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**Western Region Community Council**  
**May 31, 2010**

**TO:** Members of Western Region Community Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Mr. William Matheson, Chair, Western Common Wilderness Advisory  
Committee

**DATE:** May 13, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan

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**ORIGIN**

Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee meeting of May 10, 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Western Regional Community Council endorse the Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan, in principle, and request that the Plan be forwarded to Halifax Regional Council for consideration.

## DISCUSSION

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.*

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 focussed 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 also examined 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 focussed 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 participated in data collection and analysis phases for Wilderness Common Project as generally outlined in the Master Plan Project Scope document.

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

In order to reach its mandate, the Committee met on an ongoing basis since its inception. The Committee reviewed and at the May 10, 2010 meeting endorsed, in principle, the final draft of the Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan making recommendation to the Western Region Community Council.

### **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.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Western Common Wilderness Common Master Plan (Draft)

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.  
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