



**Community Liaison Committee
June 26th, 2024 10:00 am
GFL Centre/Newport Arena**

Attendees

Shirley Pineo, Citizen Member, Chair
Barbara Gallagher, Citizen Member
Debbie McLaughlin (Representing Luke McGuire, Citizen Member)
Jeff Hartt, Councilor, West Hants Regional Municipality
Naomi Davison, Intern, West Hants Regional Municipality
Jenny LaPierre, Waste Service Coordinator, West Hants Regional Municipality
Kaitlyn Hirschfeld, Office Administrator, GFL Environmental
Chris MacDonald, Director Landfill and Environmental Compliance, GFL Environmental
Craig Manuel, General Manager, GFL Environmental
Timothy de Gouveia, Dillon Consulting
Christopher Shortall, Dillon Consulting

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

Motion to Accept Agenda

- Error in the agenda as “Committee Questions” were noted in two separate places.
Moved by J. LaPierre and seconded by B. Gallagher.

Approval Of the Minutes

- Error in previous meeting minutes, movers and seconders were not noted.
Moved by B. Gallagher and seconded by J. Hartt.

Site Operations Report

C. Manuel reviewed the Site Operations Report.

Motion to Receive Operations Report

Moved by J. LaPierre and seconded by B. Gallagher.

Site Environmental Monitoring Report

C. Manuel reviewed the Site Environmental Monitoring Report.

B. Gallagher asked if GFL would like to speak on the implications of additional testing requirements for invertebrate monitoring.

C. MacDonald stated there are downgraded and upgraded stations. The site experienced a very unusual season last year with a lot of water moving through natural brooks and streams. When the samples were collected there was more sediment than in previous years, expected for the weather conditions. To be proactive the consultants recommended additional sampling locations so we could measure and collect more information, which we agreed to do. When we meet again in November we will review the results from the additional sampling locations.

B. Gallagher asked what exactly special waste is?

C. MacDonald stated that chemistry associated with special waste is reviewed to determine if it is acceptable. Something unusual, not municipal solid waste.

B. Gallagher asked if any of this would contain considerable Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

C. MacDonald stated some municipal solid waste likely contains PFA's; however, placed waste is controlled and managed.

C. Manuel mistakenly reviewed the site operations report and site monitoring report consecutively without pause. Amend the motion to include the site environmental monitoring report and site operations report.

Site Initiative Report

C. Manuel reviewed the Site Initiative Report.

Motion to Receive Report

Moved by J. LaPierre and seconded by J. Hartt

B. Gallagher asked who has access to the information that is presented along with the approval application.

T. de Gouveia gave an overall update. There were two open hours that occurred on April 13th and April 20th, both lasted approximately 3 hours. April 13th had approximately 75 attendees and April 20th had approximately 100 attendees. There was an impromptu presentation led by C. MacDonald and C. Shortall at the first meeting and a formal presentation at the second. Both sessions were followed by a Q & A period, questions were documented.

T. de Gouveia also stated that an invitation was sent on April 4th to three First Nations communities (Membertou, Millbrook, and Sipekne'katik) as well as The Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council and Mi'kmag Rights Initiative for an in person or virtual meeting at a time of their choosing. A follow up letter was sent on May 15th, and plan to send another on July 8th. The only meeting that has taken place to date has been with the Mi'kmag Rights Initiative.

All questions and feedback will be submitted as part of the expansion application to the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSECC). This information will be available to the public upon request to the NSECC. The submission date is August 16th.

Committee Questions

- D. McLaughlin asked if documentation for meetings could be provided in a more timely manner, rather than the day before. C. MacDonald said the agenda and previous meeting minutes will be provided earlier, as they have been in the past.
- C. MacDonald reminded all members that there is a formal process for submitting questions to the committee that should be followed.
- B. Gallagher read the concerns/questions received from residents regarding organics entering into the landfill. C. MacDonald explained that organics are banned from the landfill (via collection services), however, organics can enter the landfill via the black privacy bags.
- B. Gallagher asked if GFL will hire front end workers to monitor black bag contents? C. Manuel stated “no”, we would not put people at risk by opening bags in this process. C. Manuel also stated that our operators monitor the garbage as it being emptied from the trucks and if anything that is banned from a landfill is noticed, he contacts his supervisor immediately, who then notifies myself and we will contact the company that brought in the material.
- B. Gallagher asked why we are still accepting black bags? C. MacDonald explained that black bags are not banned from the landfill, it’s each municipalities decision on whether they want to continue to use black bags. J. LaPierre stated they are currently updating one of their bylaws and looking to ban all black bags in the West Hants municipality.
- C. Shortall explained how the waste process works at Otter Lake. Commercial waste ends up at the West Hants Landfill and residential waste stays there.
- B. Gallagher asked if the tipping rates in Cumberland are the same as West Hants for out of area customers? C. MacDonald stated that all the rates are different at each facility. The volume of waste received in West Hants is higher than our other facilities due to its proximity to Halifax Regional Municipality, not because the rates are lower than our other facilities.
- B. Gallagher asked what happens to the residue from the leachate when it’s processed at the Windsor Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)? That information would have to be obtained from the WWTP. C. MacDonald explained we could accept the material (if requested) if, when tested, met the criteria that was approved by the NSECC.
- B. Gallagher asked if a secondary liner was used in the “old landfill”? C. Shortall explained that the “old landfill” is a 1st generation unlined landfill that uses native clay as its liner.
- B. Gallagher asked if there was ever a situation where runoff from the current landfill would ever be directed to the “old landfill”. C. Manuel answered “no”.
- D. McLaughlin asked why we’re allowing trucks to arrive up to an hour before the landfill opens? C. Manuel explained that we cannot control when the trucks arrive. We do open the gates to get as many trucks off the road as possible for safety reasons, but do not allow them to pass over the scale until after 7am.

- D. McLaughlin asked if there was any chance of nails and wood causing a puncture in the liner? C. Manuel said “no”, and explained that even when we open a new cell, we put a “fluff layer” of residential garbage on top of the rock first.
- D. McLaughlin asked how an observer gets access to a CLC meeting? The group agreed that the person should notify the Chair the day before to get the approval.
- D. McLaughlin asked who measures the air space and what branch of the government deals with that? C. MacDonald stated GFL is responsible for having it measured annually. We hire a 3rd party to complete the survey. The data is turned over to Dillon Consulting to compare to the previous year’s data and they determine how much air space is left. The NSECC determines the approved final height of the landfill.
- D. McLaughlin asked if residents within a certain distance should get to use the landfill for free to make up for lost property value? C. MacDonald said no, all residents of the municipality are charged a nominal fee that was negotiated many years before.
- D. McLaughlin said a resident had a concern regarding GFL staff collecting garbage along the side of the road without a vehicle in case of an emergency. C. Manuel stated that we are in constant contact with these employees via cell phone, and we felt having a truck parked on the side of the Walton Woods Road caused more of a safety risk than not having one there due to the amount of traffic and how narrow the road is.
- B. Gallagher asked if any of the 3 leachate reduction solutions proposed in 2022 have been implemented? C. MacDonald said we are actively working towards closing some active cells to reduce the amount of leachate produced. We recently purchased some new equipment to recycle leachate back on top of the landfill in the event the pond levels reach critical levels.
- D. McLaughlin asked about how the minutes from the CLC meetings will be shared with the public? J. LaPierre said they would post the minutes on the West Hants Municipality website.
- B. Gallagher asked when there would be answers to the questions asked at the consultation meetings? T. de Gouveia stated that most of the questions we answered at the time with the exception of one, which was the question about where the CLC meeting minutes would be posted.
- B. Gallagher expressed her concerns regarding raising the height of the landfill. C. MacDonald confirms if approved by the NSECC, GFL will expand vertically before we open and construct the eastern side for expansion. This means the existing landfill can be capped and create less leachate. C. Shortall also explained that the vertical expansion and lateral expansion are two different proposals.
- B. Gallagher stated it was brought to her attention that the landfill has been starting to smell for the past year. C. MacDonald stated this was also addressed at the public consultations, that we reopened a section of the landfill to maximize airspace usage, and we are in the process of filling this area and cap it off when complete, which will mitigate the smell issue.
- S. Pineo asks about the sewage from Halifax. C. MacDonald states on May 31st GFL conducted drone surveillance and discovered the septage lagoon was not working exactly how it should be. As of June 14th, we shut down our septage facility to all out-of-county customers. The issue is operational, and we are working towards a solution so we can slowly reopen and return to full capacity. At no point was there an environmental concern.

- B. Gallagher asked approximately how much of the accepted sewage is from West Hants?
- C. MacDonald answered approximately 25% is generated from West Hants, with the remaining 75% generated from East Hants and Halifax.
- J. LaPierre asked what the turnaround time was on the expansion request to the province?
- C. Shortall said it is usually 60 days, but if they have a question during that time, then the 60 days starts again.
- J. Hartt asked which municipalities they should contact about the usage of black bags and doing their part to help climate change? J. LaPierre will get some contacts for Jeff.
- S. Pineo asked that the members of the Community Liaison Committee work more collaboratively towards finding solutions to any public concerns.

Next Meeting will be held on November 6th, 2024

Motion to Adjournment

Moved by J. Hartt and seconded by J. LaPierre

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am

D. McLaughlin would like to be noted as not in favor of the adjournment.