

**Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee
October 3, 2013**

TO: Chair and Members of Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Peter Stickings, Acting Director, Planning & Infrastructure

DATE: August 22, 2013

SUBJECT: Update: Integrated Stormwater Policy

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Regional Council, February 26, 2013, Stormwater Infrastructure Funding Solution

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Part IV, Finance, Power to expend money, 79, (1), (p), (al): The Council may expend money required by the municipality preventing or decreasing flooding, and wastewater facilities and stormwater systems.

BACKGROUND

At the February 26, 2013, Regional Council, a motion was approved with respect to Stormwater Infrastructure Funding with two additional directives:

Direct staff to:

- A. Jointly prepare, within two years, an Integrated Stormwater Policy, which includes an accountability matrix with respect to stormwater management; and a five-year stormwater infrastructure capital program with permanent funding options, for the consideration of HRM, Halifax Water, and the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSURB), for a permanent program; and
- B. Provide bi-annual updates to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee and the Board of Directors of Halifax Water on completion and progress on identified outstanding responsibilities in the accountability matrix.

DISCUSSION

Following the approved motion, Halifax Water and municipal staff have moved forward the development of the project charter. Additionally, a number of the policy activities, including consultation regarding the Lot Grading By-Law, have progressed.

Overview of Integrated Stormwater Management Policy Project:

Project Name: Integrated Stormwater Management Policy
Project Description: As directed by Regional Council on February 26, 2013, Halifax Water and Halifax Regional Municipality staff is to develop an integrated stormwater management policy
Project Sponsor: Regional Council, through the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee and Halifax Water Board of Commissionaires
Problem Statement: Following the 2006 transfer of stormwater and wastewater operations and assets from HRM to Halifax Water, and operational implementation and legislative governance has unfolded, opportunities for clarification of roles and responsibilities have arisen, in particular to meet community public safety and environmental stewardship expectations
Objective: To create an integrated stormwater management policy to guide municipal and utility operations and governance in the public delivery of stormwater management that meets legislated requirements and community expectations
Schedule: 18 Months total duration
Cost: Staff time and consulting assistance as required, funded from current operating budget; \$100,000 (from existing budget envelopes), plus staff time. 50% funded from Halifax Water, 50% from D935 (Energy & Environment)
<p>Scope: The purpose of the Stormwater Policy is to provide direction and clarification to HRM and to Halifax Water in such key areas of stormwater management as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of public safety with respect to flooding, and risk mitigation • land development practices/use of natural hydrologic approaches • protection of our natural water resources, including groundwater and flood plains • erosion and sedimentation control • mitigation of private property flooding • upgrading of substandard stormwater service and infrastructure • funding of stormwater programs and services – in order to meet approved level of service • public education and communication • roles and responsibilities of HRM and Halifax Water in these various aspects of stormwater management, consistent with the 2007 Merger Transfer Agreement • Identification of Green Approaches to SW Development within the municipal/utility
Quality: The Integrated Stormwater Policy document will meet legislated objectives as a minimum, strive to meet community objectives, and clarify roles and responsibilities for the agency levels of service

Policy Topics to include:

- Regulatory (Lot Grading & Stormwater By-Laws, By-Law review, Land use by-laws, Subdivision By-Laws, HW Rules and Regulations, HRM Redbook, HW Whitebook)
- Operational (Ditching, Erosion and Sedimentation Control, Deep Storm Sewers, Integrated Enforcement, Merger Matrix /Roles & Responsibilities, Education strategy, EMO integration)
- Infrastructure (outside UARB framework, within UARB framework, Prioritization policy)
- Funding/ Rate/Budget
- Other (Intergovernmental, Floodplain mapping, Pollution Prevention, EMO, Stormwater Treatment, Infill)

Community Engagement/Education: There will be a variety of community engagement opportunities offered through the development of the Integrated Stormwater Management Policy, including the recently completed community input on the Stormwater Management By-Law. The Regional Watershed Advisory Board will act as the primary community policy advisory group for the project

Updates to Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee: Committee shall be updated as scoped activities are initiated and presented to committee (such as the Stormwater Management By-Law) and semi-annually as directed by the February 26, 2013, Motion of Regional Council

An overview of the Integrated Stormwater Policy concept, including inputs and outputs, is as follows:



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts to the 2013/14 Project or Operating Budget. Funding for the policy project will be cost shared between Halifax Water and HRM, Energy and Environment. HRM's portion of the estimated cost for the policy project will be accommodated in 2014/15 operating budget for D935.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement opportunities will present during the various activities and sub-tasks. Some activities will require public consultation and some will include participation by the Regional Watershed Advisory Board. The overall policy project will be reviewed for comment by Halifax Water, HRM staff and RWAB.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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

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