

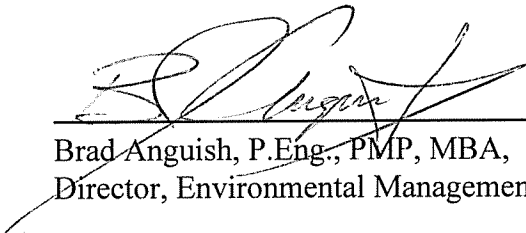


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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**October 11, 2005**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**



Brad Anguish, P.Eng., PMP, MBA,  
Director, Environmental Management Services

**DATE:** September 29, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Peggy's Cove Sewage

## **INFORMATION REPORT**

### **ORIGIN**

August 2, 2005 Regional Council - MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Meade, that a staff report be requested on the provision of sewer and water to Peggy's Cove and further, the report address whether there is merit in writing to the Province encouraging them to give consideration to developing a concept plan to identify solutions.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Community of Peggy's Cove is located at the eastern entrance of St. Margaret's Bay and consists of about 40 homes, a small number of small businesses and one restaurant. Peggy's Cove is a high profile tourist destination for the Province of Nova Scotia, while continuing to operate as a traditional fishing village.

The community is serviced by on-site septic systems and wells. The local terrain is primarily bedrock outcrops with very thin (or non-existent) soil layers. These conditions are not well suited for on-site sewage disposal. Staff are aware of at least one on-site system that is malfunctioning and another that discharges directly into the ocean. Due to the proximity to the ocean, well water is often high in salt or mineral content.

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff have met with local community representatives and Councillor Rankin on two occasions to discuss issues with the existing on-site services. At a recent meeting, staff were given copies of a short report entitled "Peggy's Cove Servicing Strategy - Alternative Options Identification". This report documents the existing conditions and recognizes that Peggy's Cove, due to its size, seasonal variation in flow, distance from existing central services, and the rolling terrain/bedrock conditions, that neither the rehabilitation of on-site services, nor the installation of traditional central services may be the best solution for Peggy's Cove. The report offers some high level discussion of non-traditional technologies that may be utilized in Peggy's Cove.

The report states that the Provincial Department of Tourism may be considering streetscape and tourism improvements for Peggy's Cove in the near future. This may provide an opportunity for residents to have central services constructed in a more economical way. One key recommendation is that a more detailed servicing study be done, exploring in more detail various servicing options, operational and management requirements for each, and possible funding scenarios. Staff estimate this study will cost approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000.

Councillor Rankin has suggested that this more detailed servicing study be funded from two sources. One source is the District Capital Fund available for District 22. The second funding source suggested is the Province of Nova Scotia (due to the significance of Peggy's Cove as a tourist destination). If directed to do so, staff will write the Province, on behalf of Council, requesting cost sharing.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

This more detailed study does not require any HRM funds except for perhaps District Capital Funds. The exact amount will not be known until an RFP process is completed and/or staff contact the Province.

### **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.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Council could direct staff to do nothing further.

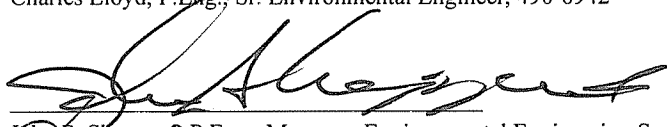
### **ATTACHMENTS**

None.

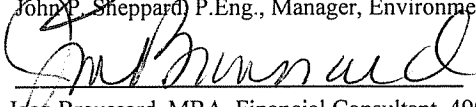
A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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