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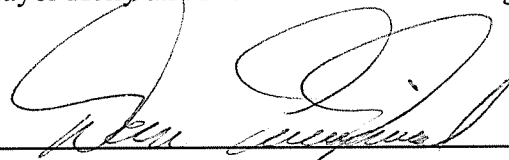


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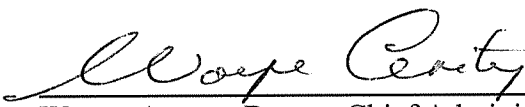
Halifax Regional Council
January 9, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer



Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: December 20, 2006

SUBJECT: **Proposed Mandate- Combined Energy & Underground Services
Committee and Harbour Solutions Advisory Committee**

ORIGIN

June 27, 2006 Halifax Regional Council approved combining the Energy & Underground Services Committee (EUGS) and Harbour Solutions Advisory Committee (HSAC):

Item 11.8- MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Halifax Regional Council: ... Item 2. Combine the Energy and Underground Services Committee with the Harbour Solutions Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council:

1. Approve the proposed mandate of the combined committee as outlined in this report.
2. Approve that the committee be called the 'Energy & Underground Services Committee'.

BACKGROUND

HSAC was created on June 20, 2000 when Regional Council adopted a motion that a Special Committee be appointed to oversee the Harbour Solutions Project:

June 20, 2000, Regional Council Item 8.1- MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Greenough that Council appoint a Special Committee to oversee the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project, with a composition as follows: Mayor Walter Fitzgerald - Chair; Ken Meech, CAO; Five Council Members. All members of Council will be invited to any workshops/sessions on this issue. The mandate of this special committee is to monitor and oversee the process on behalf of Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

There was no formal mandate for the Harbour Solutions Advisory Committee.

EUGs was created on July 6, 2004 when Halifax Regional Council approved the expansion of the Pipeline Review Committee to include Energy and Underground Services:

July 6, 2004, Regional Council Item 9.5.1- MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that Halifax Regional Council approve the expansion of the Pipeline Review Committee to include Energy and Underground Services, that is, utility related issues, and further the Committee's name be changed to the Energy and Underground Services Committee with current membership remaining intact. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The expanded mandate of the new Energy and Underground Services Committee was as follows:

- Ensure there is a variety of energy choices to HRM residents
- Promote sustainable, renewable sources of energy
- Live up to green house gas emission reduction commitments
- Diversify municipal revenue streams through seeking investments in utilities such as natural gas and wind energy
- Maximize HRM capital dollars through co-location of utilities and coordination of projects
- Develop a corporate position on environmental, aesthetic, financial, and operational qualities of underground versus overhead services, to shape future growth.

Both committees have been working well and have provided valuable guidance and advice to staff. Given that the membership of both committees was almost identical and given that Harbour Solutions project is an integral part of one of HRM's "underground services", it makes sense to combine the membership and mandates of the two committees into one which Council approved on June 27, 2006.

DISCUSSION

Some examples of the projects/issues various staff are working on which are inter-related are:

- Co-location of underground services where possible (ie: incorporating natural gas distribution pipe, fibre optic cable conduit, or underground wiring with large capital projects such as Harbour Solutions)
- RFP for Underground Services Analysis, to gather information on cost and benefits from an operational, financial, environmental, and aesthetic perspective regarding overhead versus underground wiring in new and existing developments.
- On going support to Heritage Gas distribution
- Research regarding renewable energy including: wind, solar and thermal.
- Research and coordination regarding HRM's response to Nova Scotia Power issues
- Energy efficiency and management to achieve our greenhouse gas emission reduction targets
- District Energy concept
- Common utility trench policy
- Harbour Solutions Project
- Wind Energy Master Plan
- Community Energy Plan
- Sewer and water pipe extension and renewal

Staff feel that the mandate established in 2004 for the EUGS Committee remains very relevant and only needs to be expanded by one objective to account for the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project. Therefore, the following objectives are proposed for the inter-departmental working group and overseen by the Energy and Underground Services Committee:

- Ensure there is a variety of energy choices to HRM residents
- Promote sustainable, renewable sources of energy
- Achieve green house gas emission reduction commitments
- Diversify municipal revenue streams through investment in utilities such as natural gas, wind energy & district energy.
- Maximize HRM capital dollars through co-location of utilities and coordination of projects
- Develop corporate policies on underground versus overhead services to shape future growth.
- Ensure Halifax Harbour Solutions Project meets community expectations
- Develop HRM/Heritage Gas alliance opportunities to enable the provision of natural gas service to HRM residents and businesses

Regarding meeting frequency, the HSAC had been meeting on an "as required" basis while the EUGS had been meeting on a regular monthly basis. The chairs of the two committees had expressed a desire to only meet "as required" in the future. Therefore, staff are recommending that the new combined committee meet on an "as required basis". Staff attendance at the

meetings will be on an “as required” basis, usually dictated by the agenda.

A draft copy of this report was reviewed by the new combined Committee at its December 1, 2006 meeting and was approved with the following amendments:

- that the composition of the Committee include a Commissioner from the Halifax Regional Water Commission, (the current membership of the combined Committee includes Commissioners Adams and Streach);
- clarification be provided that the role of the inter-departmental working group is to carry out the proposed objectives and it is the role of the Committee oversee the objectives.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality’s Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council could increase the scope of the Energy & Underground Services Committee to include general environmental matters. This is not recommended due to the potential overlap with the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee.
2. Council could merge the combined Energy & Underground Services Committee (including Harbour Solutions Advisory Committee) with the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee.
3. Council could consider to reduce the scope of the Energy & Underground Services Committee.

**Proposed Mandate - Combined Energy & Underground Services
Committee and Harbour Solutions Advisory Committee
Council Report**

- 5 -

January 9, 2007

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Pipeline Review Committee Report, June 29, 2004

Attachment 2: Energy & Underground Services Committee Mandate (Pre-June 27, 2006)

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

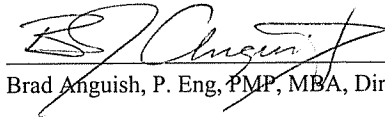
Report Prepared by: Brad Anguish, P. Eng, PMP, MBA, Director Environmental Management Services
490-4825

Financial Approval by:



Catherine Sanderson, Senior Manager, Financial Services, 490-1562

Report Approved by:



Brad Anguish, P. Eng, PMP, MBA, Director Environmental Management Services



P.O. Box 1749
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Halifax Regional Council
July 6, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Adams".

Councillor Stephen Adams, Chair, Pipeline Review Committee

DATE: June 29, 2004

SUBJECT: Expansion of Mandate - Pipeline Review Committee

ORIGIN

Pipeline Review Committee of May 20, 2004.

RECOMMENDATION

That Halifax Regional Council approve the expansion of the Pipeline Review Committee to include Energy and Underground Services, that is, utility related issues, and further the Committee's name be changed to the Energy and Underground Services Committee with the current membership remaining intact.

BACKGROUND

Staff advanced the possibility of an expanded mandate for the Pipeline Review Committee at the May 30, 2004 meeting of the Committee as set out in the June 29, 2004 staff report.

DISCUSSION

The Committee, recognizing that there were a number of related issues and projects around energy, endorsed staff's suggestion and approved the above recommendation.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

See attached staff report.

MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

June 29, 2004 staff report re Expansion of Mandate - Pipeline Review Committee


Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Sherryl Murphy, Legislative Assistant



TO: Pipeline Review Committee

SUBMITTED BY:


George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 29, 2004

SUBJECT: Expansion of Mandate - Pipeline Review Committee

ORIGIN

There are a number of inter-related issues and projects around energy, utilities and underground services which are being worked on by staff in various business units. An interdepartmental team has been formed to try to co-ordinate these activities and ensure HRM's approach is integrated in supports the HRM Corporate Scorecard objectives for a Healthy, Sustainable, Vibrant Community. On May 20th, the Pipeline Review Committee approved a staff suggestion that a report be prepared for Council to expand the mandate of the Pipeline Review Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

- HRM Council agree to expand the mandate of the Pipeline Review Committee to include Energy and Underground Services - utility related issues. The Committee's name shall be changed to Energy and Underground Services Committee; and the current membership shall remain intact.

BACKGROUND

The Pipeline Review subcommittee of Council, was created to help provide staff with direction in forming HRM's position and response to natural gas issues and opportunities such as the Maritimes Northeast Pipeline, Sempra project, and Heritage Gas franchise application and distribution. This Committee has proved invaluable in providing staff with advice and direction; and as a means of disseminating information to and from the remainder of HRM Council on a number of very complex issues.

DISCUSSION

Some examples of the projects/issues various staff are working on which are inter-related are:

- Co-location of underground services where possible (ie: incorporating natural gas distribution pipe, fibre optic cable conduit, or underground wiring with large capital projects such as Harbour Solutions)
- RFP for Underground Services Analysis, to gather information on cost and benefits from an operational, financial, environmental, and aesthetic perspective regarding overhead versus underground wiring in new and existing developments.
- On going support to Heritage Gas distribution
- Research regarding windenergy / wind turbines within HRM
- Research and coordination regarding HRM's response to Nova Scotia Power issues
- Energy efficiency and management to achieve our greenhouse gas emission reduction targets
- District Energy concept

Working together as an interdepartmental group, we can share information more efficiently, take a look at issues from a broader corporate perspective and develop more expertise in these various subject areas.

The following objectives are proposed for the the inter-departmental work group and the Energy and Underground Services Subcommittee :

- Ensure there is a variety of energy choices to HRM residents
- Promote sustainable, renewable sources of energy
- Live up to green house gas emission reduction commitments
- Diversify municipal revenue streams through seeking investments in utilities such as natural gas and wind energy
- Maximize HRM capital dollars through co-location of utilities and coordination of projects
- Develop a corporation position on environmental, aesthetic, financial, and operational qualities of underground versus overhead services, to shape future growth.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The 2004/05 budget included \$250,000 in capital to be used toward co-location of underground services. The inter-departmental working group will bring forward recommendations to the Subcommittee of Council, and then to HRM Council, regarding how these funds will be expended.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

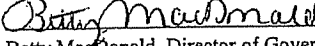
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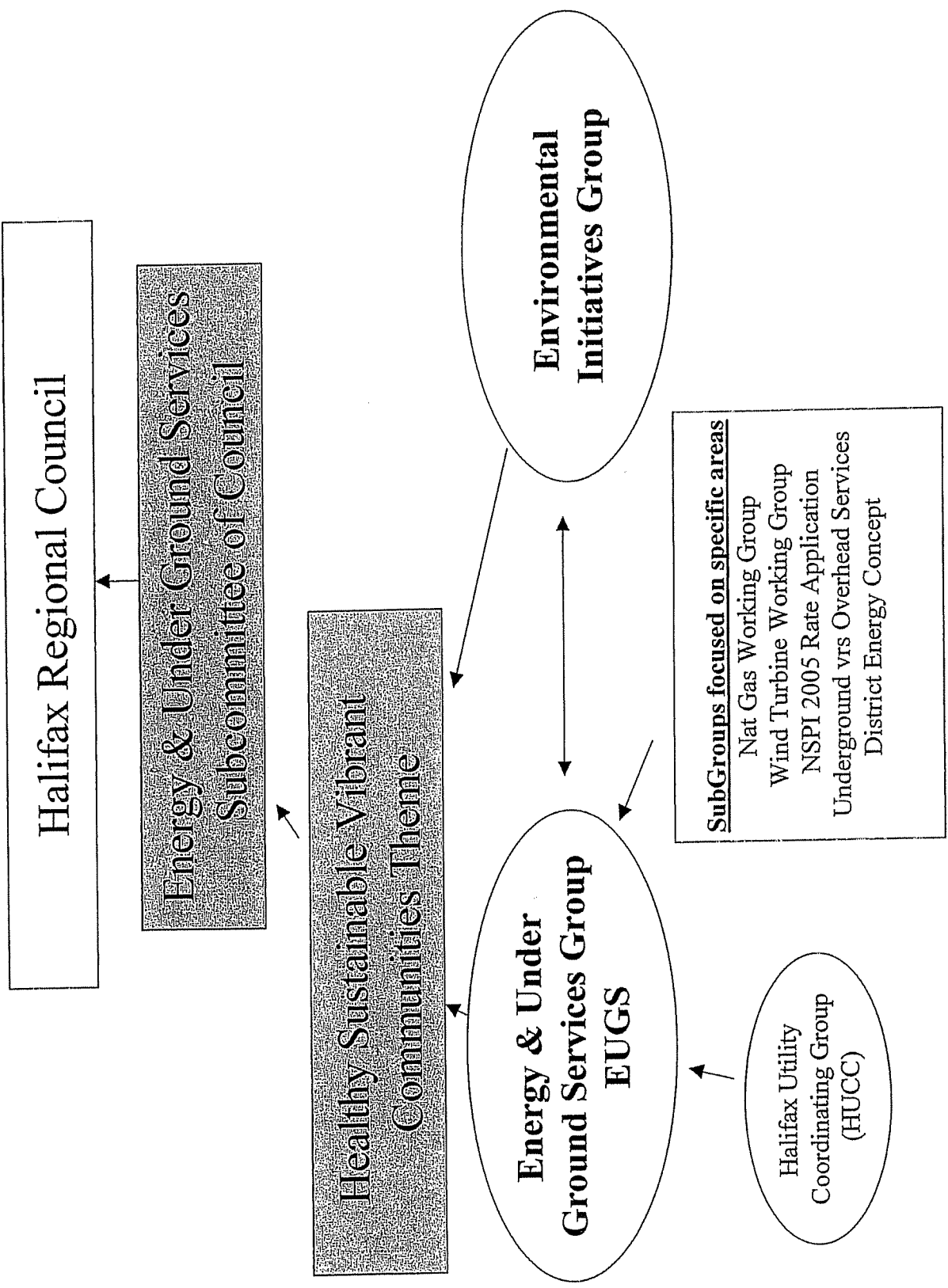
ATTACHMENTS

Reporting Structure EUGS (Energy & Under Ground Services Group)

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Cathie O'Toole, CGA - Executive Assistant, CAO's Office

Approved by: 
Betty MacDonald, Director of Governance and Strategic Initiatives



Halifax Regional Council

Energy & Under Ground Services Subcommittee of Council

Healthy Sustainable Vibrant Communities Theme

Energy & Under Ground Services Group EUGS

Environmental Initiatives Group

Halifax Utility Coordinating Group (HUCC)

SubGroups focused on specific areas
 Nat Gas Working Group
 Wind Turbine Working Group
 NSPI 2005 Rate Application
 Underground vrs Overhead Services
 District Energy Concept

ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES COMMITTEE

COMPOSITION: Seven Councillors (Motion adopted to increase Councillor representation from six to seven on August 21, 2001)

TERMS: **Two years** (Regional Council on November 28, 2000 adopted a motion that all Councillor appointments be for a two year term with the exception of those noted in the report presented to Regional Council.

* All appointments approved by Regional Council on November 28, 2000.

MANDATE: That the Region prepare a position by forming a committee to review the situation by preparing a cost benefit analysis based on financial, operation, business development, job development and environmental concerns.

Currently, the focus of the Committee will be to look at the potential benefits from access to in the Municipality.

MOTION: Council authorize filing of Notice of Intent to apply for a Gas distribution franchise by July 20, 2001; that Council re-establish the Ad-Hoc Committee on Gas effective immediately; and, that Council endorse the filing of an application for intervention status at the upcoming URB Hearing regarding the Sempra application. **(July 17, 2001).**

MOTION: Extend the membership from six to seven members. **(August 21, 2001).**

MOTION: That Halifax Regional Council approve the expansion of the Pipeline Review Committee to include Energy and Underground Services, that is, utility related issues, and further the Committee's name be changed to the Energy and Underground Services Committee with current membership remaining intact . **(July 6, 2004)**

MOTION: That Halifax Regional Council set the quorum for the Committee to 4 (four) voting members. **(July 5, 2005)**