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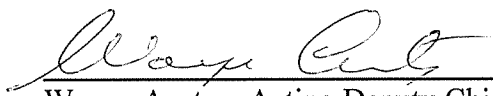
Halifax Regional Council
March 7, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer



Wayne Anstey, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: February 22, 2006

SUBJECT: **Consultant Award, Request For Proposal No. 06-326**
North Preston Wastewater Management Plan - Eastern Region

ORIGIN

Report to Council November 22, 2005, MRIF - Request for Council Direction, containing a discussion of the proposed North Preston Water and Sewer Project.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council:

1. Award AMEC/ABL the engineering study for North Preston Wastewater Management Plan, for a total cost of \$192,378 including net HST.
2. Approve an additional \$10,342 including net HST to conduct additional flow gauging for an extended period as outlined in the Discussion section of this report.

Funding for the above to come from Capital Account No. CSU00146, North Preston Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade. Funding is to be authorized as per the Budget Implications section of this report.

BACKGROUND

North Preston Sewage Treatment Plant

Conditions at the North Preston Sewage Treatment Plant and in the receiving water body of Whynder Lake require that the plant be expanded and upgraded. In addition, the plant's expansion and upgrade are required in order to accommodate the higher hydraulic loads resulting from the wastewater collection system. The wastewater collection system suffers from excessive infiltration/ inflow. The treatment plant expansion and upgrade has been designed and tendered.

Johnson Road Pumping Station

A Wastewater Pumping Stations and Forcemains Study was completed in 2004 for all of HRM's pumping station infrastructure. A number of stations were identified as priority stations and were reviewed in detail. Johnson Road Pumping Station in North Preston, which pumps wastewater to the treatment plant, is one of those priority stations.

Wet weather overflows at the Johnson Road Pumping Station are caused by excessive infiltration/inflow into the tributary sewer system. Based on staff's experience, the station overflows approximately twelve times a year. The station's overflow discharges into a nearby wet area which flows overland towards Long Lake. The withdrawal for the public water supply system for North Preston is from the same lake, which represents a possible public health issue. In addition, Long Lake flows into Lake Major, which is the source of water for the public water supply system in Dartmouth, which is another potential public health concern.

A limited flow gauging program was completed in the spring of 2005 to gain further insight into the wet weather overflow problem. The results of the program showed that the magnitude of the wet weather overflows was much greater than originally understood.

The various strategies available to address the wet weather overflow problem were presented to the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Provincial Department of Environment and Labour, and the Nova Scotia Medical Officer of Health by staff of HRM and HRWC, and a strategy to address the problem was accepted by those present.

The accepted strategy involves implementing a number of initial measures to address the wet weather overflow problem in an immediate fashion with the intent to follow up this work with an overall wastewater management plan. The initial measures include upgrades to the Johnson Road Pumping Station and adjustments to the already planned expansion and upgrade to the North Preston Wastewater Treatment Plant to accept peak wet weather flows. These projects have been tendered and separate reports recommending the tender awards will be coming to Council in the spring, pending MRIF approval.

The next step to fully address the wet weather overflow problem within the North Preston wastewater collection system is to complete a wastewater management plan. The study area will include the areas within the existing North Preston Wastewater Treatment Plant service boundary.

The North Preston Water and Sewer Project is the No. 1 overall priority wastewater project in HRM, because of potential risks related to the water supply in North Preston if the project is not completed. This project and the proposed scope of work have been reviewed by the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour and the Nova Scotia Medical Officer of Health. They are in support of the project and they have indicated to HRM staff that this is a high-priority project.

DISCUSSION

The North Preston Wastewater Management Plan will help HRM identify the required wastewater system upgrades, determine priorities, and identify funding needs so that HRM can make decisions on a comprehensive basis for the full sewershed.

The wastewater management plan follows the implementation of a number of initial measures to reduce the wet weather overflow problem as discussed in the background section of this report. The nature of the situation in North Preston requires a quick and effective response to reduce the wet weather overflow problem which the initial measures will provide. Additional work will be required to fully address the overall wet weather overflow problems within the wastewater system and is the purpose of the wastewater management plan.

The plan's scope of work involves an analysis of the wastewater system's operation and management, including safety, regulatory compliance, wet weather overflows, odour control, infiltration and inflow control, system capacity (both existing and future) including servicing of new development, physical condition, system reliability and optimization. In addition, a significant field data collection program will be conducted, including a location and attribute survey of HRM's infrastructure for incorporation into the Corporate GIS.

A Request for Proposals was issued for the North Preston Wastewater Management Plan in accordance with HRM's Procurement Policy for Architectural, Engineering, and Surveying Services. Proposals were received on January 20, 2006, and the consultant evaluation process took place on February 2, 2006. The evaluation team consisted of staff from Environmental Engineering Services and Procurement. The following criteria were used for the evaluation of the proposals: expertise of firm, project team and past performance, methodology to complete the works, fees, and overall proposal quality and compliance with the terms of reference.

The scoring for each firm and their cost proposals, exclusive of taxes, are as follows:

<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Scoring (max 1000)</u>	<u>Cost</u>
AMEC/ABL	847	\$186,000
SNC Lavalin	841	\$187,237
CBCL	835	\$188,135

The detailed breakdown of the scoring is included as an attachment. Based on the results of the evaluation, it is recommended that this work be awarded to AMEC/ABL for an estimated cost, exclusive of taxes, of \$186,000. The project cost including net HST is \$192,378.

As indicated earlier in the Discussion section, the wastewater management plan includes a significant field data collection program. Flow gauging is part of this program, and it is necessary to characterize wet weather flows in the wastewater collection system. The success of this program will be dependent on receiving a number of significant rainfalls within the proposed flow gauging period. It may be necessary to flow gauge for a period longer than originally proposed. Staff is therefore requesting an additional \$10,000 plus net HST be approved to cover the cost of possible additional flow gauging. This would bring the total project cost to \$196,000 plus net HST. If additional flow gauging is not required, the \$10,000 will be used for the design phase of the project.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Funding for this project is available under Account No. CSU00146, North Preston Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade.

The budget availability has been confirmed by Financial Services.

Budget Summary **Capital Account No. CSU00146, North Preston Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade**

Cumulative unspent Budget	\$854,931.00
Less: Consulting and Eng. Serv	\$192,378.00
Less: Additional Flow Gauging	<u>\$ 10,342.00</u>
Balance of account	\$652,211.00

In accordance with the direction given to staff by Council on November 22, 2005, an application has been submitted to the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) Program for the North Preston Water and Sewer Project. The MRIF application was submitted on January 23, 2006. A total project cost of \$4.55 million has been developed and includes upgrades to the North Preston Water Treatment Plant, Johnson Road Pumping Station, North Preston Wastewater Treatment Plant and completion of the North Preston Wastewater Management Plan.

In addition, the project also includes additional wastewater system upgrades required to address the overall wet weather overflow problem. It is anticipated that by early May it will be known if HRM's MRIF application has been approved or not. If HRM is unsuccessful in obtaining this funding, alternative funding sources will be required to complete the North Preston Water and Sewer Project.

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


This approach has been accepted by the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour and the Nova Scotia Medical Officer of Health. Therefore, there are no recommended alternatives. Given the magnitude of the wet weather overflow problem and the function of the receiving water, this issue is a Priority 1 Project based on the Priority Rating Process that was adopted by Council in February, 2005.

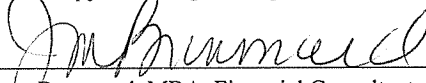
ATTACHMENTS

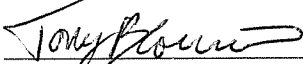
Proposal Evaluation Criteria

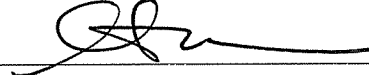

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY RFP # 06-326 North Preston Wastewater Management Plan				
Criteria	Max Score	AMEC/ABL	SNC	CBCL
Expertise of Firm, Project Team and Past Performance	275	225	225	224
Methodology	500	414	417	409
Fee Schedule	150	150	149	148
Overall Proposal Quality & TOR Compliance	75	58	51	53
TOTAL	1000	847	842	834
RANKING		1	2	3