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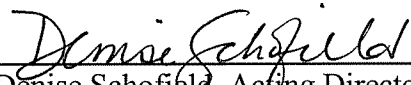
North West Community Council
August 9, 2007

TO: Chair and Members of North West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Carl Yates, General Manager, Halifax Regional Water Commission



Denise Schofield, Acting Director, Community Development

DATE: July 25, 2007

SUBJECT: Correspondence - Springfield Lake Watch Re: Policy P-71

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

NWCC - May 24, 2007, Item 11.3, request for additional information

NWCC - March 22, 2007 - Information report provided

NWCC - June 28, 2005 - Information report provided

BACKGROUND

On March 22, 2007, a staff report to NWCC outlined actions taken by HRM regarding stormwater management, including the completion of a Water Resources Management Study, Stormwater Management Guidelines, and the intention to complete a Stormwater Management Functional Plan for HRM as required under the Regional Plan. A watershed study will also be required prior to completion of secondary planning process for the Middle Sackville Suburban Local Centre. A schedule has not yet been established for this secondary planning process and study.

Correspondence was received by NWCC from the Springfield Lake Watch Committee (SLWC) relating to Policy P-71 of the MPS for Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains and Upper Sackville, and to specific remediation measures requested of HRM to deal with stormwater and wastewater issues (attached).

NWCC passed the following motion on May 24, 2007: "Motion passed endorsing Springfield Lake Watch's recommendation that Policy P-71 remain as an individual policy and that the letter be forwarded to staff for review and report back to Community Council."

Policy P-71 sets out Council's intention to prepare a Storm Drainage Master Plan for the watershed of Springfield Lake, and in the interim to require storm drainage information and design for subdivision and development within the watershed.

It should be noted that, effective August 1, 2007, certain wastewater and stormwater responsibilities of HRM were transferred to the Halifax Regional Water Commission (HRWC). The acronym HRWC has been used either alone or together with HRM within the text of this report, as required by the context.

For clarification, HRM remains responsible for all other aspects of its roads and streets, through the Transportation and Public Works (TPW) Business Unit.

DISCUSSION

Storm Drainage Master Plan / Policy P-71 and Planning Issues

Staff of HRM Planning Services acknowledge that completion of a stormwater master plan for the watershed of Springfield Lake (Policy P-71) is a valid and worthwhile undertaking, and that P-71 should remain an individual policy in the MPS. Competing corporate priorities across the municipality, both fiscal and human resources, have not enabled the implementation of this policy to date.

Staff suggest that the appropriate timing of the Springfield Lake Stormwater Master Plan should coincide with the undertaking of a Community Visioning Exercise for Middle Sackville, as described in the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy. While the timing of the Visioning exercise is not known at this time, upon its approval, staff will concurrently request that funds be allocated for the hiring of consultants to complete the stormwater study.

Stormwater Management and Sedimentation

The SLWC have requested four specific actions: all ditches within the watershed be lined and maintained with 6-8 inch stone; all ditches subject to high flow/slope be fitted with 6-8 inch check dams; all possible measures be taken to minimize erosion; and that HRM stop all development connecting to the sewers until treatment plant and pumping station problems are resolved. Each of these will be responded to individually:

1. Ditch Lining: HRM (now HRWC) has recently rock-lined ditches on Fenerty Road and part of Springfield Lake Road where erosion problems were identified. It is not the policy or practice of HRM (now HRWC) to rock-line all ditches.
2. Ditch Check Dams: Installation of check dams in ditches would be contrary to existing HRM and HRWC practice, and would have the potential to create possible liability issues for HRM and/or HRWC due to creation of pools of standing water and flooding potential for surrounding lands.
3. Erosion: Public Roads - The drainage system for the street network in this area generally consists of open ditches, and the shoulders of the paved streets are gravel surfaces. These open ditches and gravel shoulders can be subject to erosion. Generally the ditches within the Springfield Lake area are stable but in the past there have been some erosion issues associated with the ditch system on Fenerty Road.

In early April 2006 HRM met with Nova Scotia Environment and Labour (NSEL) to discuss the NSEL's concerns regarding the stability of the ditch/shoulder system on Fenerty Road. HRM (now HRWC) investigated the situation and identified locations needing stabilization. These included work within the ditch including the removal of gravel, and rock lining/stabilization of specific sections. This work has been completed.

HRM (through TPW) also committed to install asphalt sluices, at identified locations on the front slope of the ditch, so as to reduce erosion of shoulder gravel into the ditch system. This work is now scheduled to be undertaken in the immediate future.

HRM (and HRWC) committed to monitor this ditch/sluiice system and stabilize as required.

The existing cross culvert located at the intersection of Lakecrest Drive and Fenerty Road will be replaced in 2007/08. As part of this culvert replacement HRM is considering the option of eliminating the existing downstream open ditch (approx. 30 metres in length) by extending the pipe system. When this construction activity is undertaken, appropriate environmental control measures will be utilized.

4. Serviced Development: It is not within HRM's legal authority to stop all development requiring sewer connections, but HRM continues to work to improve the performance of the sanitary collection system and treatment plant.

There are other sources of erosion and sedimentation from within the watershed which were not mentioned by the SLWC, which are significant:

Private Roads - The section of Springfield Lake Road between Fenerty Road and Sackville Drive is a private unpaved road. Historically HRM is aware that material from this road has eroded and washed into Springfield Lake. This typically occurred on a seasonal basis when the undersized drainage culvert and ditch system servicing this private road would get washed out. Although this infrastructure is privately owned, HRM remediated this situation in 2004. It is noted that erosion of private roads is not the responsibility of HRM and such situations are not regulated by HRM.

Former Quarry - There is a former quarry or pit located on private property to the east of Fenerty Road and identified by PID# 40326217. This pit is no longer in active use. Based on observations made by HRM in 2006, this is a significant source of eroded sediment which is conveyed to Springfield Lake via HRM's Fenerty Road drainage system (photographs attached, during rain event). This situation is not the responsibility of HRM and is not regulated by HRM. In June 2006 it was understood that NSEL was to approach this property owner regarding the remediation of this pit area so as to eliminate this as a source of sediment.

There are a number of related issues which HRM has worked on in recent years. A watershed study is currently underway for the Fall River/Shubenacadie area, as Fall River has been identified as a priority growth centre under the Regional Plan. While Springfield Lake is in the headwaters of the Shubenacadie watershed, the study currently under way concentrates on the Fall River growth centre area and surrounding lakes, and will not address specific issues relative to Springfield Lake. Residential property owners can undertake activities, such as landscaping, building development, driveway construction, etc., which result in erosion. Erosion from private property, once developed, is not the responsibility of HRM and such situations are not regulated by HRM. The creation of a new street/subdivision has the potential to negatively impact surface water quality. However, presently there are no active land development sites in this area. The

HRM Stormwater Management Guidelines set out Best Management Practices for stormwater management under a variety of conditions, including street/subdivision development and it is applicable across HRM:

<http://www.halifax.ca/environment/documents/HRMStormwaterManagementGuidelines2006.pdf>

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no funds at present identified for the completion of a Stormwater Master Plan for the Springfield Lake watershed. As previously mentioned in this report, funding for this project will be requested concurrent with the undertaking of the Community Visioning exercise for Middle Sackville.

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

1. Correspondence of May 15 from Edward Grace, Chair, Springfield Lake Watch Committee
2. MPS Policy P-71
3. Photos of private quarry and road

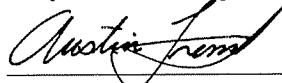
A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by :



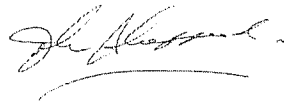
Tony Blouin, Manager of Environmental Performance, 490-4610

Report Approved by:



Austin French, Manager of Planning Services, 490-6717

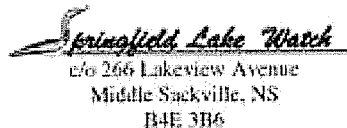
Report Prepared by :



John Sheppard, P.Eng., Manager of Environmental Services, Halifax Regional
Water Commission, 490-6958

Attachment 1: Correspondence

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HRM North West Community Council
c/o Sheilaigh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Office of the Municipal Clerk, City Hall
1841 Argyle Street, Main Floor
PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

15 May 2007

Council Members:-

Re: Policy P-71

The Springfield Lake Watch Committee (SLW) requests that Policy P-71 of the Municipal Planning Strategy for Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains and Upper Sackville be kept in place until and unless it is replaced by a policy and/or by-law that will provide Springfield Lake with comprehensive environmental protection, including detrimental change resulting from residential and commercial development, that is equal or superior to that provided in Policy P-71.

This formal request follows a unanimously carried motion made at the 10 May 2007 meeting of the SLW.

It is the understanding of SLW (Information Report dated 11 January 2007 and attached to the agenda for the 22 March 2007 meeting of the North West Community Council) that Policy P-71 could eventually be replaced by a *Stormwater Management Functional Plan*. This yet-to-be developed plan, a requirement of Policy SU-28 of the Regional Plan, would follow the *Stormwater Management Guidelines for HRM*. The 11 January 2007 Information Report implies that eventually the *Stormwater Management Guidelines* and the future *Stormwater Management Functional Plan* would be combined with a future watershed study, consistent with Policy E-17 of the Regional Plan, to provide specific guidelines for Springfield Lake. To date, there is no timetable for undertaking the required watershed study or for formulating the *Stormwater Management Functional Plan*. This, in effect, leaves Springfield Lake at risk.

As stated in Policy P-71, Springfield Lake is an environmentally sensitive area and requires special protective measures. Specifically, Springfield Lake is a headwater lake. As a headwater lake it requires additional protection as a water resource because anything that affects Springfield Lake will impact not only the local community and ecology, but also the creeks, rivers, lakes and their ecology downstream from Springfield Lake (see attached). Until such time as a watershed study for the Springfield Lake area is undertaken and satisfactorily completed and a corresponding Water Management Plan is put into place and enforced, including any future *Stormwater Management Functional Plan*, it is important to retain and extend whatever

measures of protection that can be provided to Springfield Lake. This includes retaining Policy P-71.

With respect to any future *Stormwater Management Functional Plan*, SLW welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the formulation of such a plan. For example, SLW undertook a comprehensive study of Springfield Lake and surrounding environs and consequently provided the North West Community Council with the following four recommendations at the 26 May 2005 meeting of the Council:

1. That all ditches in the Springfield Lake watershed be fully lined and maintained with 6-8 inch stone.
2. That HRM ensures that all ditches subject to high flow and/or high slope gradient be fitted with 6-8 inch stone check-dams.
3. That HRM takes all possible measures in the Springfield Lake watershed to minimize erosion.
4. That HRM immediately stop all development requiring sewer-connection development in the Springfield Lake watershed until the treatment plant and pumping stations problems are resolved.

SLW would welcome the opportunity to expand and clarify these recommendations for any future *Stormwater Management Functional Plan*, especially as SLW has collected a considerable amount of lake water-quality and geo-referenced data relevant to any stormwater management initiative in the watershed.

Sincerely,

Edward Grace
Chair, Springfield Lake Watch Committee

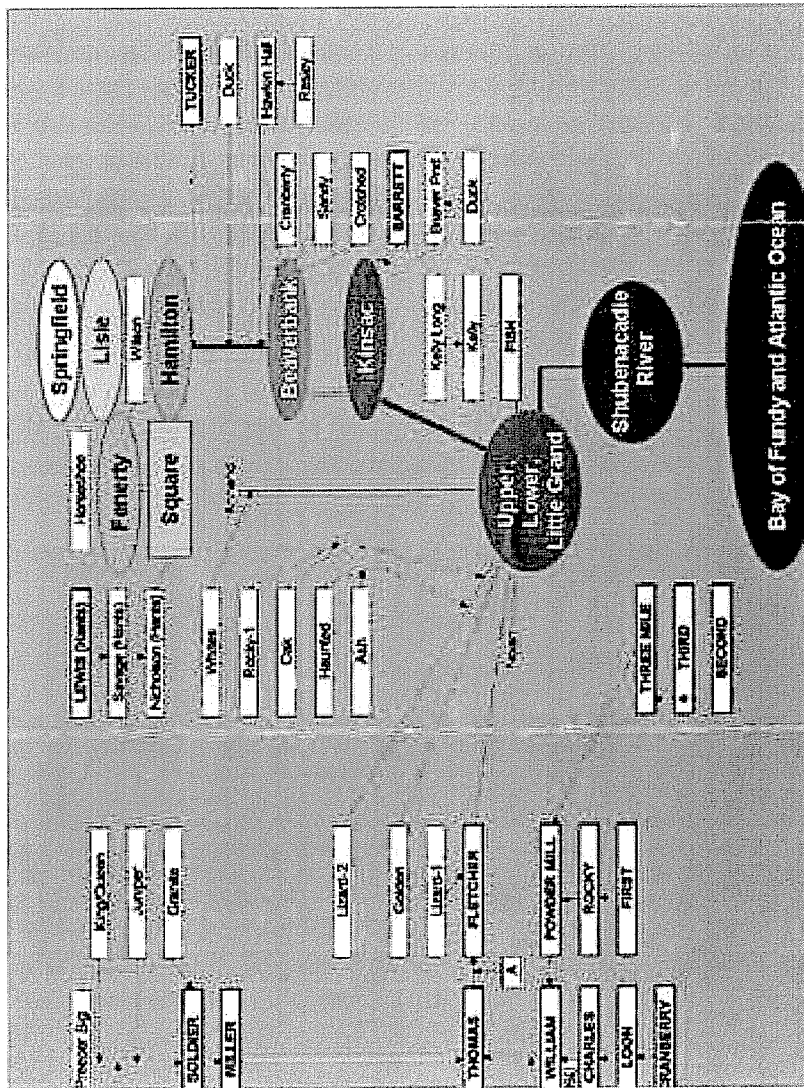
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cc (e-mail file copy):

Councillor Robert Harvey <harveyr@halifax.ca>

Councillor Brad Johns <brad.johns@halifax.ca>

Councillor Gary Martin <martinga@halifax.ca>



Attachment 2: Policy P-71

MPS Policy P-71

P-71: With regard to the environmental sensitivity of Springfield Lake, it shall be the intention of Council to take additional measures to protect the lake by establishing the watershed of Springfield Lake as a priority area for storm drainage master planning as outlined in Appendix PA of the "Province of Nova Scotia, Municipality of the County of Halifax Recommendations and Stormwater Policy" prepared by Halifax County Storm Drainage Task Force. In order to minimize the impact of stormwater upon the natural and manmade environment until such time as the Master Plan is prepared, it shall be the intention of Council to require storm drainage information and design for subdivision and development within the designation, to ensure compliance with municipal policies and criteria.

Attachment 3: Photos



A. Pond located in the quarry



B. Road leading away from the quarry