

Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
February 7, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Jane Fraser, ^{1/6} Director, Planning & Infrastructure

DATE: January 10, 2013

SUBJECT: **Update: Blue Mountain Birch Cove Regional Park & Birch Cove
Lakes Watershed Study Projects**

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

November 16, 2010 Regional Council, Item 12.1.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter, 228, Municipal Planning Strategy.

BACKGROUND

On November 16, 2010, Regional Council directed staff to:

1. Undertake a Watershed Study for the Highway 102 West Corridor lands and await completion of Halifax Water's Wastewater Functional Plan;
2. Negotiate boundaries for the Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park, in relation to the Highway 102 West Corridor lands, through a facilitated process with an independent facilitator; and further, to bring the details of the proposed negotiating process back to Regional Council prior to entering into negotiations; and
3. Defer the review of criteria under Policy S-3 of the Regional Plan, to determine whether to initiate a Secondary Planning Process for the Highway 102 West Corridor lands.

DISCUSSION

Update:

- The consultant has functionally completed the work required for the Birch Cove Lakes Watershed study and will be presenting at the March 6, 2013, Bedford Watershed Advisory Board Meeting for final comment from interested parties, prior to subsequent recommendation(s) from staff to Regional Council;
- The Wastewater Functional Plan is part of the basis of the work completed by Halifax Water for the Spring 2013 General Rate Application, and can be deemed finalized at that point;
- The original recommendation regarding the conceptual plan is not appropriate at this time. Staff will be back before the standing committee with a recommendation for Council at a later date; and
- Details of the facilitated process will be brought back to Regional Council along with a conceptual plan for Park boundaries.

Following completion of the watershed study, recommendations will be made to Regional Council. This watershed study provides staff and Regional Council with the objective information required to make those recommendations and deliberate next steps. This will include the details of the proposed negotiating process to Regional Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The report does not impact the 2012/13 operating or project budgets.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Both projects require community engagement. The terms of the Community Engagement for the Birch Cove Lakes Watershed Study were approved and have been executed through the Bedford Watershed Advisory Board.

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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