

Title: Monday, October 29, 2007 and Environment Committee

Date: 07/10/29

Time: 1:13 p.m.

[Mr. Ducharme in the chair]

The Chair: I'll call the meeting to order. I'd ask that we start introducing ourselves for the record. Dr. Swann, if you could start since you're the only one on the teleconference.

Dr. Swann: My pleasure. David Swann, Calgary-Mountain View.

Ms Rempel: Jody Rempel, committee clerk, Legislative Assembly Office.

Mr. Oberle: Good afternoon. Frank Oberle, MLA, Peace River.

Mr. Eggen: Dave Eggen, MLA for Edmonton-Calder.

Mr. Hinman: Paul Hinman, MLA for Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Ms Calahasen: Pearl Calahasen, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake.

Ms Sorensen: Rhonda Sorensen, manager of communications, Legislative Assembly Office.

Dr. Massolin: Good afternoon. Philip Massolin, committee research co-ordinator, Legislative Assembly Office.

Mr. Reynolds: Good afternoon. Rob Reynolds, Senior Parliamentary Counsel, Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Lund: Good afternoon. Ty Lund, MLA, Rocky Mountain House.

The Chair: Denis Ducharme, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

We have one of our other members that has just had to step out for a photo engagement, and that's MLA Rick Miller, the representative for Edmonton-Rutherford. We are anticipating a few others, and will add them to the public record as they arrive.

The first item that we have is the approval of the agenda. If I could have someone move the approval, please?

Mr. Oberle: So moved, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Moved by Mr. Oberle, approval of the agenda for the meeting of October 29 of the Standing Committee on Resources and Environment. In favour of the motion? Carried.

Our next item is Adoption of Minutes from the October 11, 2007, Meeting.

Mr. Lund: I would so move, Mr. Chairman.

The Chair: Okay. Any discussion? No. In favour of the motion by Mr. Lund? Carried. Thank you.

Our next item to go into is to review the draft final report of the beverage container recycling review.

Mr. Lund: Mr. Chairman, I would move that we go in camera for this discussion. Until the report is finalized and tabled, it would seem to me that it would be only prudent that we would have discussions on it in camera.

The Chair: We have a motion by Mr. Lund to go in camera to review it. Are there any other comments?

Mr. Eggen: I'm somewhat reluctant just because I think that we certainly have the scope and the breadth of the general parameters by which we are going to function. So I'd prefer to keep it in the open. I don't know.

The Chair: If I can play the devil's advocate on this, because of the fact that we're working on the draft final report and it's a piece that's going to be tabled in the Legislature, I just think that it might be awkward. If we were discussing the final report here prior to it being tabled in the House, I feel that maybe it would be looked at as possibly a leak that goes out to the public before it goes to our colleagues in the Legislature.

Mr. Eggen: Okay. Yeah. That's an excellent point. That certainly will influence my choice. That's excellent.

The Chair: Any other comments?

Dr. Swann: Yeah, Denis. It's David Swann.

The Chair: Yes, Dr. Swann.

Dr. Swann: What does in camera mean? Who is included, and who is excluded in this?

The Chair: We would retain the Legislative Assembly staff that are here, that have been basically doing our backup. We'd also retain a person from *Hansard* that would be controlling the mike so that we can still communicate with you, but it would not be recorded in *Hansard*, and the public would be asked to leave the room.

Dr. Swann: Well, it strikes me that this should be recorded in *Hansard* because we are making decisions that we need to be accountable for. I don't see why we wouldn't be including this as we have every other element of our debates and discussions and information.

The Chair: We've gone in camera on two previous occasions when we started working on the recommendations. At that time it was for the same reasoning as I outlined earlier, that we didn't want the recommendations going out to the public until it was tabled in the Legislature.

I have Mr. Lund, who would like to comment.

Mr. Lund: Well, only to add to those comments. I think it's really important, when it's something that is going to be tabled in the Legislature, that the discussions leading up to the final report would in fact be in camera; otherwise, I believe that there could be repercussions that we wouldn't really cherish, quite frankly.

The Chair: Mr. Eggen.

Mr. Eggen: Yeah. Dr. Swann, I've sat in on a couple of these other committees as well, and it wasn't a big problem to be speaking on the *Hansard*, but we're dealing on this committee with these regulations with possible changes that could involve millions and millions of dollars, right? For the information coming out in a timely way or without innuendo or sort of hints, then I can see the point, certainly.

Dr. Swann: I can go along with it. Yeah.

The Chair: Okay. Any other comments?

In favour of the motion to go in camera? Carried. Thank you.

[The committee met in camera from 1:19 p.m. to 3 p.m.]

The Chair: I'd like to thank all the members. First of all, before I go into that part, I'd just like for the record to be able to identify that we had a couple other members that joined us while we were in camera, and they were Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Mitzel, so at least they're on the public record.

Further to this, we've had a good discussion. There will be more work done in regard to our draft final report. I would suggest that the Committee on Resources and Environment meet again on November 7 from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. to review the final draft report and be able to hopefully come to a conclusion on the recommendations to go on to the minister.

If that's fine with everyone, I'd now ask for a motion to adjourn. Ms Calahasen. In favour? Carried. Thank you.

[The committee adjourned at 3:02 p.m.]