

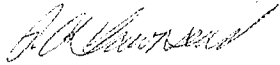


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Info #2.

**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 10, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Stormwater Management Functional Plan

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

1. June 2, 2010, Motion of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC) directing staff to provide a briefing note on:
  - The status of the Stormwater Management Functional Plan and the role of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee; and
  - The role of the Watershed Advisory Groups in the development of the Water Resources Management Policy.
2. May 5, 2011, Motion of Harbour East Community Council for information on the Stormwater Function Plan process.

## **BACKGROUND**

Aside from responding to the motion of ESSC, this report serves to respond to a Harbour East Community Council motion related to the Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board's request for consultation on the Stormwater Functional Plan.

The Regional Plan required the completion of 23 functional plans to provide detailed policy direction for each of the specific technical areas. The Stormwater Functional Plan is one of these functional plans and will provide direction to Council and staff on new policies and processes related to the management of stormwater.

The Stormwater Functional Plan is closely related to the Wastewater Functional Plan which will provide direction on the management of wastewater. As a result of the merger agreement between Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and Halifax Water (HW), Halifax Water is responsible for completion of the Wastewater Functional Plan and HRM is responsible for completion of the Stormwater Functional Plan.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Update on Stormwater Management Functional Plan:**

HRM has been undertaking background work for the preparation of the Stormwater Functional Plan. This information includes the Water Resources Management Study which was completed in 2002 and used to form the Regional Plan. As well, the Stormwater Management Guidelines were developed in 2006. These two bodies of work substantially comprise the foundation of the Stormwater Management Functional Plan.

This information is currently being reviewed and updated. In addition, best management practices related to stormwater management across the county are being reviewed. The completion of this review and subsequent preparation of the relevant policies, is expected to follow a timeline to enable them to be included in the Regional Plan 5 Year Review.

As outlined in the Regional Plan, it is expected that the Stormwater Functional Plan will result in overall policies related to stormwater management and updated administrative regulations and processes. These specific deliverables include appropriate Land Use By-Law amendments, harmonized Lot Grading By-Law, updated HRM Municipal Service Systems Specification (Redbook) and updated Halifax Water regulations (Whitebook).

While there is a desire to update the regulations sooner, it is important that the policy framework be determined prior to the creation of new regulations and processes. Therefore, much of the support work for these deliverables will be carried out concurrently with the policy preparation in order to be enacted shortly after the anticipated adoption of the policies. In addition, staff will collaborate with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment on the Stormwater Functional Plan as the functional plan process must coordinate with the relevant on-going provincial initiatives (i.e. Wetlands Policy and Water Resources Management Policy).

Community Development has recently been confirmed as the lead Business Unit for this project, however, stormwater management has multi-stakeholders and departmental impacts. Therefore, a multi-department project team (CD, IAM, HW) has been formed and a community consultation model that incorporates multiple stakeholders will be used. In addition, with significant environmental impacts, collaboration with NSDOE will be a significant part of the process and have been invited to participate on the project team.

In summary, the overall review and updating of the current information is anticipated to be completed by fall 2011. Policy opportunities are anticipated to be developed and presented during late 2011/early 2012 as part of the Regional Plan 5 Year Review. The other specific deliverables will then follow. As each of the imminent activities is completed, staff will provide an update report to the Committee.

**Governance: Role of Watershed Advisory Groups in the Development of the Provincial Water Resources Management Policy:**

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee has governance responsibility for Water Resource Management Policy as per the Terms of Reference. Therefore, staff will bring policy and project work to the ESSC for direction. It is anticipated that following ESSC approval, the work will flow to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee and then to Regional Council.

As such, where Community Councils do not have mandate for water resource management, this work will not flow through them or the Watershed Advisory Boards for direction. Aside from not having that governance mandate, it would not be effective to require approvals from the three different WABs and six Community Councils prior to Regional Council.

An effective Community Engagement consultation process will be used to provide meaningful input to the process. Members of the respective WABs and other local subject matter experts will be consulted on the development of the policy.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

This report is an update on status and clarification of governance on water resource management policy. Funding is available in the Regional Planning Program (CDE00105) for all work associated with the completion of the Stormwater Functional Plan. The budget availability has been confirmed by Financial Services.

**Budget Summary: Project No. CDE00105 Regional Planning Program**

**Res. # 1988.1 - Open Space Functional Plan**

Cumulative Unspent Budget \$ 200,000.00

**Res. # 1989.1 – Urban Forest Master Plan**

Cumulative Unspent Budget \$ 129,996.00

Balance \$ 329,996.00

**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**

HRM's Community Engagement process, including specific stakeholder engagement, will continue to be used to complete the Stormwater Functional Plan.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

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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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