

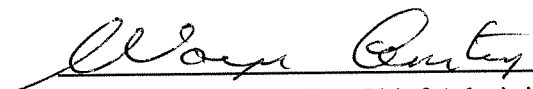
10.1.3



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
March 28, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer


Geri Keiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 15, 2006

SUBJECT: MRIF - Response to Requests for Support

ORIGIN

On February 7, 2006 Council approved the priority ranking of projects for Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) application, as well as an application for Strategic Infrastructure (SI) Funding for the Lively Water and Sewer Project.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that :

1. Council approve a standard response by the Mayor, on behalf of Halifax Regional Council, for any requests for support for any component of the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Funds indicating that: Halifax Regional Council will not consider, or make a formal resolution, indicating support for any Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund application other than those already approved by Council.

BACKGROUND

MRIF was signed on November 24, 2005. Green infrastructure is the first priority and first intake of applications was for green projects. Green is defined as sewer, water, and solid waste/resource management related assets. Applications meeting this requirement will be given priority in the first round of applications. First round application deadline was February 15, 2006 for projects that will start in 2006.

HRM submitted a prioritized project listing (as approved by Council February 7, 2006) to the Canada-Nova Scotia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (as was required) including estimated costing and estimated year of start. (Attachment A).

HRM has submitted applications for all Council approved MRIF projects meeting round one criteria: North Preston Water and Sewer, Potable Water and under the Strategic Infrastructure (SI) component Lively Water and Sewer.

Over the next several weeks HRM will submit applications for the remainder of the Council approved projects.

More information on the Fund is available at www.mrif.ns.ca

DISCUSSION

There are many community organizations seeking sources of funding for many worthwhile community infrastructure projects. Under the MRIF Program, community organizations are able to submit applications for funding. However, support by the local Council, by resolution, is a requirement of the federal/provincial program before a project will be considered for the funds.

As Council is aware, HRM has already submitted an application for the total (notional) regional allocation of the general MRIF and SI fund. Any Council resolution in support of any other project seeking MRIF funds, would negatively impact the success of the other applications. Therefore, staff is recommending that Council agree, by motion, to approve a standard response by the Mayor to any such requests. Such a motion does not indicate lack of overall support for the project, only that Council will not support the project funding application to MRIF.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None at this time. If the recommendation is not approved, and Council chooses to consider support for other community projects, there would be potential budget implications to consider. The community projects could be in competition with HRM Council approved projects for funding.

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

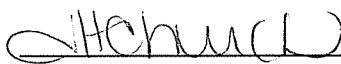
Council could choose to consider projects requesting support on an individual basis. This is not recommended as it would jeopardize the funding of projects already approved by Council for funding application.

ATTACHMENTS

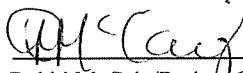
Attachment A - letter to CNSMRIF

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.

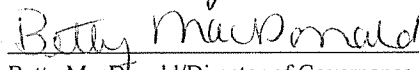
Report Prepared by:


Jennifer Church/Intergovernmental Affairs

Financial Review:


Debbi McCaig/Budget Coordinator

Report Approved by:


Betty MacDonald/Director of Governance and Strategic Initiatives

February 23, 2006

Grant Brennan
Provincial Co-Manager

AND

Paul Owens
A/Federal Co-Manager

C/O Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations
Maritime Center, 14 North
1505 Barrington Street
PO Box 216
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4

Dear Messrs. Brennan and Owens:

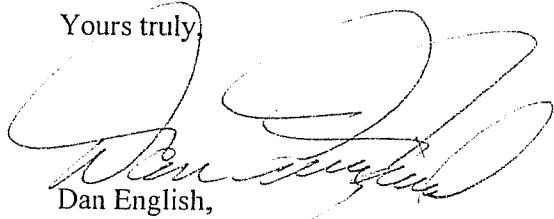
As requested in your letter of January 11, 2006, RE: Canada-Nova Scotia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (2005-2012) Call for Applications - Round 1; attached is a listing, including estimated costing and estimated year of start for priority projects, that HRM would like to have considered for funding through the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) and the Strategic Initiative component of MRIF.

By now, you should have received applications from HRM for the following:

North Preston Water and Sewer, Potable Water and for the SI component of the Program, Lively Water and Sewer. As per the direction in your correspondence, HRM has submitted first-round applications for these "green" projects. I look forward to a positive response to these requests.

Over the next several weeks, HRM will begin to submit applications for the remainder of the projects as noted on the attached. All submitted projects are of priority to HRM and have received Halifax Regional Council support through a Motion approved on February 7, 2006.

Yours truly,



Dan English,
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment A

**Prioritized list of MRIF projects for application
and
Strategic Initiative Fund project for application**

Municipal Rural Infrastructure Funds

Project Name	Year of Start	Gross Cost Estimate	MRIF Request
North Preston Water and Sewer	2005/06	\$ 4,550,000	\$ 3,030,000
Potable Water	2006/07	\$ 500,000	\$ 333,000
Broadband	2006/07	\$ 5,500,000	\$ 2,800,000
Halifax Urban Greenway	2006/07	\$ 880,000	\$ 600,000
Fall River Recreation Centre	2006/07	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 2,000,000
Shubie Trail	2006/07	\$ 450,000	\$ 257,000
Prospect Recreation	2007/08	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Dartmouth Harbourfront	2006/07	\$ 528,000	\$ 352,000
Bedford Highway Bikeway Trail	2008/09	\$ 352,000	\$ 235,000
Transit Buses (Bio-diesel)	2006/07	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 771,000
Total		\$ 22,610,000	\$ 12,378,000

Strategic Initiative Fund

Project Name	Year of Start	Gross Cost Estimate	MRIF Request
Municipal Services Extension to Lively Subdivision	2007/08	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
Total		\$ 6,000,000	\$ 3,000,000