



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5, Canada

Item No. 8
Halifax Regional Council
May 18, 2010

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phillip Townsend".

For Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

DATE: April 9, 2010

SUBJECT: Lake Quality Testing

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from a Request for Presentation to Council from Mr. Shalom Mandaville. .

BACKGROUND

Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) carries out a diligent Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program as part of our Water Resources Management Strategy (<http://www.halifax.ca/environment/waterresourcesstudy.html>)

As per the recent Service Review: Lake Water Sampling, the costs for the annual HRM program are approximately \$96,000 per year. Consultants do not perform the Baseline Sampling Program, it is performed by HRM and Halifax Water Staff. AGAT Laboratories costs are specifically for lab analysis. In addition to these costs, the full cost of the water sampling program would include the vehicle rental and staff time associated.

The current Water Quality Monitoring Program was developed by Dr. Tony Blouin in the early 2000's, and currently administered by the Sustainable Environment Management Office (SEMO) by Mr. Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer.

DISCUSSION

Under the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act, The Province of Nova Scotia is mandated to carry out a Provincial Water Strategy in 2010.

This consultation process has commenced.

The manager of the Sustainable Environment Management Office is a municipal representative on the Municipal/ Provincial Joint Advisory Group for Water and Waste Water Issues (Terms of Reference and membership are in Attachment One). Halifax Regional Municipality is well prepared to respond to the strategy process.

The SEMO Office contends that this strategy is the cornerstone and foundation of future deliberation and clarification of municipal responsibility and service delivery planning related to lake management in the province and the municipality. Deliberation of methodologies, extent, etc., is premature without defined responsibility definition to inform staff and Regional Council.

Completion of the strategy will help the municipality form strategies around watershed advisory, lake water testing, and other governance issues. From a staff perspective, this strategy is greatly appreciated, as challenges to the overall governance of water issues (from a Federal, Provincial, Municipal, Utility, NGO, individual resident, etc.,) are clearly evident. As are the threats to our precious water resources.

Related specifically to Mr. Mandaville's request, staff contend that deliberation on specific testing methodologies is premature. Limnology/ Benthic Testing is indeed a valid scientific study method that may be considered for future lake management actions and strategies. It is included in the Stantec Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan Final Report (Section 4.6). Alternative testing methodologies are considered in the Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan which will come to Regional Council following the Provincial Water Strategy. Additionally, in the development of the Stormwater Management Functional Plan scientific methods for various management strategies shall be examined.

Information on the International Society of Limnology can be seen at: <http://www.limnology.org/>

Information on the Society of Canadian Limnologists can be seen at: <http://uregina.ca/~scl/>

Upcoming actions related to Water include, but are not limited to:

1. Provincial Water Strategy
2. Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan
3. Governance Review including Role and structure of Watershed Advisory Boards
4. Completion of Stormwater Management Functional Plan

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications of this information report.

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

Attachment 1 Municipal / Provincial Joint Advisory Group: Water and Waste Water
Terms of Reference and Membership list

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: Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment Management Office, 490-6056



Financial Approval by:

Cathie O'Toole, CGA, Director of Finance, 490-6308



TERMS OF REFERENCE
MUNICIPAL/PROVINCIAL JOINT ADVISORY GROUP
 on
Water & Wastewater Management in Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) promotes the protection and responsible management of Nova Scotia's water resources. Municipalities also play an important role in the overall protection and management of water and wastewater systems, and water resources. They manage the day-to-day operation and monitoring of the water and wastewater treatment systems; they are also key in protecting potable watersheds, protecting and conserving wetlands, and the sustainable use and development of coastal areas in the province.

Effective communication and contribution from stakeholders and partners will be key in the development of water resource management initiatives in the province. Two important water-related initiatives currently underway include a comprehensive *Water Resource Management Strategy for Nova Scotia*; and a *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWWWE)*. Municipalities have a considerable stake in the development of these initiatives that match to municipal priorities, and NSE recognizes that municipalities need to be fully engaged in the development and implementation of these strategies. To effectively facilitate municipal input to these strategies, NSE has created a Municipal/Provincial Joint Advisory Group comprising of representatives from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM), the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia (AMANS), and the Province of Nova Scotia.

Intent and Mandate:

The intent of this Municipal/Provincial Joint Advisory Group will be to ensure that key issues of importance facing Nova Scotia municipalities regarding water and wastewater management are brought forward during the development and implementation of the above mentioned strategies. The Joint Advisory Group will provide opportunity to effectively discuss critical issues and concerns to Nova Scotia municipalities, and to work together to ensure they are addressed. The Joint Advisory Group may also consider other relevant aspects of municipal/provincial water resource activities, as referred to the Joint Advisory Group, with the agreement of the UNSM and AMANS Executives and the Minister.

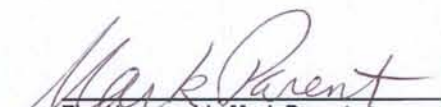
The collaborative effort between the Province and the municipal sector is intended to improve the manner in which water-related policies and programs are developed and implemented in the Province. The creation of the Joint Advisory Group will formalize a process for municipal input.

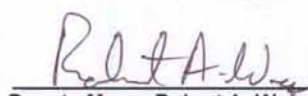
Chaired by NSE, the Joint Advisory Group will meet on a quarterly basis, or as mutually agreed upon between the parties, to discuss matters of importance and relevance to the two strategies. An annual report will be submitted to the UNSM and AMANS Presidents and the Minister of Environment.

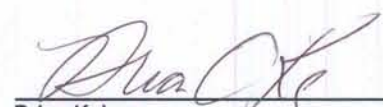
The Municipal/Provincial Joint Advisory Group will remain in effect for three (3) years. A review will be undertaken in the final year of the mandate whereupon a determination will be made regarding dissolution or extension of the group.

Composition:

It is agreed that the Municipal/Provincial Joint Advisory Group will comprise of no more than three (3) members from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, three (3) members from the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia, and four (4) members from the Province of Nova Scotia.


 The Honourable Mark Parent
 Minister of Environment


 Deputy Mayor Robert A. Wrye
 President, UNSM


 Brian Keizer
 President, AMANS

Dated: September 19, 2008

**Municipal/Provincial Joint Advisory Group
on Water and Wastewater Management in Nova Scotia**

18 December 2009

Jurisdiction	Lead	Alternate
Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities	Councillor Kevin Saccary Cape Breton Regional Municipality 335 Long Beach Road Port Morien, NS B1B 1G2 Phone: (902) 737-2821 Fax: (902) 737-3003 E-mail: ksaccary@cbrm.ns.ca	
	Mayor Bob Taylor Municipality of the County of Colchester PO Box 697 Truro, NS B2N 5E7 Phone: (902) 897-3160 Fax: (902) 895-9983 E-mail: mayor@cholchester.ca	
	Councillor John Kellegrew Municipality of the County of Cumberland E. D. Fullerton Municipal Building 1395 Blair Lake Road, R R # 6 Amherst, N. S., B4H 3Y4 Phone: (902) 667-2313 Fax: (902) 667-1352 E-mail: jkellebrew@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca	
	Debbie Nielson (observer) Sustainability Coordinator, UNSM 1809 Barrington Street, Suite 1106 Halifax, NS Phone: (902) 423-8312 Email: dnielsen@eastlink.ca	
Association of Municipal Administrators Nova Scotia	Gordon Wilson, Deputy CAO Municipality of the District of Digby PO Box 429 Digby, NS B0V 1A0 Phone: (902) 245-4777 Fax: (902) 245-5748 E-mail: gwilson@municipality.digby.ns.ca	
	Kelly Rice, Clerk Treasurer Village of Lawrencetown PO Box 38 Lawrencetown, NS B0S 1M0 Phone: (902) 584-3082 Fax: (902) 584-3878 E-mail: villagelawrencetown@ns.aliantzinc.ca	

	<p>Richard MacLellan, Acting Manager Sustainable Environment Management Office Halifax Regional Municipality Phone: (902) 490-6056 Fax: (902) 490-5862 E-mail: maclelri@halifax.ca</p>	
Nova Scotia Environment	<p>David Briggins, Manager (Chair) Water and Wastewater Branch PO Box 442 Halifax, NS B3J 2P8 Phone: (902) 424-2571 Fax: (902) 424-0501 E-mail: briggidr@gov.ns.ca</p>	
	<p>Jeff Garnhum, Acting Regional Manager Central Region - Bedford 30 Damascus Road Suite 115 (as of Feb/2010) Bedford, NS B4A 0C1 Phone: (902) 527-8285 Fax: (902) 424-0597 E-mail: garnhuja@gov.ns.ca</p>	<p>Jason Dauphinee-Muise, A/Manager Water Program Services 30 Damascus Road Suite 115 (as of Feb/2010) Bedford, NS B4A 0C1 Phone: (902) 521-1559 Fax: (902) 424-0597 E-mail: dauphijs@gov.ns.ca</p>
	<p>Stefan Furey, Engineer Specialist Water and Wastewater Branch PO Box 442 Halifax, NS B3J 2P8 Phone: (902) 424-4743 Fax: (902) 424-0501 E-mail: fureysm@gov.ns.ca</p>	<p>Alan Benninger, Program Administrator Officer Water and Wastewater Branch 218 MacSween Street, Suite 12 Port Hawkesbury, NS B9A 2J9 Phone: (902) 625-4285 Fax: (902) 625-3722 E-mail: benninaj@gov.ns.ca</p>
	<p>Jessica Paterson, Water Strategy Coordinator Water and Wastewater Branch PO Box 442 Halifax, NS B3J 2P8 Phone: (902) 424-2059 Fax: (902) 424-0501 E-mail: patersjm@gov.ns.ca</p>	
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations	<p>Marvin MacDonald Director, Grants and Programs Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations PO Box 216 Halifax, NS B3J 2M4 Phone: (902) 424-3858 Fax: (902) 424-0821 E-mail: mrmacdon@gov.ns.ca</p>	<p>Aileen Waller-Hebb, Manager Corporate Services Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations PO Box 216 Halifax, NS B3J 2M4 Phone: (902) 424-7414 Fax: (902) 424-0821 E-mail: wallerae@gov.ns.ca</p>