


HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 9.1.1
Environment & Sustainability Standing Community
July 2, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY:  ORIGINAL SIGNED

Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner and Director, Planning and Development

DATE: May 7, 2015

SUBJECT: Water Quality Overview – HRM 2014

ORIGIN

Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee October 6, 2011, Item 7.1.4 – Save Our Lakes Actions.

Motion: that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to:

1. Provide an update on the harmonization of the Lot Grading By-Law;
2. Create a Water Issues Advisory Group for a term of 12 months with a mandate to work with staff on the priority actions of the Save our Lakes project as identified by the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee;
3. Prepare an Annual State of the Lake Report in conjunction with the Water Issues Advisory Group;
4. Identify possible opportunities and best management practices for inclusion of Green Infrastructure in the Red Book and for municipal internal practices;
5. Develop a draft statement on Provincial Water Resource Management Issues for endorsement of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee; and
6. Request an update from Halifax Water on the progress and scope of the Waste Water Management Functional Plan.

This report responds exclusively to item 3 of the motion identified above.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Lakes are under the Legislative Authority of the Province of Nova Scotia under The Environment Act.

The Municipality has Legislative Authority in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Charter to enact by-laws, manage development, create policies, and expend money in a variety of authorities that may affect water quality.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct this report to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board for its information.

BACKGROUND

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee issued direction to staff to prepare an annual State of the Lake Report in October 2011.

DISCUSSION

Water quality sampling continues at selected HRM lakes in accordance with four disparate programs operated for distinct purposes: beaches (public safety); blue flag (public safety & certification); development agreements (performance assessment: trophic status & public safety); and watershed studies (assimilative studies (assimilative capacity assessment per Regional Plan (2006) Policy E-17.

The report compiled summaries of the performance and key observations from each of the four programs over 2014, including recommendations for future water quality monitoring as generated by the watershed studies presented to Regional Council, Community Council and the Regional Watershed Advisory Board in 2014. It also profiles a new water quality monitoring project commissioned in 2014 to run from 2015 through 2017.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

The Committee may direct a copy of this report to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board for its information (recommended).


The Committee may choose not to direct a copy of this report to the Regional Watersheds Advisory Board for its information. This alternative is not recommended, because not sharing the report may compromise the Board's ability to provide accurate and timely advice to the Committee.


ATTACHMENTS

A copy of the full report (10Mb, 173 pages) is available online at
<http://www.halifax.ca/energy-environment/environment/documents/2014WaterQualityMonitoringReport.complete.final.pdf>

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.

Report Prepared by: Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer, 902.490.1926


ORIGINAL SIGNED

Report Approved by: 
Richard MacLellan, Manager, Energy & Environment, 902.490.6056
