

# Terms of Reference

## Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee

August 2007

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### **1. Establishment:**

The Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee was created by resolution of the Western Region Community Council on September 25, 2006. The Motion was;

*1. In October 2006 Real Property Planning staff advertise the selection process for the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee.*

*2. The Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee membership be selected from the list of qualified interested individuals.*

*3. That the role of the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee be to advise the design team for the Wilderness Common on planning and development issues related to these lands.*

### **2. Advisory Committee Mandate:**

The Mandate of the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee is to provide advice to Halifax Regional Municipality staff and to the design team selected by HRM in the development of the Wilderness Common Master Plan as generally outlined in the Conceptual Land Use Plan of Western Region Needs Assessment Study document prepared by Environmental Design and Management (EDM) in 1999.

The Advisory Committee will focus on developing a level of environmental sustainability and protection in balance with existing and proposed municipal uses of the Wilderness Common area. These uses generally are; recreation, waste resource management and wind energy. The Committee will also examine the Wilderness Common area in the context of current and proposed surrounding land uses including; residential development, business campus, institutional, recreational and resource uses. The advice and assistance will focus on the following specific issues;

! Planning vision for recreational land uses in the Wilderness Common portion of Western

- Common,
- ! Character and use of the designated sites for “Day Parks” in the Western Common,
  - ! Opportunities and constraints for ATV activities in Wilderness Common,
  - ! Integration of the large scale planning and development initiatives on the adjacent lands with the proposed land uses within the Wilderness Common,
  - ! Water quality of lakes and waterways,
  - ! Land acquisition opportunities and requirements,
  - ! Operational impact of the existing Waste Resource Management Facility located within the Wilderness Common designation,
  - ! Planning and development recommendations of the Wind Energy Generation Master Plan,
  - ! Protection and improvement of the current wilderness character and values of the Wilderness Common.
  - ! Heritage and cultural values located in the Wilderness Common area

The Committee will participate in data collection and analyses phases for Wilderness Common Project as generally outlined in the Master Plan Project Scope document.

The Committee will act as a liaison with area community groups and organisations as well as with other organisations having a mandate, expertise or associated with the primary objectives of the Wilderness Common as outlined in the Western Region Needs Assessment Study.

The Committee will review the final draft of the Wilderness Common Master Plan and make recommendations to the Western Region Community Council.

### **3. Membership:**

- ! The Advisory Committee will consist of eleven (11) members selected from the list of qualified interested individuals.
- ! The Area Councillor is an ex-officio voting member of the Committee with full voting rights.
- ! The designated HRM staff member(s) are to assist and support Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee activities and provide contact with the Design Team for the Wilderness Common.
- ! The designated HRM staff are not voting members of the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee.
- ! The Committee will select a Chair and Vice-chair to coordinate internal work and issues of the Committee.
- ! Opinion of the majority of members present at the meeting will be considered as an opinion of the Committee on a particular issue.
- ! The minimum quorum required for a meeting of the Advisory Committee is six (6) members.

#### **4. List of selected Committee Members;**

1. Philip Cochrane
2. Darrell Cooling
3. Alan Kitz
4. Michael Lamplugh
5. Lorne Logan
6. William Matheson
7. Kelly Morrissey
8. Blake Maybank
9. Jane Sears
10. Susan Smith
11. Dusan Soudek
12. Councillor Reg Rankin

#### **5. Meetings;**

- ! The general meetings of the Advisory Committee will be held on an as-needed basis and not more than once a month.
- ! Location of the meetings will be in the general proximity of the Western Common area and will be selected by the Advisory Committee in consultation with HRM staff.
- ! Meetings will follow the guidelines outlined in the Term of Reference document for the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee.

#### **6. Terms of Office;**

- ! The term of appointment to the Advisory Committee will continue until approval of the Wilderness Common Master Plan by the Regional Council or until the Advisory Committee is dissolved by Western Community Council.
- ! Vacancies to the Advisory Committee created as a result of the resignation of the members can be filled only if the total number of the Advisory Committee members will be lower than eight (8).
- ! The selection of the new members will be in accordance with the selection criteria established for the Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee.
- ! A vacancy for the Advisory Committee member will be declared at the time when;
  - a member of the Committee will submit a letter of resignation,
  - a member is unable to participate in the Committee work or,
  - a member is asked to resign by Advisory Committee due to extensive absenteeism.
- ! A vacancy will also be declared if an appointed member is absent for three consecutive

meetings in the row without satisfactory explanation.