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Item No. 7.1 (ii)
Regional Watersheds Advisory Board
September 10, 2014

TO: Chair and Members of Regional Watersheds Advisory Board

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SUBMITTED BY:

Jane Fraser, Director, Planning & Infrastructure

DATE: August 20, 2014

SUBJECT: Preston Area & Sandy Lake Watershed Studies – Final Report

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Regional Plan 2006, Policy E-17, Watershed Studies

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 229 (1)(g) of the Halifax Charter enables a Municipal Planning Strategy to require studies to be carried out prior to undertaking specified developments or developments in specified areas. This Study was initiated pursuant to Policy E-17 of the Regional Plan (2006).

BACKGROUND

AECOM was awarded the contract to prepare the Preston Area and Sandy Lake Watershed studies in June 2013. Maps of the study areas are presented as Attachments 1 and 2, and an excerpt of the Request for Proposal (RFP) outlining the study objectives and tasks is presented as Attachment 3.

These watershed studies have been undertaken to provide background information for future community planning in Sandy Lake and the Preston Area (encompassing Cherry Brook, North Preston & East Preston).

These study areas were selected because the communities they represent have been designated as Urban Settlement and Rural Commuter Local centres, respectively, in the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy. This Study is required pursuant to Policy E-17 of the Regional Plan. Policy E-17 requires the preparation of these studies to determine the carrying capacity of the watershed as background for future secondary planning processes.

A presentation of the interim (preliminary draft) report was provided to the Board in March 2014.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the accompanying presentation by AECOM is to inform the Board of the results of the study and accompanying recommendations, so that the Board may recommend changes to the report before it is presented to the municipality and to Community Councils for acceptance as background materials for future secondary (neighbourhood) planning processes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was conducted in preparation for this report. The interim and final reports have been posted on the municipal website to enable community feedback. Public meetings have been held in both respective communities, with final public meetings scheduled for September 2014.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1. Map of Preston Study Area
- Attachment 2. Map of Sandy Lake Study Area
- Attachment 3. Study Objectives excerpted from RFP

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 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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