



**ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
May 3, 2018**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll

STAFF: Kelly Denty, Acting Director, Planning & Development  
Ben Fairbanks, 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 adjourned at 2:33 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 5, 2018**

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

**THAT the minutes of April 5, 2018 be approved as presented.**

**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.**

**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 Municipal Clerk's Office received correspondence from Wendy McDonald dated April 15, 2018, Joanne Worden dated April 26, 2018, Brian Palmer dated May 2, 2018, and Robin Tress dated May 2, 2018, all of which were circulated to members of the Standing Committee.

**10.2 Petitions - None**

**10.3 Presentations - None**

**11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE**

**12. REPORTS**

**12.1 STAFF**

**12.1.1 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – Staff Presentation**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff presentation titled "Extended Producer Responsibility"

Laurie Lewis, Program Manager, Policy & Outreach, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation on Extended Producer Responsibility (“EPR”). The presentation covered the benefits of EPR, the different models practiced in other jurisdictions, and the current state of EPR in Nova Scotia.

Responding to questions of clarification, Laurie Lewis and Matthew Keliher, Manager, Solid Waste, noted the following:

- The main difference between Nova Scotia and other jurisdictions that practice EPR is who is paying for the recycling program. Under EPR, it is not the tax payer, but the producer or manufacturer.
- Only the provincial government has the jurisdiction to implement EPR in Nova Scotia.
- It is projected that the Municipality would save millions if EPR was implemented in the Province, depending on the model used.

The Chair thanked Laurie Lewis and Matthew Keliher for the presentation.

### **12.1.2 Federal Funding Opportunity: Low Carbon Economy Challenge**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 6, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:**

- 1. Recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to submit Expressions of Interest through the Low Carbon Economy Challenge for the following projects:**
  - Alderney 5 Upgrades
  - Scotia Bank Centre Waste Heat Recovery
  - Dartmouth Sportsplex Cogen Plant
  - Pool Filtration System Upgrades
  - Landfill Gas Utilization at Otter Lake Landfill
  - Halifax Organics Management and Long-Term Operating Contract RFP
  - Cogswell District Energy System
- 2. That the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee’s recommendation and the staff report dated April 6, 2018, be forwarded to Regional Council for consideration at its meeting held on May 8, 2018.**

Responding to questions of clarification, Shannon Miedema, Manager, Environment & Energy, noted the following:

- There is no limit on the number of proposals the Municipal can put forward under the program. There is a competitive selection process, however, with green house gas reduction per dollar of federal funding being the main selection criteria.
- Transportation projects are excluded from consideration for funding under this initiative.
- The project listed in the report are the ones that staff felt would be the most competitive given the criteria of the initiative.

Councillor Zurawski left the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12.2 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES - NONE**

**12.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE**

**13. MOTIONS**

Councillor Cleary took the Chair at 1:53 p.m.

### **13.1 Councillor Mancini - Plastic Straw Reduction Strategy**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A request for the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee's Consideration form.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Karsten

**THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report on a Plastic Straw Reduction Strategy in consultation with the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia (RANS).**

Councillor Mancini spoke to the Standing Committee about the negative impacts of plastic waste on the environment, noting that plastic straws are a significant contributor to this issue. They noted that there are many alternatives to plastic straws and a reduction strategy would be an effective step for the Municipality to take in reducing plastic waste.

Mancini further noted that in developing a Plastic Straw Reduction Strategy, the Municipality needs to work with the private sector as well as take consideration of the needs of individuals who use straws for health reasons.

Zurawski rejoined the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Councillor Nicoll requested that the report also include an educational piece on the environmental impact and harms of plastic straw waste.

Councillor Karsten proposed the following amendment:

**THAT the motion be amended so that in addition to the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia (RANS), the staff report on a Plastic Straw Reduction Strategy also be completed in consultation with regional head offices of major fast food chains operating within the Municipality.**

The amendment was considered by the Standing Committee as friendly.

The amended motion before the Standing Committee now reads as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Karsten

**THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report on a Plastic Straw Reduction Strategy in consultation with the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia (RANS), as well as regional head offices of major fast food chains operating within the Municipality.**

**MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Mancini took the Chair at 2:09 p.m.

### **13.2 Councillor Blackburn - Air Conditioner Disposal at Household Hazardous Waste Depots**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A request for the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee's Consideration form.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report on permitting portable air conditioners to be disposed of/collected at Household Hazardous Waste Depots without prior removal of the CFCs (refrigerant gases).**

Speaking to the motion, Councillor Blackburn explained that the Municipality currently provides curbside services to remove refrigerant gases (“CFCs”) from household appliances, such as refrigerators and air conditioners, at residential properties prior to their disposal. These services do not currently extend to non-residential properties and residential properties with more than six (6) units. The motion would allow for portable air conditions to be dropped off at Household Hazardous Waste Depots throughout the Municipality where the CFCs would be removed.

Councillor Zurawski requested that the report include the following:

- Clarification on whether the manufacturer would be required to cover the cost of removing the CFCs on portable air conditioners;
- An examination on whether there are other household appliances that could be included; and
- An estimation of the cost to the Municipality.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) - NONE**

**15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

**16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**

**17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair invited members of the public wishing to address the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to come forward.

**John Cascadden, Chair of Halifax Waste Resources Society, Louis Lake**, spoke to the Standing Committee about the benefits of EPR for the Province. They noted that EPR will not move forward in Nova Scotia without Municipalities getting on board first. They encouraged Councillors to talk to MLAs to promote EPR.

**Paul Arnold, Dartmouth**, provided the Standing Committee with a handout titled “Petition to Consider WSF Organics Pilot Study at Otter Lake.” They spoke to the Standing Committee about utilizing the current Waste Stabilization Facility at Otter Lake to meet the Municipality’s needs relating to manage and process organic waste. They requested that the Municipality allow a pilot study on the capacity of the facility to manage organic waste to proceed prior to any release of a Request for Proposals for organics management.

Councillor Mancini called three (3) times for any further members of the public wanting to address the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee. There were no additional speakers.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 7, 2018**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

David Perusse  
Legislative Assistant