

Minutes

Technical Committee/Funding Committee

Central Newfoundland Solid Waste Management

Thursday, February 3, 2005 at 5:00 P.M.

Sinbad's Hotel

Attending meeting was John Scott, C.E.O. of M.M.S.B.

Jeff Saunders – Chair

Allan Scott – Executive Committee Chair

Cluny Matchem – Town of Gander

Harry Winter – Town of New-Wes-Valley

Maxine Gordon – Town of Glovertown

Environmental Registration

Allan received a call from Ken Dominie of the Department of Environment requesting that we withdraw our Environmental Registration until the Provincial budget process is complete. Government has not yet announced its strategy for waste management and Mr. Dominie wanted government's position announced to the public prior to us proceeding with the registration.

Allan, personally, feels that government is backing down from the present strategy and may go for smaller regional sites like South Brook. If this occurs, it does nothing to protect the environment from leachate from these sites.

We agreed that we have no alternative but to withdraw our registration.

Operational Plan

Our proposed operational plan was submitted to Mr. John Scott in December for his review prior to this meeting.

John said our proposed plan is fundamentally sound. There will have to be clear goals and objectives that are achievable and identified as part of the plan. An annual work plan will be required and agreed by both M.M.S.B. and the Regional Committee.

M.M.S.B. will expect to see commitments from the Committee and results, such as close out and consolidation of landfill sites and overall waste reduction due to recycling and composting programs.

Plan Discussion

1. Professional Development
 - Absolutely essential
 - P.P.P. is important and M.M.S.B. may look at this arrangement
 - Funding should be front loaded with less in year 2 and year 3

1. Transitional Planning/Implementation
 - Budget amount of \$10,000.00 per year is low
 - Consultant work, if required would consume most of this amount
 - Committee's intention was to have staff do a lot of the work
 - M.M.S.B. may assist with governance model

1. Research Capital
 - Budget amount of \$20,000.00 per year is high
 - More up front/one time costs
 - M.M.S.B. may help with P.P.P. research and net greenhouse gas reduction

1. Public Education/Awareness
 - Education component of \$15,000.00 per year is low
 - Education is critical and if workshops and materials are required, this is low
 - Co-ordinator salary for Regional Committee can be \$55,000.00 plus benefits
 - Office expenses of \$12,000.00 per year is low

The Committee will review comments and revise the plan document accordingly. It will not be re-submitted until government announces its position on waste management. Depending on their strategy, the plan may require further adjustment.

General Discussion

The Committee was disappointed with the withdrawal of the Environmental Regulation. We feel that government may be backing away from the present strategy and opting for smaller "regional facilities".

Government's latest push to have province wide programs to reduce waste going to existing landfills, is a good idea but should not result in a shift away from the present plan.

Cost of implementing the strategy has been arbitrarily set at two hundred million dollars. This number is a concern to the government.

It is our feeling that there are ways to cover this cost. Government must set the regulatory guidelines for solid waste management. It will be up to all parties involved to be creative on funding arrangements.

M.M.S.B. would want the regional authority set up as soon as possible when funding is approved for the operational plan. They would also want municipalities within the region to contribute to the operations after the three-year plan.

Allan said that communities will not contribute unless they are receiving a service. M.M.S.B. may have to look at funding for extended periods or the regional committee may have to revisit when the co-ordinator would be hired.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.