

**Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee  
October 6, 2011**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

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

**DATE:** September 19, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Save Our Lakes Actions

**ORIGIN**

- ESSC, February 3, 2011: Motion regarding Lake Policy
- ESSC, July 7, 2011: Save our Lakes Project
- Workshop September 22, 2011

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC):

1. Direct staff to 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 this committee;
3. Direct staff to prepare an Annual State of the Lake Report in conjunction with the Water Issues Advisory Group;
4. Direct staff to identify possible opportunities and best management practices for inclusion of Green Infrastructure in the Red Book and for municipal internal practices;
5. Direct staff to develop a draft statement on Provincial Water Resource Management Issues for endorsement of the ESSC; and
6. Request an update from Halifax Water on the progress and scope of the Waste Water Management Functional Plan.

## **BACKGROUND**

Following a presentation of the Save Our Lakes Project Report, staff provided members of ESSC with a two hour workshop on Friday September 23, 2011, with subject matter experts from staff and the community, to review the recommended actions and identify priorities for action.

## **DISCUSSION**

Following the discussion of the report, consensus of committee members was to:

- Request the collection of environmental NGO's, WAB, and other community subject matter experts, to continue to work on actions identified as priorities by the committee;
- Get a better understanding of the progress of the harmonization of the lot grading by-law and understand what direction is needed from committee or council to enable expedited progress of that action;
- Focus on actions within municipal authority;
- Create a policy statement from the committee on Provincial authority items that the municipality has clear position on;
- Get a better understanding of the vast water quality data available and synthesize into interpretations (by the community subject matter experts) that can inform and influence municipal decision making;
- Focus on opportunities presented under Open Space Planning and Urban Forest Master Planning Projects; and
- Get a better understanding on how HRM can better utilize proven green infrastructure solutions in municipal projects and within the Red Book.

During the workshop, and from questions related to the Storm Water Management Functional Plan, staff advised that realistically, while the project is placed and some activity started, the plan will not be completed in Fiscal Year 2012/13. However, as per the items identified under consensus, many of the items under the project can be progressed and there are opportunities under the Open Space Planning, Urban Forest Master Plan, Centreplan, and Regional Plan Review Projects, to affect policy improvements to water resource management.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Budget Implications to the 2011/12 operating budget. All actions recommended can be accommodated within the existing budget.

Future policy decisions to enhance water resource protection or adoption of environmentally preferable green infrastructure solutions, may have budgetary impacts. However, those decisions and impacts to the budget would be articulated in future reports. At this time, those future impacts are not known.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

None

**ALTERNATIVES**

None

**ATTACHMENTS**

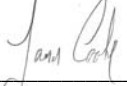
None

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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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