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**Information Item No. 3**  
**Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee**  
**May 14, 2015**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed  
Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner and Director, Planning & Development

**DATE:** March 23, 2015

**SUBJECT:** **Approved Green Municipal Fund Project:  
Corporate Water Conservation Plan**

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

FCM Reinvestment Agreement 1599 / Sustainable Communities Reserve, September 1, 2004  
February 2015 Green Municipal Fund Project Approval

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

HRM Charter, Part IV, FINANCE, Power to expend money 79 (1) (x) lands and buildings required for a municipal purpose

**BACKGROUND**

As part of the financing of the Harbour Solutions Project, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities provided Halifax with a ten million dollar low interest loan. As a condition of the loan, the interest savings were put in a newly created reserve, Q127 – Sustainable Communities Reserve, to fund sustainability projects approved by FCM staff on an annual basis. Since 2004, the Sustainable Communities Reserve has funded approximately three million five hundred thousand dollars of projects. Projects included corporate sustainability training, pollution prevention projects, corporate energy efficiency projects, corporate renewable energy projects, climate change vulnerability and risk assessments, stormwater management studies, and public education and communication initiatives. At the end of March 31, 2015, the final year of the reserve agreement, there was a projected \$184,205.38 surplus.

Green Municipal Fund approved the allocation of \$100,000 of that surplus to a final project: development of a corporate water conservation plan. Remaining funds will be used as contingency for completion of previously approved projects, and any remainder returned to FCM.

## **DISCUSSION**

In 2012, Halifax Regional Municipality completed a corporate building benchmarking project that shows usage of over 350,000 cubic meters of water costing approximately one million dollars. (This included the multi district facilities). In 2013, Halifax Regional Municipality completed a comprehensive Building Condition Assessment program to define the recapitalization needs of the portfolio of approximately 200 buildings. The Building Condition Assessment data created the platform for the municipality to create a draft five year recapitalization plan. The analysis revealed the need to invest approximately \$50 million in the building stock in the next five years to maintain the buildings in a good condition. As such the opportunity to integrate water efficiency and achieve environmental and financial outcomes during this recapitalization program is substantive.

The approved project will achieve the following goals:

1. Update water consumption of the folio of HRM owned buildings currently on utility services (88 buildings);
2. Create a water consumption reduction target for the folio;
3. Create a complete three year water consumption reduction plan, including estimates, which can integrate with the municipal recapitalization plan;
4. A recommended program for asset wide deployment of water conservation actions; And,
5. Develop solicitation specifications, ready for integration with existing recapitalization plans, for the 88 buildings.

The objective is to align the information of required asset recapitalization plans with water savings opportunities to achieve taxpayer savings, reducing or minimizing the annual \$1 million water consumption cost.

The project will be complete by March 2016. Project deliverables will be available for deployment through Corporate Services in future capital project development and ongoing maintenance activities.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The \$100,000, approved for expenditure by Green Municipal Fund from Q127 – Sustainable Communities Reserve, has been budgeted in D948 (Sustainable Community Projects) for 2015 / 2016.

In some buildings, this expenditure will reduce project design costs for recapitalization projects, as the deliverable from this project will displace the need for some of that future work.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

None

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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