



**ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 7, 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor Richard Zurawski, Chair
Councillor Shawn Cleary, Vice-Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Steve Streach
Councillor Lisa Blackburn
Deputy Mayor Tony Mancini

REGRETS:

STAFF: Kelly Denty, Director, Planning & Development
Joshua Judah Q.C., Solicitor
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 5, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the minutes of September 5, 2019 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda was approved as circulated.

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

The Legislative Assistant noted that the Municipal Clerk's Office received correspondence from Bruce Rogers and Wil Tarnasky, which was circulated to members of the Standing Committee.

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentations

10.3.1 Sandy Lake Ecological Preservation – Karen Robinson, Sandy Lake – Sackville Rivers Regional Park Coalition

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A presentation request dated October 28, 2019
- A presentation on conservation strategies in the Sandy Lake to Sackville River lands

Karen Robinson, Co-Chair of the Sandy Lake – Sackville Rivers Regional Park Coalition, and Dr. David Patriquin, a former Professor of Biology at Dalhousie University, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation on conservation opportunities in the Sandy Lake to Sackville River lands. Presenters spoke to the Standing Committee regarding the lake water quality with respect to historical data, recent algae blooms, flood control and the importance of the lake for wildlife connectivity. Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, David Patriquin noted that they believe recent algae blooms

are largely related to contaminants quickly entering the lake water, however as lake water temperature increases, oxygen levels will also likely increase which may increase the risk of future algae blooms.

In response to questions from the Standing Committee, Kelly Denty, Director of Planning & Development, stated that following a request for a secondary planning review, and following staff's assessment of capacity in the service area planning staff concluded that there is currently enough supply for another fifteen years.

The Chair thanked the presenters for the presentation.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Overview of Solid Waste Diversion Program Presentation

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff presentation
- A Global News video segment

Andrew Philopoulos, Manager of Solid Waste Resources, gave a staff presentation on the Solid Waste Diversion Program with a focus on waste education and compliance initiatives, and answered questions for members of the Standing Committee.

In response to questions, staff noted that Solid Waste will be providing further information to Regional Council regarding options for a blue bin program following the completion of a staff report. Staff noted that staff does consider seasonal variations in waste type patterns and offered to provide figures for Councillors in follow-up. Staff works with various non-profit organizations to divert garment waste from landfills.

The Chair thanked staff for the presentation.

12.1.2 Overview of Extended Producer Responsibility

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff presentation

Laurie Lewis, Program Manager of Policy and Outreach, gave a staff presentation on Extended Producer Responsibility and answered questions for members of the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee forward the Information Item No. 1 Extended Producer Responsibility to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair thanked staff for the presentation.

12.1.3 Councillor Appointments to Boards and Committees

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A revised staff memorandum

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mancini

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

- 1. Appoint one (1) member of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to the Halifax Regional Water Commission for a term to November, 2020, following a call for nominations at the November 7, 2019 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meeting; and**
- 2. Appoint Councillor Zurawski to the National Zero Waste Council for a term to November, 2020, and appoint the Manager of Solid Waste as an alternative.**

The Deputy Mayor noted that the National Zero Waste conference would be in Toronto in 2020, and requested a friendly amendment to recommend that an elected official and an appropriate staff person attend the World Zero Waste Conference, to which the Mover agreed. The motion before Council now reads:

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

- 1. Appoint Councillor Hendsbee of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to the Halifax Regional Water Commission for a term to November, 2020, following a call for nominations at the November 7, 2019 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meeting; and**
- 2. Appoint Councillor Zurawski to the National Zero Waste Council for a term to November, 2020, and appoint the Manager of Solid Waste as an alternative; and**
- 3. Recommend that an elected official and an appropriate staff person attend the World Zero Waste Conference to be held in 2020 in Toronto.**

Upon review from the Municipal Clerk it was concluded that recommendation 3 was out of order and was not forwarded to Regional Council for ratification.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

12.3 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

16.1 Deputy Mayor Mancini (for Councillor Zurawski)

“TAKE NOTICE that, at the next meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee, I intend to move that staff do a report for the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee about the feasibility of implementing a Hydrogen Economy for HRM. This report should include consultation with researchers and engineers at Dalhousie University, hydrogen fuel cell companies such as Ballard Power, examination of other jurisdictions, especially municipalities worldwide have done, as well as examine the specifics that would allow fuel cell buses and ferries, and hydrogen as an alternate to fossil fuels for home and business, heat and cooling, and electricity generation.”

16.2 Deputy Mayor Mancini (for Councillor Zurawski)

“TAKE NOTICE that, at the next meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee, I intend to move that we have a staff report done about the feasibility of the Environment and Sustainability

Standing Committee having a member of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee participate with the Climate Caucus to learn about what other municipalities in Canada are doing to combat the climate crisis.”

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The chair invited members to address the Standing Committee on relevant topics.

Brendan Petrosec, a member of the Environment, Sustainability and Society program with Dalhousie University, spoke to the Standing Committee about the collegial nature of discussions regarding environmental issues and spoke in favour of encouraging staff to engage in on-campus presentations regarding climate and environmental issues.

The Chair called three (3) times for any member of the public wishing to come forward to address the Standing Committee. There being none, Public Participation was closed.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 5, 2019

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant