

Western Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority
MINUTES
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Hybrid meeting (in-person & virtual via zoom)

MEMBERS

Present: Linda Gregory, Municipality of Digby (**Chairperson**)
Guy Surette, Municipality of Argyle
Ted Saulnier, Municipality of Argyle
Carl Deveau, Municipality of Clare
Angela Thurber, Municipality of Digby
Loren Cushing, Municipality of Yarmouth
Sheri Hurlburt, Municipality of Yarmouth
Mike Bartlett, Town of Digby
Paul Saulnier, Town of Digby
Gil Dares, Town of Yarmouth
Heather Hatfield, Town of Yarmouth

MUNICIPAL CAOs/SUPPORT STAFF/OTHER

Tyler Pulley, Municipality of Digby
Glendon Ring, YCSWP

WASTE CHECK STAFF

Gus Green, Waste Check
Amy Hillyard, Waste Check
Nicole Hazlett, Waste Check (**Recorder**)

Absent: Nadine Comeau, Municipality of Clare

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1. **Opening:**

The meeting was held both in-person and virtually via Zoom.
The Chairperson, Ms. Gregory commenced the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda - Agenda Item #1**

No conflicts were declared.

Black bags were added to the Agenda under Policy Committee (Agenda Item#7).

MOTION: Moved by Gil Dares and seconded by Angela Thurber that the agenda be approved as amended. **Motion Carried.**

3. **Approval of the Minutes - Agenda Item #2**

MOTION: Moved by Carl Deveau and seconded by Paul Saulnier that the minutes from the November 8th, 2022 meeting be approved as circulated. **Motion Carried.**

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes - Agenda Item #3**

Mr. Ted Saulnier clarified how he shares a green cart with his neighbor. The Chair, Ms Gregory explained that if neighbors want to share it is completely acceptable but it is nothing that Waste Check would mandate as neighbors don't always get along. The General Manager (GM) noted that there are a lot of residents that do share.

The Chair, Ms. Gregory updated that the Town of Digby is rotating their Committee appointments. Although not yet official, Mayor Cleveland will be replacing Councillor Paul Saulnier on the Waste Check Board. The Town of Digby rotate their Committee appointments every two years.

5. **Acceptance of the Review of Expenditures - Agenda Item #4**

There were no questions on the expenditures.

MOTION: Moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Mike Bartlett to accept the Waste Check expenditures dated January 10th, 2023 in the amount of \$22,256.50 be approved as presented. **Motion Carried.**

6. **Staff Reports (Waste Check Connections) - Agenda Item #5**

There were no questions on the report. Mr. Bartlett noted that Tideview Terrace was very excited to have received Divert NS' Mobius Award.

The Chair also commented that she had some positive comments from residents on the Bylaw Enforcement Officer and his interaction with them as well as how useful the Recycle Coach app is.

MOTION: Moved by Carl Deveau and seconded by Mike Bartlett to approve the Waste Check Connections staff report as circulated. **Motion Carried.**

7. **Regional Chairs Update - Agenda Item #6**

The last meeting was held on December 7th. There was more discussion at the meeting on the upcoming regulation change to construction and demolition debris.

The GM also noted that there was discussion around the “smoothing” of diversion credit funding. The amount of diversion credit funding available in a given year is not actually known until the end of that year, making it difficult for Regions to budget. To help with this, “smoothing” was introduced, where the diversion credit funding amount was set in advance. If at the end of the year, more funding was available than was budgeted it was “banked”. If there was less funding available, the difference was taken out of the bank. Currently there is approximately 2 million dollars in the diversion credit bank. Our Chair, Ms. Gregory was instrumental in getting a motion passed that a portion of the surplus be distributed to increase the diversion credit funding to 5.5 million this year from 5 million the previous year.

The next meeting has been scheduled for January 27th.

8. **Policy Committee - Agenda Item #7**

The Chair reported that the next meeting is scheduled for February 3rd. The Committee met in November but they are still working on some policies.

Black Bags

The Chair noted that she wanted to have a discussion on black bags. She felt it was time to look at eliminating the use of black bags and it has been discussed at the Policy Committee. The Committee wanted feedback from the Board before spending any more time on topic. There are many areas of challenge such as apartments, private lanes and cottage areas where collection takes place in one spot. These locations often have more black bags than allowed and it's difficult to determine who is over the limit even with education. It was felt that it was time to move to using a kitchen catcher solid bag inside the clear bag for privacy like some other Regions in the Province are doing.

There was considerable discussion on the issues, challenges and positive outcomes that could arise

from the change. All Board members in attendance had a chance to voice their concerns and whether they were in favour of the change. Mr. Deveau noted he would address his concerns at the Policy Committee meeting. He wanted it on record. The GM explained that even if any change was approved, the change would be implemented over time with considerable coverage of the change. This is not something that would change overnight, most likely at least one year with lots of promotion.

One of the concerns that was raised was about those that need black bags due to medical conditions. The variance program would continue, this allows residents to continue using black bags for those situations but if the resident doesn't already have a "variance" they would need to contact Waste Check. Waste Check staff work one on one with the resident to determine if they are following the programs and what they require. Some may have only needed the one black bag so the variance list could increase slightly.

The majority of the Board was in favour of the Policy Committee continuing their work on this topic.

9. **Construction & Demolition Debris - regulation change - Agenda Item #8**

The GM noted that the Regions are still waiting on the Department for the definition of "treated wood".

10. **Green Carts - Agenda Item #9**

The GM reported that the demand for carts hasn't slowed down and another order is required. The cart prices have not changed but the cost of freight was slightly lower than the last order bringing the overall cost down. The cost for a shipment of both sized carts is \$67,159.14 for 810 carts (405 of each).

MOTION: Moved by Loren Cushing and seconded by Gil Dares to approve the purchase of green carts in the amount of \$67,159.14 including HST as recommended. **Motion Carried.**

11. **Correspondence - Agenda Item #10**

There was no correspondence.

12. **New Business - Agenda Item #11**

There was no new business discussed.

12. **Next Meeting - Agenda Item #12**

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 14th at 10 a.m.

13. **Adjournment - Agenda Item #13**

MOTION: Moved by Heather Hatfield and seconded by Carl Deveau to adjourn the meeting. **Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Linda Gregory, Chairperson

Recorded by: Nicole Hazlett

