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Chebucto Community Council
May 4, 2009

TO: Chair and Members of Chebucto Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phil Townsend".

Phil Townsend, Acting Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

DATE: April 27, 2009

SUBJECT: **Seawall Restoration - Regatta Point and Sir Sandford Fleming Park,
North West Arm**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN:

October 6, 2008 Motion of Chebucto Community Council:

10.1.5 Seawall Restoration - Regatta Point and Sir Sandford Fleming Park, North West Arm

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Deputy Mayor Adams, that Chebucto Community Council request a staff report on the rising sea levels in the North West Arm and HRM's remediation plan for both the Regatta Point and Sir Sandford Fleming seawalls. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Council is aware that as part of the Halifax Harbour Planning Initiative, staff is completing a comprehensive project regarding climate change as it relates to sea level rise and storm surge on the shorelines of Halifax Harbour, including the North West Arm. A number of sea level rise scenarios are being prepared and these will be presented to a Committee-of-the-Whole session of Council in the near future. It is anticipated that through this process, Council will provide staff with direction as to which scenario(s) should be advanced for further stakeholder/public consultation and subsequent implementation program.

The selected sea level rise model will form a valuable decision-making tool for Council, staff and affected property owners. It will provide, on a site-specific basis, a flooding model on which we can determine the most appropriate adaptation measures to be implemented over time.

With respect to the seawall at Sir Sandford Fleming Park, Regatta Point, and other HRM parkland on the North West Arm, staff has used the model to better understand the long term impacts of sea level rise. Although this stage of coastal inundation modeling is complete, more analysis is needed to consider additional climate change impacts and adapt engineering and design standards to ensure the long-term ability of public infrastructure to withstand predicted increases in wave energy, storm intensity and frequency. This further analysis is expected to take several months but areas in need of immediate attention due to public safety concerns will be repaired this year. The effective life spans of these repairs should be in the range of fifteen to twenty years barring another 100 year storm.

A thorough modeling analysis will provide staff with a comprehensive approach to developing a long term strategy for the protection of vulnerable coastal areas and structures in the North West Arm. Modeling gives far better information to base and phase expenditures on and indicates where to focus heavier engineering solutions. These solutions have the potential to be costly but at least they will not be unanticipated.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None associated with this report. Costs respecting seawall restoration will be the subject of a future report to Council.

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.

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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