

Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee
July 3, 2014

TO: Chair and Members of Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

Original signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Jane Fraser, Director, Planning & Infrastructure

DATE: June 2, 2014

SUBJECT: Clean Foundation Memorandum of Understanding

ORIGIN

November 13, 2013, Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee, Approved Motion “Staff to prepare a report on the opportunities and implications of a MOU with Clean Foundation”.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The HRM Charter provides Regional Council the authority to spend monies and make policies on a number of matters which impact the Environment.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee extend an invitation to Clean Foundation to attend the committee on an annual basis and present on current activities, successes, and recommend opportunities to collaborate with the Halifax Regional Municipality.

BACKGROUND

At the September 2013 Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee meeting, Clean Foundation (formerly Clean Nova Scotia) provided a presentation on the work that they do and the opportunities for partnership and synergy between the not-for-profit and Halifax. At the November 2013 Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee, Clean Foundation followed up with a request to develop a partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enable synergies.

DISCUSSION

Overview of Clean Foundation (formerly Clean Nova Scotia):

The Clean Foundation is a not-for-profit charitable organization that provides education-based programs and services to help people consider the environment in the choices they make. They offer a host of programs, services, and resources, focused in the areas of water stewardship, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable transportation. Founded in 1988, the Clean Foundation is proud to provide leadership and knowledge in environmental best practices and sustainable development. The staff is guided by a Board of Directors with representation from the business, academic, government, and public sectors.

Programs include: Energy Efficiency, Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps, Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up, Drivewiser, Fleetwiser, Driveless, Sustainable Commuting, Commuter Challenge, Bike Valet, Watersheds, youth education, Rainyards, Watershed restoration, NS Fish Habitat, and waste management programs.

Staff recognizes the important role that Clean Foundation plays in our community and that they are regular stakeholders in a number of municipal programs and projects.

Functions of a Memorandum of Understanding:

A memorandum of understanding is describing a bilateral agreement between parties and a convergence of will between parties, indicating an intended common line of action. At Halifax Regional Municipality, the primary role of a MOU is to track progress on agreed specific initiatives. An example of a recent MOU is the recently endorsed MOU between HRM, Metro Universities, and Nova Scotia Community College. The MOU outlines principles of the agreement, initiatives, and how the progress is tracked.

In examining the current HRM MOU's and the intent of solidifying the relationship between Clean Foundation and the municipality, staff recommend that an MOU is not the most effective tool. By providing an annual report to the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee, comparable to the Halifax Airport Authority doing an annual report to Regional Council, Clean Foundation would be able to highlight current successes and emerging opportunities for synergy or partnership that could not be highlighted specifically as initiatives in a MOU. This would provide more opportunity for the committee to provide direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct Financial Implications resulting from this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The report originates from a public presentation at committee, and the core subject is community engagement on environmental matters.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The purpose of this action is to increase achievement of community environmental objectives.

ALTERNATIVES

Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee may choose to direct staff to develop an MOU for the consideration of Regional Council.

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.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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