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Info # 1

**Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
August 4, 2011**

TO: Chair and Members of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: 
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

DATE: July 8, 2011

SUBJECT: UNSM Resolutions

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to provide a report outlining the Provincial Invasive Species Strategy, Eco Nova Scotia Municipal Program and the Nova Scotia Environment - Sedimentation Control Plans, including draft resolutions for consideration by the Standing Committee, for the August 4, 2011, meeting.

BACKGROUND

Resolutions for consideration for the fall Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Conference (UNSM) are required to be submitted to the UNSM by August.

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee asked staff for some assistance in preparing resolutions for the following three subjects:

- Invasive Species
- EcoTrust Funding
- Sedimentation and Erosion Control

DISCUSSION

Proposed Resolutions:

Provincial Invasive Species Strategy

Whereas municipalities are facing substantial social, economic, health and environmental challenges from new and expanding infestations of invasive species; And,

Whereas The Province of Nova Scotia has legislative authority and program delivery related to Health, Natural Resources, Environment and Economic Development; And,

Whereas The Government of Canada has identified Provincial responsibility in the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency document: “An Alien Invasive Species Strategy for Canada”;

Be it resolved that the Province of Nova Scotia initiate an intergovernmental and interdepartmental Invasive Species Strategy for Nova Scotia.

Eco Nova Scotia Municipal Program

Whereas the EcoNova Scotia Municipal Program provided Nova Scotia Municipalities with \$7.9 million to help municipalities reduce emissions and build capacity for further reductions in the future; And,

Whereas the program is expected to reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions by 12,020 tonnes per year; And,

Whereas the program initiated economic progress in the municipal green economies;

Be it resolved that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities applaud the Province of Nova Scotia for the effectiveness of this program; And,

Further be it resolved that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities recommend continued funding programs for incubating Municipal progress on Climate Change Mitigation.

Nova Scotia Environment: Sedimentation Control Plans

Whereas the Province of Nova Scotia released Water for Life, The Nova Scotia Water Resource Management Strategy in 2010; And,

Whereas protection of the environment is the mandate of The Environment Act; And,

Whereas Protection of Water Resources is identified as a keystone in Integrated Water Management; And,

Whereas weather events causing sedimentation releases on construction sites are a major negative impact on watercourses;

Be it resolved that the Province of Nova Scotia adopt a Permitting service delivery model for Sedimentation and Control Plans for construction projects.

Rationale:

Provincial Invasive Species Strategy:

Recent years have brought substantial pressures to municipalities in responding to community concerns related to increased impact from invasive species. In the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) this includes: Black Legged Ticks, European Fire Ants, Giant Hogweed, Floating Yellow Hearts, and Longhorn Beetles.

These challenges cross governmental and departmental boundaries. Residents and municipalities need help dealing with these pressures.

Eco Nova Scotia Municipal Program:

As per the Eco Nova Scotia Final Report, which can be seen at the link at the bottom, HRM received approximately \$3 million of funding from the program to leverage projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money. This fund was key to incubating progress in the Green Economy.

Further programs would help some of the fledgling renewable industries develop sustainable capacity.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/ecoNovaScotia/pdf/EcoNovaScotia.Final.Report.2011.pdf>

Nova Scotia Environment: Sedimentation Control Plans:

Water quality has been a growing area of concern for residents. Sedimentation releases from construction projects appear to be an opportunity for improvement. Currently, there is no advance permitting of Sedimentation Control Plans required by the Department of Environment. It is only after responding to incidents that project Control Plans are reviewed. A permitting system would provide sound protection to water resources.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific implications related to the three resolution recommendations. However, all three areas provide funding pressures or opportunities for the municipality. Adoption of the resolutions would positively impact HRM budgets and resources by either reducing pressures or providing funding.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

None

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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