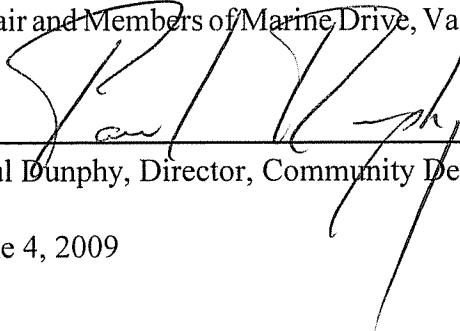




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Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council
August 26, 2009

TO: Chair and Members of Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development

DATE: June 4, 2009

SUBJECT: Central Water Service to Dutch Settlement

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

1. Motion of Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council, March 22, 2000: MOVED by Councillors Colwell and Streach that a water study be undertaken for the community of Dutch Settlement, District 2. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.
2. Periodic discussions/community consultation on this matter involving the District Councillor and residents, with staff of HRM and Halifax Regional Water Commission (Halifax Water).

BACKGROUND

Over the past number of years, residents of Dutch Settlement have expressed concerns over the quantity and quality of their potable water supply, leading to requests for the provision of a central water service.

Preliminary investigations by Halifax Water in 2006 indicated that NS Environment has restricted any further withdrawals of water from the Shubenacadie River. Halifax Water also contacted the Municipality of East Hants, informing staff of the water issues in Dutch Settlement, including the concept of taking water from their Enfield system to feed Dutch Settlement. The distance between the two communities is approximately 3.5 kms.

On a related matter, staff from HRM and East Hants Engineering Department and the Regional Water Utility) have been jointly preparing a "Source Water Protection Plan" for the Enfield water treatment plant. The subject area for this plan includes all lands that drain to the Shubenacadie River at the water treatment plant raw water intake, approximately 380 sq. kms. that spans both municipal jurisdictions. The objective of this plan is to identify and implement measures to ensure the long term sustainability of the Shubenacadie River as a drinking water resource.

Regional Municipal Planning Strategy

In recognition of the potable water issues in the Dutch Settlement area, the Regional Plan, adopted in 2006, provides direction in this regard.

Section 7.1.3 (Water Service Areas)

The Enfield and Dutch Settlement communities are not located near an existing Water Service Area owned (served) by the Halifax Regional Water Commission. However, both communities are close to a water distribution system that is owned and maintained by the Municipality of East Hants. Some residents of these areas experience poor water quality and quantity and are now on a private water distribution system. To address these concerns and the uniqueness of the situation, HRM and the Halifax Regional Water Commission need to work with East Hants to investigate options for providing Enfield and Dutch Settlement with a water distribution system.

SU-16 HRM shall, through the secondary planning process, investigate options to extend a water distribution system to the Dutch Settlement and Enfield communities. In doing so, HRM shall seek the cooperation of the Municipality of East Hants. No water distribution system shall be extended to these communities unless a Water Service Area has been established in accordance with Policy SU-13.

DISCUSSION

Under Regional Plan policies, most of the municipality's projected growth over the next twenty years is to be directed to a series of compact, mixed-use, walkable, transit-friendly Growth Centres.

These centres are all slated to undergo Community Visioning exercises, where residents prepare a blueprint and action plan describing how they want their community to grow over the next two decades, under the policy umbrella of the Regional Plan. Following the completion of the Vision, Secondary (MPS) Plan policies will be amended to implement the land use related objectives of the community.

The Regional Plan identifies the community of Enfield as a Rural Commuter District Centre. In March, 2008, Regional Council approved a 'Future Community Visioning Program', which prioritized the roll-out for community visioning. Enfield is scheduled to commence the Visioning/ Secondary Planning process in 2010/2011. Because the community straddles the jurisdictional boundary with East Hants, a joint planning initiative will be required.

Staff advises that during the Community Visioning process for Enfield, the matter of central services extensions will be a topic of discussion and analysis, with community residents, relevant business units of both Municipalities and approval agencies. The feasibility of such extensions, environmental constraints and preliminary engineering designs/costs will be addressed. Staff further advises that opportunities for the potential extension of central water service to the community of Dutch Settlement will also be included in community visioning initiative, and will entail additional consultation with residents of that community.

In advance of commencing the formal Visioning process in the community, staff of HRM and Halifax Water will open up dialogue with East Hants regarding the potential for water service extensions to Enfield and Dutch Settlement.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

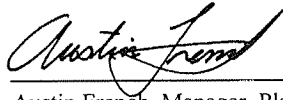
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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