, 2026; subject agreed to agreement by both parties.

4. CMC Environmental Consultant: The incumbent began his first term on October 24th, 2025, to end on October 31st., 2026. His hourly rate is \$ 140. And is eligible for one additional year, beginning on November 1st, 2026; subject to agreement by both parties.

5. CMC Liaison Assistant: This position's term, by approval of the CMC, began on December 4th. 2024 to expire on October 31st. 2026; his hourly rate is \$90. And is eligible for one additional year beginning on November 1st., 2026; subject to agreement by both parties.

Communications Committee & Technical Advisory Group Membership

Members of the Communications Committee

Three persons are required:

- Two from members appointed through the Halifax Solid Waste Society
- One from the HRM appointed members

Currently there are two members, both appointees from the Halifax Solid Waste Society

- John Cascadden
- Peter Lund

Members of the Technical Advisory Group

Three persons are required

- Two from members appointed through the Halifax Solid Waste Society
- One from the HRM appointed members

Currently there are two members, both appointees from the Halifax Solid Waste Society

- John Cascadden
- Peter Lund



From **Biomass Magazine**

<https://biomassmagazine.com/articles/canada-issues-new-regulations-to-reduce-methane-emissions>

Canada Issues New Regulations To Reduce Methane Emissions

DECEMBER 17, 2025 BY ERIN KRUEGER

The Canadian government on Dec. 16 released final regulations to reduce methane emissions from the country's oil and gas sector and landfills. The government is also investing \$16 million in methane measurement, reporting and mitigation research.

Landfills accounted for approximately 17% of Canada's methane emissions and 3% of its total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2023. The new Landfill Methane Regulations aim to provide a consistent approach to reducing landfill methane emissions in publicly and privately owned municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills.

Under the regulations, owners and operators of regulated landfills will be required to monitor the landfill surface, landfill gas recovery wells, and equipment used to control landfill methane emissions. This will allow for early detection of methane emissions and leaks that must be repaired within specified timelines.

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The regulations apply to landfills that disposed of any quantity of MSW after Jan. 1, 2010, and have more than 450,000 metric tons of MSW in place, or that have disposed of more than 20,000 metric tons of MSW in 2025 or any subsequent calendar year and have more than 200,000 metric tons of MSW in place. The regulations do not apply to landfills or distinct portions of a landfill that are under final cover and ceased to accept waste before Jan. 1, 2010, or to landfills that receive only hazardous waste, non-biodegradable waste, waste produced from forest products operations, or construction and demolition waste.

Landfills that are subject to the new regulations must calculate their annual methane generation using Environment and Climate Change Canada's Landfill Modelling Tool and submit a Methane Generation Assessment Report. Open landfills that exceed 844 metric tons of methane generation and closed landfills that exceed 1,000 metric tons of methane generation have additional compliance obligations.

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Requirements to control methane will go into effect in 2028 for landfills that have 1,000 metric tons or more than methane generation and have existing landfill gas recovery systems, in 2029 for landfill that have 1,000 metric tons or more of methane generation and do not have existing systems, or in 2035 for landfill that have between 664 metric tons and 1,000 metric tons of methane generation. Requirements include a prohibition on venting landfill gas and a requirement that recovered methane must be destroyed or used, limits on methane concentration at the surface of the landfill and regulator monitoring to confirm these limits are met and conduct repairs where limits are exceeded, and monitoring of equipment and wellfields to identify and repair methane leaks.

The new Landfill Methane Regulations are expected to reduce GHG emission by an estimated 100 megatons of carbon dioxide equivalent between 2026 and 2040, supporting Canada's net-zero emissions goal.

The \$16 million investment in methane emissions reduction technologies aims to help advance innovative methane reduction solutions and contribute to Canada's broader climate and competitiveness objectives. Eight projects will share in the investment, which being awarded through the Energy Innovation Program's Methane Measurement and Mitigation call for proposals, launched in 2024 to support Canada's Methane Centre of Excellence.

Additional information is available on Environment and Climate website

Date: January 22, 2026
To: CMC Members
From: Reg Rankin, CMC Chair & Betsy Chambers, CMC Administrator

Report: Reference to the CMC 2025-26 Budget which ends March 31, 2026
This report provides a 9-month budget position ending on December 31, 2025.

NOTE: Below Budget **Prorated** on a 9-month allocation

2025-26 To: December 31, 2025
BUDGET EXPENDITURES + Surplus or Deficit Funding Balance

1. Administration: Full Annual Budget \$25,000

\$ 18,750	-	\$ 16,717	=	+ \$ 2,033
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2. Social Media : Full Annual Budget \$ 12,000

\$ 9,000	-	Technician \$2,111		
		Newsletters \$3,778		
		ZOOM \$ 245		
		\$ 6,134	=	+ \$ 2,866

3. Communications Advisor: Full Budget \$ 10,000				
\$ 7,500	-	\$ 1,992	=	+ \$ 5,508

4. Legal : Full Budget \$ 5,000
\$ 3,750 - \$ 0 = + \$ 3.750

4. Environment Consultant: Full Budget \$ 18,000
\$ 13,500 - \$ 9,968 = + \$ 3,532

5. Liaison Assistant: Full Budget \$ 9.000
\$ 6,750 - \$ 2,030 = + \$ 4,720

TOTALS:

\$ 59,250 Budget - \$ 36,841 Expenditures = + \$ 22,409 Surplus to Dec 31/25

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\$ 36,841 Expenditures against \$ 59,250 is 62.2 % of the Budget to end of the 3rd. Quarter
There is a resultant operating surplus of \$ 22,409. to the end of the 3rd. Quarter. Any
remaining Surplus balance at the end of March 31, 2026, is not retained by the CMC-
and reverts to HRM.