

NEIA Conference and Trade show

St. John's, NL.

March 4 & 5th, 2004

Report submitted by:

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Chairperson, CNWMC

N E I A (Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association) held their Conference, Trade Show and Environmental Industry Awards in St. John's on March 4th and 5th of 2004. Both Jeff Saunders, Chair of the Technical Committee and myself Allan Scott, Chair of CNWMC attended the March 5th sessions. The agenda for March 4th did not cover any agenda items that would apply to our Committee.

Friday, March 5th commenced with Hon. Jack Bryne, Minister of Municipal Affairs speaking at breakfast. Mr. Bryne reiterated that his Government is fully committed to the Provincial Strategy of the previous Government. Mr. Bryne had told us in our meeting the week before that they plan to continue with the direction the Regional Waste Management Committees are going and fully supports our efforts. Mr. Bryne has a concern with the costs of those new initiatives, however feels that working with the various levels of Government and with Private Public Partnership we can achieve our goals. This means that Government is backing away from the 100% capital funding which was assumed by many groups, in particular the NLFM. He also informed us that the Regional Service Board Act is proclaimed that will allow the setting up of Regional Authorities. This Government which is different from the previous Government is planning by mid to late April to come out with a waste management implementation plan with timelines. We do understand that the 2010 timeline may be extended. When we met with this Minister and the Minister of Environment we presented them with the Executive Copy of our report and discuss with them the schedule that is included in our report. As you know we can meet the 2010 deadline but everything has to fall in place with no delays. From other discussions, I understand we are as far ahead on this project as any Region. So don't be surprise with the extended time frame.

The next item on the agenda was a case study of a working PPP (Private Public Partnership) Waste Management system. However this turned out to be a presentation from Waste Management Services, a private company who can build and operate a waste management facility for a City or Region. They are involved with facilities in Nova Scotia.

The Avalon Waste Management Committee was to give an overview on their Environmental Assessment and talk about their progress to date, however I gained more by having lunch with the Chair, Dr. Melvin Regular than I did from the presentation. Melvin informed us that they now have a coordinator hired who is working out of an office in Confederation Building supplied by Municipal Affairs. The Committee doesn't have any other office space as they had in previous years. The Avalon Committee is about to go out to contract for their Environmental Assessment for the Dog Hill Site. The problem the Avalon is experiencing is with the City of St. John's who have not fully endorsed the work of the Committee and feels they should continue to use Robin Hood Bay.

The City is now studying whether it is more feasible to use the existing Robin Hood Bay site versus the cost of closing it and moving to a new site. Until this study is complete and the City comes on side,, the Avalon may be going nowhere.

We also discussed the Governance Model they are using for their Committee which I would expect to be very similar to the Regional Authority. The representation on the Committee is based on population and as follows:

- St. John's has 5
- Mount Pearl as 1
- CBS has 1
- 7 Communities of 5- 10,000 has 2
- 15 communities of 1 - 5,000 has 2
- 49 communities of less than 1000 has 1
- LSD's has 1 appointed by Government, with the Chair appointed by Government as well.

The Avalon has more committees that we do which is something we should consider as we go forward. The Avalon is now planning to have stakeholder forums which would be similar to what we will be doing the week of March 15, 2004.

Hon. David Anderson spoke at lunch however his speech was more on the Kyoto Accord and offered very little as to how it would apply to our project. Green House gas credits were mentioned but with no details.

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Directory: C:\Documents and Settings\Amanda\Desktop
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\Amanda\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot
Title:
Subject:
Author: Janeway
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 6/24/2004 9:13 AM
Change Number: 3
Last Saved On: 6/24/2004 9:15 AM
Last Saved By: Janeway
Total Editing Time: 4 Minutes
Last Printed On: 6/24/2004 9:18 AM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 3
Number of Words: 647 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 3,694 (approx.)