



**ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 1, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair  
Councillor Richard Zurawski, Vice Chair  
Councillor Steve Streach  
Councillor Shawn Cleary  
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Councillor Sam Austin

**REGRETS:** Councillor Bill Karsten

**STAFF:** Kelly Denty, Acting Director, Planning & Development  
Josh Juda, Solicitor  
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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m., and the Standing Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 3:09 p.m. The Standing Committee reconvened to the public session at 3:19 p.m. and adjourned at 3:20 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 7, 2017**

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

**THAT the minutes of December 7, 2017 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.**

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**

**10.1.1 Correspondence from Joanne Lamey, with regard to plastics accumulation in the Baker Drive area.**

The Legislative Assistant indicated that the Municipal Clerk's Office received correspondence dated January 12, 2018 from a member of the public relating to the accumulation of plastics in and around the Baker Drive area. The Legislative Assistant noted that the correspondence was circulated to members of the Standing Committee.

**10.2 Petitions - None**

**10.3 Presentations**

**10.3.1 Heritage Gas - Update on Current Natural Gas Projects & Projects to Reduce GHG Emissions in HRM – *Heritage Gas Limited***

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Correspondence titled “Reducing GHG Emissions in HRM with Natural Gas,” dated January 2018.

Derek Estabrook, Vice President, Heritage Gas, and John Hawkins, President, Heritage Gas, gave a presentation to the Committee on the natural gas projects completed by Heritage Gas in 2017, their plans for 2018, and some of the long-term opportunities that they are evaluating to help reduce Green House Gas emissions in HRM.

Councillor Zurawski expressed his concerns that the presentation did not adequately highlight the potentially serious environmental risks associated with natural gas.

The Chair thanked Derek Estabrook and John Hawkins for their presentation.

### **10.3.2 Proposal for a Plastic Bag Ban - *iMatter Halifax***

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Correspondence from Lilian Barraclough, dated January 25, 2018.

Lilian Barraclough, iMatter Youth Program Facilitator, and Cameron Yemen, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation on the environmental case for banning plastic bags in HRM. The presenters encouraged Regional Council to take the lead on finding creative alternatives to plastic bag use.

The Chair thanked Lilian Barraclough and Cameron Yemen for their presentation, and encouraged them, and other youth in the Municipality, to continue to petition for action on this issue.

On the request of members of the Committee, Matthew Keliher, Manager of HRM Solid Waste Resources, to provide the Standing Committee with a brief update on film plastics management within the Municipality. They explained that 100 tons of film plastic have been landfilled as the materials were becoming a health and safety hazard. HRM Solid Waste Resources did not have the capacity to move and store the materials in the interim while an alternative use or disposal method is identified.

The Chair thanked Matthew Keliher for providing the Standing Committee with an update.

### **10.3.3 Presentation on Halifax Solid Waste Youth Engagement Strategy – *Management Without Borders, Dalhousie***

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Correspondence from Emily Davis and Eryn Forester, dated January 25, 2018;
- Presentation titled “Recycling & Re-Using Ideas: A youth engagement strategy for HRM Solid Waste Resources.”

Emily Davis, Eryn Forester, and Alias Allmer, Dalhousie Graduate Students with the Management Without Borders Program, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation on their best practices research to determine a feasible youth engagement strategy for Halifax Solid Waste Resources.

The presenters outlined the methodology of their research, explaining that they undertook a jurisdictional scan, and developed an online survey targeting HRM youth. The presenters outlined their recommendations arising from the research, with the central recommendations focusing on a phased implementation of a Halifax Solid Waste Resources Youth Action Committee.

Responding to questions from the Standing Committee, the presenters provided the following feedback:

- With regards to the scope of the mandate of a Youth Action Committee, they did not want to be too prescriptive of the type of issues that participants could engage in, as they believe that a board mandate would be more effective than a top-down approach.
- The presenters noted that their research did not specifically touch upon what level of government would be most effective at engaging youth on such issues. However, Eryn Forester noted that from the secondary literature studied, there appears to be a greater impact at the Municipal level.

The Chair thanked Emily Davis, Eryn Forester, and Alias Allmer for their presentation and their work with HRM Solid Waste Resources.

## **11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD**

### **11.1 Halifax Solar City Program Update – Information Report & Presentation**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Information report dated November 20, 2017.

Adam Hayter, Energy Specialist, HRM Planning and Development, and Kevin Boutilier, HRM Solar City Program Officer, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation and update on the Halifax Solar City Program.

Adam Hayter walked the Committee through the program's Key Performance Indicators ("KPIs"), lessons learned, and the future direction of the program. It was noted during the presentation that a Municipal Solar Electric dataset is scheduled to be released on the HRM Open Data Portal in the near future.

Responding to questions from the Standing Committee, the presenters provided the following feedback:

- Councillors can assist by helping raise community awareness of the Solar City program.
- There are currently 25 Municipal facilities that have these solar systems installed.
- At present, Photovoltaic is the most promising solar technology, as it has gone from \$4 per watt to roughly \$2 a watt.
- With regards to energy storage options, Kevin Boutilier noted that more research and development is needed on battery storage before they can be confident of its commercial viability.
- Toronto is the only other municipal jurisdiction in Canada offering a similar program, although many smaller municipalities are also expressing interest.

The Chair thanked Adam Hayter and Kevin Boutilier for their presentation.

## **12. REPORTS**

### **12.1 STAFF**

#### **12.1.1 Pollution Control Study for Lake Banook**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A November 28, 2017 staff report titled "Pollution Control Study for Lake Banook."

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

**THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council including \$150,000 for a Pollution Control Study of Lake Banook and Lake Micmac in Planning and Development's 2018/19 operating budget.**

Cameron Deacoff, HRM Environmental Performance Officer, addressed questions from members of the Standing Committee with regards to the report as follows:

- HRM staff did not directly consult with Halifax Water or Nova Scotia Environment in the development of the report before the Standing Committee.
- The proposed study would look at both geographical areas, as well as the specific sources of the fecal contaminants.
- In terms of a timeline for the study, it was suggested that the Municipality would have results of the study towards the end of 2018, should it be approved.

**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 Cleary, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

**THAT the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee move to an In Camera (In Private) session to address In Camera (In Private) items 14.1 and 14.2.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Committee recessed to an In Camera (In Private) session at 3:09 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 3:19 p.m.

**14.1 Approval of In Camera (In Private) Minutes – December 7, 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 approved the In Camera (In Private) minutes of December 7, 2017 as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**14.2 Personnel Matter – Private & Confidential Report**

*Citizen and Councillor appointments to boards and committees in keeping with the Public Appointment Policy adopted by Regional Council on August 2011, to be found at: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/volunteer-boards-committees/public-appointment-policy>.*

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

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

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

1. **Appoint the applicant outlined in the discussion section of the private and confidential report dated January 12, 2018, to the Halifax Regional Water Commission Board and that the identity of the appointee be released to the public following ratification and notification of the successful candidate.**

**2. Not release this report to the public.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Committee reconvened in public session at 3:19 p.m.

**15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

**16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**

**17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE**

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 1, 2018**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

David Perusse  
Legislative Assistant