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Regional Plan Advisory Committee
May 19, 2010

TO: Chair and Members of Regional Plan Advisory Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Townsend".

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

DATE: May 3, 2010

SUBJECT: Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from Staff.

BACKGROUND

As a Functional Plan requirement of the Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (Regional Plan), the municipality is required to adopt a Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan.

The Sustainable Environment Management Office is the staff lead on the Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan. As recommended in the Stantec report, staff intend to integrate upcoming decisions and deliberation on the Functional Plan with the Stormwater Management Functional Plan. This integration will result in the final consultation with the Watershed Advisory Boards and RPAC, happening after both the Provincial Water Resource Management Strategy process and the creation of the Stormwater Management Functional Plan recommendations.

DISCUSSION

On May 18th, to support an Information Report responding to a Request to Present to Council regarding the scientific alternatives to Lake Management in HRM, SEMO submitted the Stantec Report to Regional Council. This action also enabled staff to make it a public document.

This action occurred following a Regional Council Service Review on Water Sampling, and prior to the Provincial Water Resources Management Strategy. Regional Council endorsed the status quo for Water Sampling under the premise that efforts will be better focussed on Strategic Management of our Water Resources. As such, staff intend to make a recommendation related to the WQMFP at the same time as the Stormwater Management Functional Plan. Quite simply, when looking at resource allocations and recommendations, it makes most sense to look at these in an integrated manner.

The report is available on the HRM internet set www.halifax.ca at:
<http://www.halifax.ca/environment/documents/HRM.Water.Quality.Monitoring.Functional.Plan.Jan2010.pdf>

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time.

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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