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## BRIEFING NOTE

**SUBMITTED TO:** Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

**MANAGER'S APPROVAL:** **Gord Helm**

**DATE OF MEETING:** April 7, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Update on response to CMC letter regarding the intentions for developing a plan to close the Otter Lake Landfill

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### ORIGIN

Motion from Council on January 11, 2011:

11.3.1 Public Consultation re: Closure of Otter Lake Landfill

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lund that Halifax Regional Council give consideration to entering into discussions with the Community Monitoring Committee (CMC), as requested in their letter dated September 9, 2010, and staff provide a report outlining this process. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

### RECOMMENDATION/ DECISION REQUIRED

It is recommended that staff be directed to respond to the Community Monitoring Committee to advise that based on their letter, staff from IAMS and TPW are developing a community engagement plan in accordance with the Community Engagement Strategy, approved by Council December 9, 2008 (<http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/081125cow3.pdf> and <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/100413cai02.pdf>), and will seek input to that plan's development through the committee at their next meeting.

### BACKGROUND

The Community Monitoring Committee is a citizen led organization mandated to oversee HRM management and operation of the Otter Lake Landfill site and related policies and activities.

HRM staff regularly meets with CMC and provides updates on operations and plans related to Otter Lake site A.

HRM is in the process of completing a waste characterization study to determine the caloric and BTU content of the municipality's residual waste stream. This study report is scheduled for delivery by the end of April 2011. In addition, Staff are examining current diversion trends and annual tonnage reduction trends to assess the impact on the remaining cells of the approved Otter Lake landfill site, to develop a forecast of remaining site operational life and it relates to the original project timeline. Staff are also developing a community engagement plan to evolve the waste management program as directed by council at the March 8, 2011, session in relation to By-law S-600 recommendations.

Staff from IAM and TPW met on January 26, 2011, to review the request for commencing community engagement on a plan to close the landfill. The result of that meeting was confirmation of the existing community engagement strategy, (<http://www.halifax.ca/CRCA/CommunityEngagement/documents/CommunityEngagementStrategy.pdf>) and the need to follow the policy in terms of developing an engagement strategy in accordance with the Council approved framework. Staff will also seek input from CMC on their desire to participate in the development of the community engagement plan on the future of the Otter Lake Landfill site.

#### **ALTERNATIVES AND ASSOCIATED RISKS**

N/A

#### **IMPACT/BENEFITS:**

None prior to development of the plan.

#### **COMMUNICATION ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES:**

At the March 3, 2011, CMC meeting, staff provided a verbal update to the Committee on the status of this briefing note intended to be presented to ESSC for consideration.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

CMC Letter dated September 9, 2010 Re: Otter Lake Landfill – Site A

#### **KEY STAFF CONTACT:** (Contact information)

Drafted by: Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources  
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September 9, 2010

Mayor and Regional Council  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
City Hall  
PO Box 1749  
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**RE: Otter Lake Landfill - Site A**

Dear Council:

The Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) has reviewed the issue of the planned integration of Site A with the Western Commons Wilderness Park subsequent to the closure of the landfill.

The CMC has adopted the attached resolution which is asking council to direct staff to work with the CMC to move forward with the planning to achieve the intended objective.

We look forward to commencing our discussions and will work with your staff in a collaborative process.

Respectfully yours,

Jack Mitchell  
Chair CMC

cc: CAO  
Councillor Walker  
Councillor Lund  
Councillor Rankin  
Members of CMC

**Whereas** the Site A at Otter Lake Residual Disposal Facility (Landfill) serving the needs of the entire HRM was developed with a commitment to the community to have a maximum life span of 25 years;

**Whereas** the site is now part of the Western Commons Wilderness Park;

**Whereas** HRM council approved in the recent regional plan a commitment to hold public consultations on the closure of the landfill; and

**Whereas** the Halifax Waste Resource Society was created to act as an overseer on behalf of the community;

**Be it resolved** that HRM council instruct staff to commence negotiations with the society to determine the specific closure date and to define the consultation process with the community to examine options for the integration of the landfill lands to become an active portion of the wilderness park.