

CNWMC - Report

To: Committee Members

From: Allan Scott

Rather than have another meeting during the summer months I thought I would update you by correspondence on two meetings that I, along with other members of CNWMC, attended this past month:

Highlights from the Regional Waste Management Forum held in Gander on July 8th & 9th:
Jeff Saunders and I attended, with Maxine unable to attend because of an illness in her family:

- I had expected the Province to be ready to present an implementation plan for the waste management strategy at the Forum. However, they are now telling us that there will be a paper prepared and presented to Cabinet this fall. There appears to be support for the strategy and it is expected to proceed. Both the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of the Environment have publicly endorsed it.
- Regional Services Board Act has been proclaimed and assurances given that when setting up Regional Authorities the governance models used will not be interfered with by the Ministers. Our model, which would have a committee representing each transfer station with the Chair of that committee sitting on the Regional Board, was widely accepted and thought to be an excellent idea.
- MMSB gave a presentation on the funds available this coming year. There is \$4 million available for projects this year. We applied for \$10,000 for education in partnership with Terra Nova Heritage Foundation. As well, we applied for funds to register our site; however, after discussion at the conference, we withdrew it for now. As well, we expect we will be applying for a substantial amount of those funds for the environmental assessment. Under those funds there are monies for site closures for those committee members who are contemplating that.
- We had another presentation on Private Public Partnerships and there appears to be some support for this within government. This is a subject, that as a committee, we will have to discuss in future meetings.
- Regional Capacity Building was an agenda item brought forward by MMSB. MMSB is trying to identify its role in waste management. They see where they should be responsible for the soft costs or the operational costs of the waste management committees and Municipal Affairs doing the Capital. It may be time now for us to consider hiring a co-ordinator since it appears there maybe longer term funding for this position than earlier reported.

MMSB has not approved funding yet to cover operational cost; however there is a good indication they will. As a result of this discussion, we arranged to meet with Deborah Hare following our meeting with the Board of MMSB.

- There was a presentation on the Environmental Assessment process where we learned that the Greater Avalon has gone for a request for Proposals (RFP) to have more work done prior to registering their site. We had a discussion on that and decided to withdraw our application for funding until we met with Bas Cleary from Environment. Prior to withdrawing, we got assurances that we still could get funding approval from the MMSB Board without them meeting, or in other words a minimum delay. Jeff will be meeting with Bas in the near future through the Technical Committee.
- All waste management committees were asked to do a self-evaluation to determine whether there is good regional representation on the committees. I don't see where that is a problem with CNWMC, however we should discuss it at our next meeting.

Overall the Regional Forum went very well. There appears to be support for this initiative, however the message was sent back, that Government needs to come out with an implementation plan that makes it mandatory for all communities to comply with the Provincial waste management strategy.

Meeting with the Board of Directors of MMSB, July 14th, 2004.

Jeff Saunders, Ed Evans and I attended this meeting from CNWMC. Highlights from these meetings were:

- The board was briefed on the background of CNWMC. We discussed the area we serve plus the representation on our committee. We also told them how we consulted on a regular basis with the communities we represent. We explained the process we took in selecting our consultant and then moved into our formal presentation.
- Jeff Saunders gave the presentation that was done by Bae Newplan in our consultation with the communities. From the presentation there were a number of questions and I sensed from the feedback that the Board got a great appreciation for the work of the CNWMC.
- The Board was told that as a committee we felt we had a blueprint for a regional waste management system for Central Newfoundland and would be continuing with the work. We discussed our implementation plan and how it could be phased in. We also went through the implementation schedule as outlined in our executive summary and explained the timelines and the need to be aggressive if we are to meet the deadlines of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy.

- We discussed the funds we were applying for, both now and in the future. They were told we had withdrawn the Site Registration application, but would be re-applying in the very near future. We also discussed the hiring of the co-ordinator. They were that told because the funding initially was only for one year and the fact we would not be generating revenues for the next 4-6 years, we did not want to take on a co-ordinator, only to lay him off because of lack of funds. I did explain that we were fortunate as a committee to have Towns' staff who through their own volunteer time did the work of a co-ordinator.

The meeting with the Board went very well with a number of questions asked. All Board members were very appreciative of our work and thanked the committee for a job well done.

Following our meeting with the Board, we met with Deborah Hare to discuss the Regional Capacity Building. The details are not out as to the funding for this project and how we can take advantage of it. However, as a committee, we need to look at a long term operational plan for CNWMC which would include the scope of work we will be doing plus a budget and have it ready for presentation to MMSB later in the fall. I would suggest we now should consider hiring staff to carry out the work especially since we will require continuity with this project after the next municipal election. There certainly appears to be support for funding of staff for the regional committees and I would like to see us first off the mark.

While in St. John's we met with Wayne Manual of Bae-NewPlan to get clarification on our invoices. As you know, there were concerns at our last meeting in Lewisporte with the over-billing. Ed Evans will be working with Wayne on the invoices and a recommendation will be coming to the next Committee meeting.

I believe I have covered most of the items discussed at those two meetings; however it is difficult sometimes to record what is being said. So if Ed or Jeff has anything to add please feel free to do so.

Regards,

Allan