



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. Tekena 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 NSECC 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 NSECC 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. Cops 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.

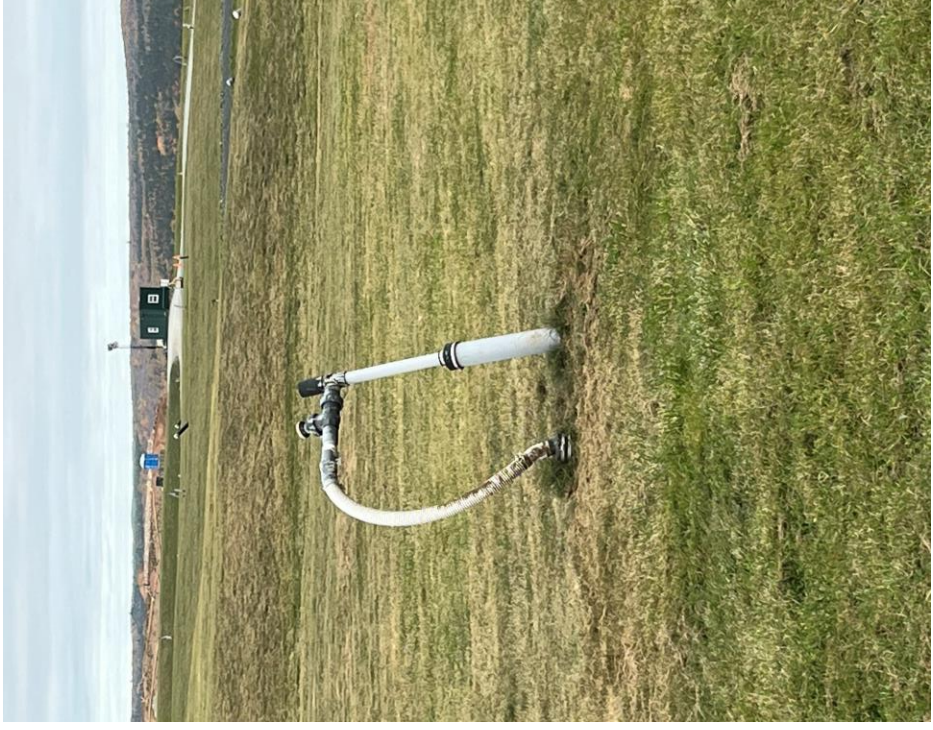


Otter Lake Landfill Facility

Mirror Nova Scotia: Landfill Gas
Control System Overview and
Initiatives



How does a Landfill Gas Collection System Work?



Cell 3 Monitoring Well



Blower 3 inside the Flare Building



Otter Lake Flare Building

- Vertical wells installed at various depths across the landfill
 - **Monitoring Well**
- Vertical wells connect to a larger horizontal pipe
 - **Finger**
- Piping terminates at an industrial vacuum that creates negative pressure across the landfill
 - **Blower**
- Gas is drawn from the landfill by the blower and pushed to a flare where it is combusted

Otter Lake Landfill Gas Collection System Overview



• Equipment Components:

- 194 Monitoring Wells
- 18 Fingers
- 5 Blowers
- 3 Flares

• Staff:

- Mirror employs a team of 8 full-time technicians dedicated to gas control
- 24/7 site monitoring

Gas Control Initiatives - 2025



VFD at Blower 2



BIOGAS 3000 Analyzer

- Gas Control Application
 - Techs can upload readings directly to cloud for visualization, alerts and analysis
 - *In use*
- Variable Frequency Drives for Blowers
 - Blower speed adjustment and fine tuning of system draw
 - *In use*
- BIOGAS3000 analyzer
 - Continuous data logging of gas composition at Flare Building
 - *In use*
- SCADA system
 - Remote access to equipment data and alerts
 - Automated equipment data logging
 - *In progress*

Thank you for listening-
any Questions?

MIRROR