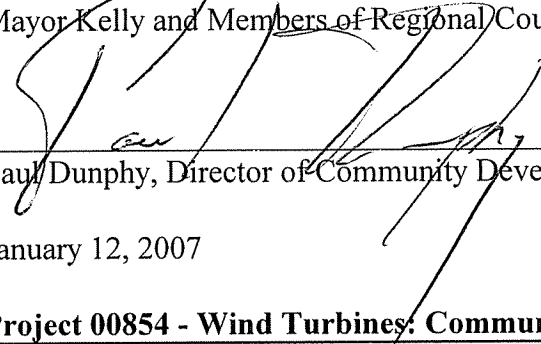




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Halifax Regional Council
January 23, 2007

To: Mayor Kelly and Members of Regional Council

Submitted by: 
Paul Dunphy, Director of Community Development

Date: January 12, 2007

Subject: Project 00854 - Wind Turbines: Community Consultation

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

- On November 21, 2006 Regional Council initiated a planning process to prepare policy and land use regulations for the location and siting of the wind turbines in HRM.

BACKGROUND

On November 21, 2006 Regional Council initiated a planning process for the purpose of creating policy and regulation for the appropriate location and siting of wind turbines in HRM, and follow the 1997 public participation program.

For clarification, the 1997 public participation policy, in dealing with potential amendments to the various MPS's (Community Plans), typically directs staff to undertake community consultation and recommendation through local PAC's and community councils, in advance of proceeding to Regional Council. Regarding the Wind Turbine Study presentation and report made at the November 21/06 Council meeting, staff outlined the phased process and clearly identified this topic as a regional matter as the pending policy and regulations would apply across the HRM, and likely cover all Plan areas. As such it is appropriate that this matter be dealt with at the Regional Council level rather than through individual Community Councils and their respective PAC's. Thus staff intend to proceed accordingly.

DISCUSSION

Typically, community consultation on an issue of Regional importance occurs in the order of one meeting per Region. This procedure has been established in other projects of Region-wide

significance including such issues as Capital Cost Contributions, C&D sites and the recent initiation of the Parkland Dedication review process.

Regarding the first phase of the Wind Energy project, community consultation is proposed to be undertaken for the six “candidate” or “test” sites and the rural areas of the HRM. Since several of the test sites are located in the same geographic area, it would be appropriate to hold one meeting to address a cluster of test sites rather than hold several meetings to address what is essentially same location. It is therefore proposed that a total of six meetings will be conducted; three to cover the six test site locations, and three to address the other rural areas of HRM. Accordingly, it is anticipated that the following locations would be suitable for the Wind Energy Community Consultation project:

Test Sites

Western Region

Otter Lake Landfill, Pockwock Watershed, Western Commons

Location of Meeting

Beechville area

Central Region

Tomahawk Watershed, Sackville Landfill

Sackville area

Eastern Region

Lake Major Watershed

North Preston/Cherry Brook area (Black Cultural Centre)

Rural HRM

Western Region

St. Margaret’s Bay area

Central Region

Kinsac area

Eastern Region

Middle Musquodoboit area

The public meetings will be duly advertised, and invitations will be extended to all Community Councils and PAC’s as appropriate. Staff also intends to contact relevant residents’ associations to seek community input and to request formal submissions from other interest groups and stakeholders. Depending on the timing in establishing the new Regional Plan Advisory Committee, staff will consult with this body as well. The community consultation is anticipated to begin in February and run through March of this year.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None

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

None

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.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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