Management Minute

Budget Matters

The Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority met on March 16, 2016, in keeping with the normal meeting schedule with Vice-Chair Reginald Ritchie at the helm in Chairman's Pearl's absence. Following presentations provided by Operations Manager Martin and Communications Manager Garrett, the Municipality of the County of Annapolis and the Town of Middleton have now formally approved the budgets. Budget presentation were also held for the Town of Wolfville, the Municipality of the County of Kings, and most recently the Town of Kentville. Details of the budget are still under discussion in the Towns of Annapolis Royal, Wolfville, Kentville and the Municipality of the County of Kings but it was rejected by a narrow margin in the Town of Berwick.

RRFB Budget

The 2016-2017 budget for RRFB Nova Scotia has been prepared and submitted to the Minister for approval. The Regional Coordinators have been notified that if approved, this budget includes significant cutbacks. Education and Enforcement funding is included in this budget, however, there are proposed cutbacks to other municipal programs.

Service and Facility Review

Team members from Dillon Consulting along with Operations Manager Martin spent considerable time touring both the Eastern and Western Management Centers taking photos and gathering data for the Service and Facility Review. The next meeting scheduled will include a tour of Northridge Farms and Scotia Recycling. The anticipated completion date of the project is mid- May, with a formal presentation to the Authority at the June, 2016 regular monthly meeting.
Provincial Activity—Regional Chairs Committee

Latest Meeting
The Regional Coordinators met on February 23rd in Elmsdale.

Regulation Review & Municipal-Provincial Priorities Group
The Priorities Group will be hosting a workshop on March 17th in Truro with Regional Chairs, Regional Coordinators, UNSM and Municipal Affairs representatives. The focus of the workshop is to discuss the following topics as it relates to the proposed regulations:
- Compliance Ban Standards
- EPR for Household Hazardous Waste
- EPR for Packaging and Paper

2015-2016 Diversion Credits: The final distribution of diversion credits for the Authority is $374,123. Credits are determined by the amount of net revenues RRFB Nova Scotia has at the end of the previous fiscal year and the amount of materials diverted from landfill in the region relative to the rest of the province.

2016-2017 Diversion Credits: RRFB Nova Scotia CEO, Jeff MacCallum notified solid waste regions that the organization is experiencing a sharp decline in revenues and an increase in expenses this fiscal year. As a result municipalities will see a reduction in available diversion credits for 2016-2017. Reduced commodity prices for aluminum and plastics as well as higher than usual beverage container returns are the contributing factors. Based on RRFB projections and assuming the Authority performs comparably in 2015-2016 then it is estimated that the Authority will receive approximately $250,000 in credits for 2016-2017.

Disposal Rate
Final datacall numbers have reported that both the Valley Region and the province as a whole have experienced an increase in the disposal rate per capita in 2014-2015. The Valley Region now has a disposal rate of 331kg/person while the provincial average is 383kg/person. 2013-2014 numbers were 321kg/person (Valley) and 381kg/person (Nova Scotia). Declining population and increased amounts of materials being disposed at Construction and Demolition Debris sites are the main contributing factors for the Valley Region. ~7,500 tonnes of materials were disposed in private facilities in the region.

Communications update

Celebration Dinner - The 16th Annual Nova Scotia Recycles Contest Celebration Dinner will be held at the Kingston Fire Hall on April 7, 2016 from 5-7 pm. The contest challenges our youth to think about and participate in waste reduction. This year’s Grade 12 research essay topics include: clear bag for garbage; reflection on timeline of key events in Nova Scotia and why is glass such a challenging material to recycle? Winners of the essay contest receive scholarship money for post secondary education.

Kentville Home Show – The Communications, Enforcement and Education team members of Valley Waste Resource Management will be manning a booth at the Kentville Home Show again this year between April 15-17. The booth will promote the new mercury and electronics recycling programs as well as the “My Waste” app.

Compost Give-Away – The compost giveaway will be held on Saturday, May 7th, beginning at 9 am. This year’s locations include Avonport, Kingston and Cornwallis Park. The exact locations within the communities has yet to be determined.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next meeting of the Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority will be held in keeping with the normal meeting schedule on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 beginning at 9:00am in the Board Room.