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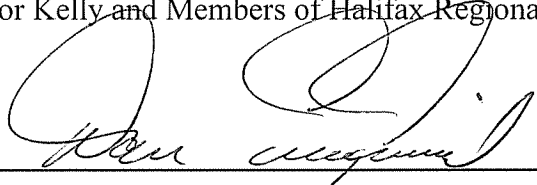


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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**May 4, 2004**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
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Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** April 10, 2004

**SUBJECT:** **Award RFP #04-046R, Hazard Tree Mitigation Program - Hemlock Ravine Park - Unit Price Contract**

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**ORIGIN**

Halifax Regional Municipality publicly advertised a request for proposals to conduct a Hazard Tree Mitigation Program for Hemlock Ravine Park.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that RFP #04-046R, Hazard Tree Mitigation Program - Hemlock Ravine Park be awarded to the highest ranking evaluated proposal, R. MacLean Forestry Limited, at the unit prices quoted, for a total estimated cost of \$597,550.00 plus net HST for a total estimated cost of \$635,966.49 from Hurricane Juan Account - PJUAN096 with funding authorized as per the Budget Implications section of this report.

## **BACKGROUND**

Hemlock Ravine Park was created in the 1970's to preserve the old-growth hemlocks of its namesake ravine. Since that time the park has developed into 85 hectares of parkland to provide passive recreational opportunities. The site includes the portions of the historic Governor Wentworth's estate, as well as other cultural and historic features. The park is located between Bedford Highway and Highway 102 in the West Region of the core service area of Halifax overlooking the Bedford Basin. A Management Plan for the park was put in place in July of 2000.

On September 28, 2004, Halifax Regional Municipality and the surrounding area was hit by Hurricane Juan causing devastation throughout the municipality. Damage to Hemlock Ravine Park as assessed by Registered Professional Foresters retained by HRM are summarized in the following table.

<b>Level of Damage</b>	<b>Area Affected (hectares)</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Light	60.9	74%
Moderate	7.7	9%
High	13.7	17%
Total	82.3	100%

Note - Heavy damage occurred predominately in softwood stands consisting of mature red spruce, white pine and eastern hemlock. These stands typically have in excess of 580 trees per hectare downed or damaged. Hazard mitigation will take place in the areas of moderate and heavy damage. The recommended prescription also calls for incidental trees in areas of light damage that are fallen, leaning or broken within 27 metres of each side of the walking trails and pathways to also be treated. This adds another 14.9 hectares to the areas to be remediated bringing the total estimated area to be treated to 36.3 hectares.

## **DISCUSSION**

A terms of reference setting the scope of work was prepared and a Request for Proposals was issued and closed on March 31, 2004 for proposals to conduct a Hazard Tree Mitigation Program. The program proposals were required to reflect the sensitivity of the forest environment and the park's various cultural, historical and natural assets and be in keeping with the Hemlock Ravine Park Management Plan. The work was required to be completed prior to spring forest fire season. The scope of work was based on a recommended treatment regime prepared by an independent Forestry Consulting Firm following a comprehensive assessment of Hemlock Ravine Park to identify, map and categorize the damage caused by Hurricane Juan.

A mandatory site meeting was held in the park to provide proponents with a first hand opportunity to inspect the extent of the damage caused by Hurricane Juan.

The scope of the work includes the following deliverables:

1. To develop and execute a Hazard Tree Mitigation Program that in general removes the broken, leaning, up rooted, downed and damaged trees within Hemlock Ravine Park in order to alleviate the various hazards caused by Hurricane Juan. The operation will be under direction of an HRM Project Supervisor with technical support and assistance from a Registered Professional Forester. The tree remediation work will be conducted in accordance with the technical guidelines, details, constraints, stipulations and details contained in the RFP as well as relevant industry practices and in keeping with Hemlock Ravine Park Management Plan.
2. To develop and execute a work plan that includes a multi-faceted approach (i.e. various mechanical and manual methods) that has the flexibility to meet the challenge of access to the damaged trees and to respond to such factors as weather, changes in constraints, good industry practices, culturally and historically significant sites and CFIA requirements. The work plan shall identify suitable and sufficient resources (both equipment and qualified and experienced staff) that will allow the work to be completed in a timely fashion to reduce the risk of forest fire during the 2004 season.
3. To identify, develop and execute an environmentally responsible strategy that deals with excess bio-mass/wood fibre product that cannot remain within the forest environment. Note-good science and proper forest rehabilitation practices including fuel load/fire risk mitigation will determine the amount and state of biomass to be left within the park.
4. To provide daily progress reports and other documentation as required to meet disaster relief criteria.

Proposals were received from the following firms:

Asplundh Tree Service Inc.  
R. MacLean Forestry Limited.

An evaluation team consisting of staff of Real Property and Asset Management and Procurement evaluated the proposals on the following basis:

- Project Team
- Recent Experience - Projects of a Similar Nature, Scope and Complexity
- Project Objectives and Associated Issues
- Resourcing, Work Plan and Scheduling
- Costs.

Preliminary evaluation of the submissions saw two very strong proposals. Interviews were conducted with the two proponents as part of the evaluation process to clarify some issues raised during the process.

The final scoring for each firm is as follows:

Company	Scoring (max.100)
R. MacLean Forestry Limited	92.0
Asplundh Tree Service Inc.	88.3

The attachment provides the detailed breakdown of the total scoring and fees. The project cost is an estimated project cost based upon unit prices provided and the proponents work plan and not lump sum.

The evaluation team is recommending the highest scoring firm as the successful proponent based on the following merits that made it the best overall proposal:

- understanding of project objectives and associated issues including the soft footprint approach necessary to minimize negative impact on the park,
- have secured approval to access a crucial area of the park via private lands to allow for cleanup and wood fibre extraction,
- provided a work plan that is closest in scope to that of Registered Professional Foresters,
- best overall estimated project pricing,

As part of the proposal, the successful proponent will be asked to install stop valve safety mechanisms in processing heads of equipment in order to safeguard against hydraulic spills which would be harmful to the park and costly to clean-up.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Budget Summary; Project RFP 04-046, Hazard Tree Mitigation - Hemlock Ravine Park

The total estimated cost of hazard tree mitigation of Hemlock Ravine Park is \$ 597,550.00 plus net HST for a total estimated cost of \$ 635,996.49

The proponent has estimated a resource recovery of an estimated \$22,500 from the sale of merchantable timber which will offset the total estimate cost of the project.

The net HST has been included in the award amount. The Federal Government, in the recent speech from the throne, has proposed changes that would provide a GST rebate to Municipalities. This legislation, once approved, will affect the total cost of this award. Once the legislation is in place,

and the actual amount determined, the value will be adjusted accordingly.

The work is directly associated with the clean-up of Hurricane Juan and will be collected together with other Juan related costs. The cost of the Hurricane clean-up and recovery costs will be funded through a combination of insurance claims, HRM funds and funding from the Federal Disaster Financial Relief Program. Based on our present information the costs of hazard tree mitigation is eligible under Disaster Financial Relief program. However, the total exact amount of federal funding cannot be determined until after the work is complete and the application is filed and adjudicated.

### **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.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Council could choose not to award this contract. This is not the recommended approach as the risk of fires will be extreme later this year if the hazard tree mitigation program is not completed.


### **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix "A" - Summary of Evaluation Criteria

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Anne Feist, Procurement Coordinator 490-4200  
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**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**  
 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL #04-046R  
 Tree Hazard Mitigation - Hemlock Ravine Park

Proposal: RFP 04-046R, Tree Hazard Mitigation - Hemlock Ravine Park			
CRITERIA	MAX. SCORE	Proponent	
		ASPLUNDH TREE SERVICE INC.	R. MACLEAN FORESTRY LIMITED
1 PROJECT TEAM	15	14	13
2. RELATED EXPERIENCE	15	14	14
3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES	25	22	23
4. RESOURCING, WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULING	20	17	17
5. COSTS*	25	21.3	25
Estimated Project Cost*		\$683,339.00	\$597,550.00
Estimated Revenue		\$23,750.00	\$22,500.00
TOTAL	100	88.3	92.0
RANKING		2	1

\* Project costs are exclusive of taxes.