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BRIEFING FORM

SUBMITTED TO: Environment and Sustainability Committee

MANAGER'S APPROVAL: *[Handwritten Signature]*

DATE OF MEETING: January 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Presentation: Brief SEMO Overview

ORIGIN

Staff

RECOMMENDATION/ DECISION REQUIRED

(NONE REQUIRED IN THIS CASE, INFORMATION ONLY)

BACKGROUND

SEMO Staff will provide a 5 minute overview of SEMO work.

ALTERNATIVES AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

None identified

IMPACT/BENEFITS

Help the Committee understand the current efforts of SEMO and to better enable members to provide direction to SEMO and other staff, particularly on strategy and focus areas related to Environment and Sustainability. Committee direction will influence future year's business planning and budgeting for the SEMO office.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES

None identified. This will help the Committee provide ongoing direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

Handouts will be provided (Presentation is in development at date of submission of Briefing Note)

KEY STAFF CONTACT: Richard MacLellan, Manager, SEMO 490-6056

Overview of Sustainable Environment Management Office

6-2-1

Who: Manager: Richard MacLellan
Environmental Performance Officers
Air / Energy Shannon Miedema (Maternity Leave), 8 mo term: Lauralee Sim
Water Cameron Deacoff
Environmental Due Diligence Kathy Cooper Macdonald
Administrative Assistant Claudine Fougere

Not a direct report, but a team member:
Energy Auditor Julian Boyle

What: HRM established the SEMO office to serve as the corporate lead for sustainability and environmental policy, strategy, reporting, and performance monitoring. Since its establishment in fall 2004, SEMO and HRM have taken an integrated systems approach to the environment, focusing on clean land, energy, air & water. The SEMO office also coordinates internal and external education and awareness programs.

General Position Duties:

Environmental Performance Officer – Air / Energy: GHG Inventory
Emissions Reduction Plan
Community Energy Plan
Education: Writing and Speaking

Environmental Performance Officer – Water: Water Quality Monitoring
Water Issues / Policy
Invasive Species* (Due to Water Issues, we're not getting time to get at Invasive Species issues)

Environmental Performance Officer – Env Due Diligence: 3rd Party Impacts (Oil Spill) Management
Climate Change Risk Management Strategy
ClimateSMART (except John Charles / Planning Projects)
Public Education

Note about integration of efforts between Julian Boyle and SEMO: With Julian's expertise on Community Energy opportunities (working on District Energy, Natural Gas, Solar, Wind, etc), and the current state of opportunity with respect to energy in Nova Scotia (ComFIT, Renewable Electricity Act, EGSPA, etc), Julian and SEMO staff have integrated efforts to ensure appropriate effort to capitalize on these opportunities. Reporting to Facility Development, Julian is responsible for many of the renewable and energy efficiency projects HRM has delivered – many leading edge. His expertise in Community Energy opportunities puts a leg into SEMO where we work together harmoniously.

Key Policy Influences:

Regional Plan
Emissions Reduction Plan
Community Energy Plan
ClimateSMART
Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan
Storm Water Management Functional Plan
Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act

Budget: D935 Sustainable Environment Management Office

Key Committees and Collaborations:

UNSM Sustainable Practices Committee (SEMO Mgr is a member under Terms of Reference)
Provincial Municipal Joint Advisory Group Water and Waste Water Issues (AMANS Rep)
HW / NSE / HRM Stormwater and Waste Water Issues Committee
CDHA Tick Management Group (Trying reduce involvement)
QUEST (Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow) – Mostly Julian

Overview of Sustainable Environment Management Office

Decentralized Corporate Approach to Sustainability:

While we have a SEMO office to act as a lead, sustainability is decentralized in execution and operations. A good example of this is the Sustainability Transition Team, a cross departmental selection of key influencers across the organization with a mandate to green the corporate culture.

Overview of SEMO Work:

Current:

- Water Quality Monitoring
- Collaboration with Water Stakeholder groups: Sackville Rivers Association, Oathill Lake, Banook, DAWN, etc
- Corporate GHG Inventory and Measurement
- Promote legislative and policy changes for energy efficiency and ghg reductions
- Process for GHG inventory measurement that meets protocol standards for marketing and reporting
- Organize and Chair Corporate Climate Change Risk Management Steering Committee
- Roll out Community Climate Change Response Guide to community Groups with EMO
- Participation in Atlantic Regional Adaptation Collaborative and Project Management of Projects
- Working with Buildings and Fleet staff to investigate and implement energy efficiency actions
- Community Solar Project
- NEDCO / Facility Operations Lighting Project
- Support Biosolids usage on HRM property deliberation
- Comprehensive Water Data Analysis
- Incubate Green Roof / Rain Garden / Storm Water Management Actions: SMU / HW, etc
- P2 and SW Mgmt work with Halifax Water
- Annual Sustainability Report / Corporate Knights Submission
- Reaction to Invasive Species Issues (Ticks, Fire Ants, Hogweed, etc)
- Pesticides Legislation and Policy: Currently operating Permitting, etc and need to response to PNS regulations
- Collaboration with Adventure Earth Centre for education
- Ongoing community sustainability education
- Lead Corporate Sustainability Team
- Mainstream usage of Sustainability Filter
- Incubate and assist with Community Gardening initiatives
- Maintain relationships with NGO's (Clean NS, Ecology Action Centre, NSEN)
- Corporate Sustainability Analysis
- Urban Agriculture and Local Agriculture

Imminent:

- Stormwater Management Functional Plan
- Synchronization with Provincial Water Strategy
- Community GHG Inventory
- Development of 2020 and 2050 GHG Targets: Community and Corporate
- Update of Community Energy Plan
- Development of new Community Energy Plan Action Items
- Electric Vehicle Policy and Strategy
- Development of revenue recapture process related to Oil Spills on HRM ROW
- Climate Change Risk Management Guide for Developers

Upcoming challenges with resource challenges:

- Internal Education (staff and council)
- Anti Idling Program
- External / Community Education
- Environmental Enforcement
- Management Response Strategy for Invasive Species
- Climate Change Adaptation Expectation
- Brownfield / Grayfield re-development
- Blue Flag beaches?

Overview of Sustainable Environment Management Office

2010 / 2011 SEMO Business Plan Items

- S3.1.1 Reorganize the Corporate Sustainability Transition Team to a decentralized model for environmental sustainability with the incorporation of additional members from Recreation Services, Solid Waste Management, and Metro Transit. The Team will be organized to deliver an Annual Corporate Sustainability Report that dovetails into the BPIM Corporate Reporting processes. Started, on track.
- S3.1.2 Develop a Communications Plan for the Sustainable Environment Management Office Ongoing, also included thru Sustainable Transition Team
- S3.1.3 Perform a Best Practices scan of municipalities, particularly focusing on GHG emission and energy efficiency initiatives. Summer 2010 Start – UNSM is doing a project this will satisfy
- S3.1.4 Update of 2005 Corporate Sustainability Analysis Complete
- S3.1.5 Develop Strategic Partnership with Adventure Earth Centre for delivery of community education Ongoing, on track
- S3.1.6 Develop Strategic Partnership with Recreation Services and Planning Services for integration of environmental sustainability, urban design / Regional Centre, and Physical Activity Strategies. Ongoing
- S3.1.7 Environmental Performance Officers delivery of community education (Shannon: Air / Energy, Kathryn: Climate Change, Cameron: Water issues) ideally combined delivering one offering in each council district by end of fiscal year. On going, Kathryn Climate Change with Barry Manual, Cameron: Banook, Richard Solar City
- S3.1.8 Engage with Provincial Water Strategy Development and draft and educate internally on HRM Position. Submitted. HRM staff to get together in January to review
- S3.1.9 Update Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan, identify new actions, and present recommendation for 2020 and 2050 target to EUGS and Regional Council Lauralee hired, started Update just about complete
- S3.1.10 Project Manage and update Community Energy Plan Update Not Started, Defer to 2011
- S3.1.11 Incorporate Sweden Study Tour Findings into HRM planning documents, where appropriate Ongoing, Wood First report PRIORITY to Get on Track
- S3.1.12 Continue engagement and enlightenment of Regional Council and Organizational Key Influencers Ongoing, will engage thru new committee
- S3.2.1 Organize and Chair Corporate Climate Change Management Steering Committee, to meet quarterly Started and ongoing
- S3.2.2 Complete IAM contribution to the development of the environmentally based Hazard Management Functional Plan as set out in the Regional Plan Not Started, not SEMO lead
- S3.2.3 Increase energy and fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for HRM facilities and fleet vehicles Ongoing
- S3.2.4 Promote and support legislative changes to require increased energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for all buildings and development in HRM Ongoing,
- S3.2.5 Participate in Atlantic Regional Adaptation Collaborative (NRCan, NSE) and Project Manage HRM Projects Ongoing
- S3.2.6 Participate and influence preparations for 2011 Regional Plan Review. Provide assistance with environmental goals related to development. Ongoing, EAC with AF, Mayor Meetings, discussions with RP, RPAC concern
- S3.2.7 Assist with HRM by Design Sustainability Plan Not started
- S3.3.1 Develop revenue capture process related to 3rd Party impacts (ie Insurance Claim of HRM costs) Perhaps Revenue Not Started
- S3.3.2 Develop processes and policy where GHG Inventory meets standards for marketable carbon credits Ongoing
- S3.3.3 Pilot Sustainability Filter in Capital Planning Processes Ongoing
- S3.3.4 Generate Budget capacity for Climate Change work by squeezing Pesticide Contract Complete for 2010, but budget is all assigned to savings for 2011.
- S3.3.4 Network and source other environmental funding opportunities post EcoTrust. Need about 2 - 3 Million per year. Ongoing, Seniors Program, Env Canada, GMF
- S3.3.5 Manage Sustainable Communities Reserve Ongoing, Report submitted
- S3.3.6 Discuss and if appropriate adopt management of Energy and Underground Services Reserve Thru Env and Sust Committee
- S3.3.7 Build relationship with GMF / FCM Ongoing

Overview of Sustainable Environment Management Office

Biggest Pressures / Concerns:

- Storm Water Management / Lake Quality
- Invasive Species Response
- Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Work
- European Fire Ants
- Pesticides

Budget:

Depending on direction related to Pesticides, SEMO may reduce budget by up to \$60,000 from 2010 budget.