



**Community Liaison Committee
November 6th, 2024 10:00 am
GFL Centre/Newport Arena**

Attendees

Shirley Pineo, Citizen Member, Chair
Barbara Gallagher, Citizen Member
Luke McGuire, Citizen Member
Paul Wheadon, Councilor, West Hants Regional Municipality
Dawn Allen, Observer
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

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Motion to Accept Agenda

Moved by J. LaPierre and seconded by P. Wheadon.

Approval Of Previous Minutes

B. Gallagher asked for clarification of the formal process for members to submit questions.
C. MacDonald clarified that questions between meetings are to be submitted to the Chair.
The Chair would then submit the questions to the appropriate people and respond to the member accordingly.

Moved by J. LaPierre and seconded by B. Gallagher with the clarification included.

Site Initiatives Report

C. Manuel presented the Site Initiatives Report.
B. Gallagher asked where the sediment removed from the sediment pond goes.
C. Manuel clarified that sediment removed from the ponds is put back into the burrow pit to dry out. Once it is dried out it will be used as clay cover on the landfill.

Site Operations Report

C. Manuel presented the Site Operations Report.

B. Gallagher asked what is included as “Special Waste”?

C. MacDonald stated this topic will be discussed further under the roles and responsibilities of the CLC.

B. Gallagher asked if the ICI Waste comes from the Otter Lake facility.

C. Manuel stated that the landfill does receive ICI waste from the HRM area but cannot comment if it is all waste that had traditionally been accepted at the Otter Lake facility.

B. Gallagher asked if there are limits on how much waste can be accepted.

C. Manuel stated there is not a limit but there are parameters that must be followed which determines if material can be accepted.

B. Gallagher asked how do you judge what the facility can accommodate.

C. MacDonald stated that the facility manages incoming material based on safe operational aspects along with available space.

B. Gallagher asked if we leave room for emergency situations.

C. Manuel stated that the facility has the capacity to take additional material but it requires evaluation through the lens of safe operational aspects, i.e. equipment and manpower. The facility currently has one empty cell; therefore, capacity exists.

Environmental Monitoring Summary Report

C. MacDonald presented the Environmental Monitoring Summary Report, prepared by Dillon Consulting.

B. Gallagher asked about the three monitoring wells that haven't been tested, will they be tested?

C. MacDonald stated that there are times during dry events when there is not sufficient water in monitoring wells to collect samples properly. These monitoring wells will be sampled during future events when sufficient water exists.

B. Gallagher asked if elevated arsenic levels are common?

C. MacDonald confirmed that arsenic in Nova Scotia is natural accruing at higher concentrations than other areas throughout the county, i.e., the CCME guidelines for arsenic in soil is 12mg/kg, which is lower than soil concentrations in many parts of Nova Scotia.

B. Gallagher asked if the exceedance would be a significant one or a minor one

C. MacDonald stated that it would be minor.

Motion to Receive all three reports

Moved by J. LaPierre and seconded by P. Wheadon.

Roles and Responsibilities of the CLC

The roles and responsibilities of the CLC were discussed. It was agreed that the committee would go back to 4 members (1 representative from the Municipality of West Hants, 1 representative from GFL, 1 representative that lives in the vicinity of the landfill, and 1 representative from the greater community). Each member will have a backup representative. It was also noted that the proponent does is not obligated to disclose information which is considered to be confidential for legal or business reasons.

Committee Questions

B. Gallagher asked about disposing of tires at the landfill.

C. MacDonald stated that any tires accepted are not placed in the landfill.

C. Manuel stated that a pile of large tires is present on site that will be used as weight on the membrane during the capping project next summer. But as a rule, tires are not accepted at the landfill.

C. Manuel invited B. Gallagher to the landfill for a tour to clarify any question she may have. We have nothing to hide.

B. Gallagher replied that this is what the public needs to know, that you are not there to hide anything.

C. MacDonald explained that all steps required of GFL by NSECC (Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change) for the expansion request were followed. Dillon Consulting recorded both meetings and wrote down each question and responses at both meetings. These were included with the backup information in the application that was submitted on August 16th. The application was very comprehensive.

J. LaPierre recommended if any emails are sent to the Chair or a committee member between meetings, they should be recorded and briefly reviewed with the rest of the committee at the following meeting. Keeps all committee members in the loop of what questions were asked and what the answers were.

GFL agreed that this is reasonable and a good recommendation.

S. Pineo confirmed she will receive all questions and keep a list of all questions and answers.

B. Gallagher asked if there was any monitoring for excessive leachate during the 3 days in July when we had a lot of rainfall

C. Manuel stated that leachate is proactively managed by removing material on a regular basis. Ponds are also monitored throughout the rain events. If we see it getting close to a level of concern, we will load trucks and take it to the Windsor wastewater plant, or store it in tankers, or we can recycle it back up to the landfill. It takes 5-10 days to go through the landfill. It is monitored very closely, and we proactively pump the levels down.

C. MacDonald stated that the landfill is designed so that overground waterflow does not go into the leachate pond. It is redirected and goes into the sedimentation pond.

B. Gallagher asked if there are any thoughts at all about testing for PFA's.

C. MacDonald stated that until this testing becomes part of the province's mandate it will not be part of the obligated analysis. If or when it does, it will be.

L. McGuire asked about the fire at the landfill and what happened.

C. Manuel stated a call came in at 10:08am that there was a fire at the landfill. We moved equipment, and the fire departments started putting water on it. The whole fire was out in three hours. We suspect it was from a lithium-ion battery that overheated.

S. Pineo stated I don't think people are aware they need to keep batteries out of the garbage.

C. Manuel said he had been asked if the liner was damaged and clarified the fire was 60-80 feet above the liner.

D. Allen asked how deep the clay is above the liner

C. MacDonald stated that the thickness of the liner system is approximately 1.7m.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, they can be emailed to shirleypineo@eastlink.ca.

Next Meeting Date: May 28th, 2025

Motion to Adjournment

Moved by J. LaPierre and seconded by P.Wheadon

Meeting Adjourned: 11:37 am.