



**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
December 7, 2020**

PRESENT: Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair
Councillor Kathryn Morse, Vice Chair
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon
Councillor Sam Austin
Councillor Shawn Cleary
Councillor Pam Lovelace

STAFF: Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Transportation and Public Works
Joshua Judah Q.C., Solicitor
Phoebe Rai, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Haruka Aoyama, 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 and Sustainability Standing Committee
December 7, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. The Standing Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 3:40 p.m. and returned to public session at 3:57 p.m. The Standing Committee adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1.1 Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT Councillor Mancini be nominated as Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Legislative Assistant called three times for further nominations for the position of Chair; there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee be closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Mancini was acclaimed as Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

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

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT Councillor Morse be nominated as Vice Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair called three times for further nominations for the position of Vice Chair; there were none.

Moved by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee be closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Morse was acclaimed as Vice Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 5, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the minutes of March 5, 2020 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

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

The Legislative Assistant noted that the Standing Committee had received general correspondence from Ella Arruda Kyriakidis, Stephen J. Lean, Carol Gravelle, and Jane MacKay. Copies of all correspondence were circulated to members of the Standing Committee.

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentation

10.3.1 Infectious Control Prevention for Janitorial – Jim Benoit, President of Occupational Health and Educational Services

The Legislative Assistant noted that the Clerk's Office received a regret from Jim Benoit.

10.3.2 The Role of a Low-Carbon Gas Grid in HRM's Net-Zero Future – Derek Estabrook, Vice-President of Business Development, Heritage Gas

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A copy of presentation dated December 7, 2020
- A handout titled: An Integrated Energy System Pathway: A Better Way Forward to Net-Zero in Nova Scotia
- A handout titled: A Feasibility Study of Hydrogen Production, Storage, Distribution, and Use in the Maritimes

Derek Estabrook, Vice President of Business Development, Heritage Gas and Jordan MacNeil, Manager, Business Development, Heritage Gas provided a presentation on the role of a low-carbon gas grid in

Halifax Regional Municipality's net zero future and answered questions from members of the Standing Committee.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, Derek Estabrook explained further on planetary hydrogen, market competitiveness of green hydrogen, and HalifACT 2050.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Review of Report Requests

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated October 26, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee review the attached list of report requests, as outlined in Attachment 1, and bring forward any items recommended to be withdrawn.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Standing Committee did not bring any items forward to be withdrawn.

Councillor Cleary requested to bring forward following Information Items to a next meeting of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

- Information Item 2. Information Report from Kelly Denty, Director, Planning and Development and Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, dated August 27, 2020 re: Water Quality Monitoring in HRM Lakes
- Information Item 3. Information Report from Brad Anguish, P.Eng., Executive Director, Transportation and Public Works and Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, dated November 26, 2020 re: Procurement of CO₂ Mineralized Concrete in Municipal Projects

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 Supplemental Report: Regional Watersheds Advisory Board Review

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff supplemental report dated March 10, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to the Regional Watershed Advisory Board Terms of Reference as set out Attachment 2 of this report.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

Moved by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

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

1. Adopt the amendments to the Regional Watershed Advisory Board Terms of Reference as set out Attachment 4 of this report; and

2. Request a supplemental report to examine addition of members of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board membership.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.3 Councillor Appointments to Boards and Committees

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff memorandum

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- 1. Nominate one (1) member to the Executive Standing Committee for a term to November 2022.**
- 2. Nominate one (1) member to the Halifax Regional Water Commission for a term to November 2022.**
- 3. Nominate one (1) member to the National Zero Waste Council for a term to November 2021.**
- 4. Nominate one (1) member and one (1) alternate member to the Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management - Regional Chairs Committee for a term to November 2022.**
- 5. Nominate the Chair or Designate from the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee membership to the Community Design Advisory Committee for a term to November 30, 2022.**

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Councillor Morse be nominated as a member to the Executive Standing Committee for a term to November 2022.

The Chair called three times for further nominations for the position. There were no further nominations.

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Councillor Deagle Gammon be nominated as a member to the Halifax Regional Water Commission for a term to November 2022.

The Chair called three times for further nominations for the position. There were no further nominations.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Councillor Mancini be nominated as a member to the Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management - Regional Chairs Committee for a term to November 2022.

The Chair called three times for further nominations for the position. There were no further nominations.

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Councillor Lovelace be nominated as an alternate member to the Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management - Regional Chairs Committee for a term to November 2022.

The Chair called three times for further nominations for the position. There were no further nominations.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Councillor Morse be nominated as a Designate from the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee membership to the Community Design Advisory Committee for a term to November 30, 2022.

The Chair called three times for further nominations for the position. There were no further nominations.

A vote was taken on the main motion amended as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

- 1. Nominate Councillor Morse to the Executive Standing Committee for a term to November 2022.**
- 2. Nominate Councillor Deagle Gammon to the Halifax Regional Water Commission for a term to November 2022.**
- 3. Defer the nomination to the National Zero Waste Council.**
- 4. Nominate Councillor Mancini and Councillor Lovelace as an alternate member to the Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management - Regional Chairs Committee for a term to November 2022.**
- 5. Nominate Councillor Morse to the Community Design Advisory Committee for a term to November 30, 2022.**

AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.4 Ecological Lens

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 5, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 1. Update the Implementation Guidelines for the Environmental Implications Section of Regional Council and Committee Reports; and**
- 2. Develop mandatory training to educate staff on the implementation guidelines and additional resources and requirements for environmental decision-making.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.5 Proposed 2021 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 26, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee approve the proposed 2021 meeting schedule as outlined in Attachment 1 of this report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

12.3 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES – NONE

13. MOTIONS

13.1 Councillor Cleary - Declining Water Levels in Williams Lake/Shaw Wilderness Park

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report that investigates the declining water levels in Williams Lake and makes recommendations on potential actions related to repairing and/or replacing the dam, as well as stopping the leakage around and under the dam. The report should investigate the influences of climate change, development, and other relevant factors on water levels and water quality in the Williams Lake watershed and if there are mitigating actions that might be beneficial, especially given the recent substantial investments made by the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Nature Conservancy of Canada in the new Shaw Wilderness Park.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – March 5, 2020

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of March 5, 2020 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee convene to In Camera to discuss Item 14.2 Personnel Matter.

MOTION OUT AND PASSED.

14.2 Personnel Matter – *Private and Confidential Report*

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

Moved by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend Regional Council make appointments to Regional Watersheds Advisory Board as discussed during the In Camera (In Private) session.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 7, 2021*if required

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

**Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
December 7, 2020**

Haruka Aoyama
Legislative Assistant