



**ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 7, 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair
Councillor Richard Zurawski, Vice Chair
Councillor Shawn Cleary
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Lindell Smith

REGRETS: Councillor Steve Streach

STAFF: Josh Judah, Senior Solicitor
Matt Keliher, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant
David Perusse, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

**Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee Minutes
December 7, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., and the Standing Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 11:55 a.m. The Standing Committee reconvened to the public session at 12:15 p.m. and adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Legislative Assistant called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Zurawski, nominated Councillor Mancini as Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

The Legislative Assistant called three times for any further nominations. There being none, Councillor Mancini was declared Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

Councillor Mancini took the Chair at this time.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Karsten, nominated Councillor Zurawski as Vice Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

The Chair called three times for any further nominations. There being none, Councillor Zurawski was declared Vice Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 2, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the minutes of November 2, 2017 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Deferral:

**10.3.1 EfficiencyOne and the Value of the Energy Efficiency Industry in Nova Scotia –
Stephen MacDonald, CEO, EfficiencyOne**

Consideration of this matter has been deferred to January 11, 2018.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Zurawski,

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence - None

10.2 Petitions - None

10.3 Presentations

10.3.1 EfficiencyOne and the Value of the Energy Efficiency Industry in Nova Scotia – Stephen MacDonald, CEO, EfficiencyOne

Consideration of this matter has been deferred to January 11, 2018.

10.3.2 Ideas for Single Use Plastic Reduction – Matthew Campbell, Dominic Sorhaindo, Sam McInnis, and Mac Steele, George P. Vanier Junior High School

The following was before the Committee:

- An email dated November 18, 2017 regarding “Ideas for Single Use Plastic Reduction Campaign”;
- Written presentation of ideas.

Matthew Campbell, Dominic Sorhaindo, Sam McInnis, and Mac Steele provided a presented to the Committee on the detrimental environmental impact of single use plastics, as well as sharing their ideas for raising awareness of this growing environmental issue.

The Chair, as well as the members of the Committee, thanked Matthew Campbell, Dominic Sorhaindo, Sam McInnis, and Mac Steele for the presentation.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Recycling Market Conditions – Information Report and Staff Presentation – Matt Keliher, Manager, Solid Waste Resources

The following was before the Committee:

- Information Report dated October 12, 2017, titled: “Recycling Market Conditions”;
- Presentation titled “Recycling Market Conditions.”

Matt Keliher provided the committee with a presentation on the topic of recycling and current market conditions in Halifax. The presentation focused on the recent decision of the Chinese Government to close its borders to imports of raw recycling materials, and the particular consequences of this decision on the HRM and its waste management program.

With the ban on exporting recycling materials to China coming with little notice, HRM Solid Waste Management has struggled to find a solution regarding how to deal with these materials in the interim period until a long-term solution can be developed. Matt Keliher noted that film plastic waste is a particular issue, due to current restrictive Provincial regulations and a lack of current capacity to process these materials.

As a consequence of these developments, film plastics are being stored on site by HRM Solid Waste Management, and there appears to be no market for these materials at the present time. Petitions have been made to the Province to allow for a special dispensation of these on-site materials, however, the HRM has received no response to date.

Matt Keliher concluded his presentation stating that an important point arising from the Chinese recycling import ban is that recyclers across North America need to become less dependant on foreign entities to recycle their materials and that the capacity to process these materials within the Province needs to be developed.

Responding to questions from the Committee concerning the scope of the current problem, as well as potential paths forward, Matt Keliher suggested that the implementation of greater Extended Producer Responsibility ("EPR") may be the best strategy to assist in reducing the burden of waste materials handled in HRM. However, he further pointed out that it is the Province who would have to take the lead on expanding the implementation of EPR for it to be effective. Members of the Committee pointed out that Regional Council has already expressed its full support of EPR.

With regards to options for addressing the immediate problem of storing these film plastics, Matt Keliher indicated that Solid Waste Resources is currently investigating different options. However, he noted that simply storing these materials in the interim period would result in additional costs for materials which will most likely end up in a Landfill.

The Chair thanked Matt Keliher for his presentation.

12.1.2 Options to Reduce or Eliminate the use of Plastic Shopping Bags in the Municipality

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff report dated October 26, 2017.

Vice Chair Zurawski takes the Chair 11:04 a.m.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the CAO to ensure staff engages with appropriate Nova Scotia Environment staff and members of the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee ('Regional Chairs') to discuss options for a unified approach to reduce or eliminate the use of plastic shopping bags in all Nova Scotia municipalities, particularly in light of the changing plastic film commodity markets worldwide.

At the request of the Committee, Shannon Miedema, Manager of Energy & Environment HRM, and Alex MacDonald, Environmental Performance Officer and Climate Change Specialist with Energy & Environment HRM, outlined some examples of how other jurisdictions have approached dealing with the issue of plastic shopping bags.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Karsten:

THAT the motion be amended to include the wording: “including, but not limited to, Extended Producer Responsibility (“EPR”)” immediately following the words “to discuss options.”

The amendment was considered by the Committee as friendly.

Councillor Cleary noted that the report indicates that the Municipality does not have explicit authority to levy a fee on plastic bags. However, he inquired as to whether this would likewise prohibit the Municipality from implementing a deposit on plastic bags. In response, Alex MacDonald stated that while this is a question which would need to be referred to legal services for a more authoritative answer, from his understanding, it is a possibility that the Municipality might be able to look into. Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern about the Municipality’s capacity and jurisdiction to be able to administer and enforce such a deposit.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Cleary that the motion be amended to add the following alternative:

THAT staff collaborate to engage with retailers and external experts on options to eliminate or reduce use of plastic shopping bags in the Municipality, and return at a future date with a recommended option.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The amended motion was voted on at this time, as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. direct the CAO to ensure staff engages with appropriate Nova Scotia Environment staff and members of the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee (‘Regional Chairs’) to discuss options including but not limited to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for a unified approach to reduce or eliminate the use of plastic shopping bags in all Nova Scotia municipalities, particularly in light of the changing plastic film commodity markets worldwide; and**
- 2. That staff collaborate to engage with retailers and external experts on options to eliminate or reduce use of plastic shopping bags in the Municipality, and return at a future date with a recommended option.**

AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.3 Halifax/Halifax Water Integrated Stormwater Management Policy Draft Framework Motion:

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff report dated November 2, 2017;
- A staff presentation entitled “Integrated Stormwater Management Policy.”

Councillor Mancini took the Chair at 11:26 a.m.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council endorse the Policy Framework contained in the Committee Report

dated December 7, 2017 entitled Halifax/Halifax Water Integrated Stormwater Management Policy, structured around the following themes:

- 1. Capital Investment Strategy**
- 2. Ownership and Maintenance of Municipal Stormwater systems**
- 3. Land Development Practices**
- 4. Drainage on Private Property**
- 5. Wetlands**
- 6. Combined Sewers**
- 7. Flood Resilient Design Standards**

Peter Duncan, Manager of HRM Infrastructure & Planning Office, and Shannon O'Connell, Development Engineer with HRM Infrastructure & Planning Office, as well as Jamie Hannam of Halifax Water, presented to the Committee on the topic of the HRM's strategy for integrated stormwater management. The presentation touched upon funding for natural disaster mitigation programs, and the multi-agency responsibilities for stormwater management, the policy objectives of HRM Infrastructure Planning and Halifax Water for stormwater management, as well as their capital investment strategy.

Councillor Smith joined the Committee at 11:41 a.m.

Councillor Blackburn inquired as to whether the current co-mingling of stormwater and wastewater presents a significant problem for the management of stormwater infrastructure in the HRM. Responding to the question, Jamie Hannam indicated that at present it is a significant issue. However, Halifax Water and HRM are committing significant resources in terms of capital and operational investment to address the issue.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair thanked Peter Duncan, Shannon O'Connell, and Jamie Hannam for their presentation.

12.1.4 2018 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff report dated November 24, 2017.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Zurawki

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee approve the proposed 2018 meeting schedule as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated November 24, 2017.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES - NONE

12.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

13. MOTIONS - NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee move to an In Camera (In Private) session to address In Camera items 14.1.1 and 14.1.2.

The Committee recessed to an In Camera (In Private) session at 11:55 a.m.

The public session reconvened at 12:16 p.m.

14.1 Personnel Matter

Citizen and Councillor appointments to boards and committees in keeping with the Public Appointment Policy adopted by Regional Council in August 2011, to be found at <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/documents/Citizenrecruitmentpolicy.pdf>

14.1.1 Personnel Matter – Private and Confidential Report

The following was before the Committee:

- Private and confidential staff report dated November 30, 2017

This matter was addressed In Camera (In Private). The following motion was ratified during the public session:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- 1. Determine the candidates to be interviewed for the one citizen nomination to the Halifax Regional Water Commission Board.**
- 2. Direct the panel to return to Environmental & Sustainability Standing Committee for their consideration the nomination to Regional Council for appointment.**
- 3. That the November 30, 2017 staff report not be released to the public.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14.1.2 Personnel Matter - Private and Confidential Report

The following was before the Committee:

- Private and confidential staff report dated November 23, 2017

This matter was addressed In Camera (In Private). The following motion was ratified during the public session:

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- 1. Appoint one Water Related Professional to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board for a term to November 2019 as outlined in attachment 1 of the November 23, 2017 staff report.**
- 2. That the citizen appointment be released to the public following ratification and notification of the successful candidate.**
- 3. That the November 23, 2017 staff report not be released to the public.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 11, 2018

19. ADJOURNMENT

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The meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

David Perusse
Legislative Assistant