

CMC Minutes
6:30 P.M. Thursday, October 19, 2023
Brunello Estates, Pavilion Events Building, Timberlea

Directors in attendance: Linda MacKay, Tom Robertson, John Cascadden, Oluwaseun Ayebiwo, Councillor Iona Stoddard, Daniel McNamara, Andrew Giles, Channing Davis, Daniel McNamara

Also present: Andrew Philopoulos, HRM; Steven Copp, ESH Manager/Landfill Manager, Mirror Nova Scotia Ltd.; Brian Dubblestyne, VP Municipal Enterprises, Mirror Nova Scotia Ltd. and CMC Consultants: Scott Morash, Environmental Consultant, Reg Rankin, Liaison Assistant, Betsy Chambers Communications Consultant and CMC Administrator.

1.0 Motion to approve the proposed agenda as circulated, was moved by Councillor Stoddard and seconded by John Cascadden. Motion carried.

2.0. Motion to approve the July 06, 2023 minutes of the last CMC Meeting was moved by John Cascadden seconded by Daniel McNamara. Motion carried.

3.0 Andrew Philopoulos offered HRM's perspective and concerns on recent incidents of malodourous gas leaks from the Otter Lake Landfill that prompted community complaints. Steven Copp and Brian Dubblestyne explained the context in which these short-lived incidents occurred and discussed some of the complexities of controlling landfill gas at the Otter Lake facility. They also described existing and new measures, including additional vertical wells and lateral pipe for gas collection and a temporary added flare, in an effort to better manage the accumulation of landfill gas. Recent heavy rainfall combined with Cell 7A's prolonged activation, which has left it open to the elements for much longer than past active cells, were cited as the cause of the problem. CMC directors asked a number of questions and were resolved to keep an eye on the situation with monitoring.

4.0 On the approved revised compliance plan, Andrew Philopoulos stated the focus was on reaching the provincial government-mandated target of no more than 10% of the total amount of municipal solid waste landfilled by mass at the Otter Lake site. If need be an annual adjustment could be made on the interim targets leading to the 10 percent goal by 2026. The compliance plan, he said, was always intended to be open to adjustment and change. Mr. Philopoulos declined to indicate what would trigger a reactivation of the FTP/WSF, but said it was always envisaged that they would remain on standby for a period of time while the new operating model is shown to be working. He said he did not wish to speak for the regulator.

5.0 The meeting was informed that the next CMC newsletter would be published in the Masthead in November.

6.0 Motion by John Cascadden, seconded by Channing Davis to have staff revise the old “Communication Plan” (a document outlining the communications mandate) to guide the activity of the Communications Committee and bring it forward at the next CMC Directors’ Meeting. Motion carried.

7.0 The issue of formation of a Technical Committee was deferred to provide time to consult with the CMC Environmental Consultant as to the benefits of a technical advisory group to aid his work. It was stated that a technical committee could not be established under the present agreement with HRM although John Cascadden questioned this conclusion.

8.0 The CMC Liaison Assistant was asked to proceed by way of consensus, rather than a motion, to arrange a CMC/HWRS Zoom meeting at a future date with Peter Vinall, CEO of Sustane Technologies Inc. Halifax.

9.0 Motion to adjourn was moved by Channing Davis. Motion carried.