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Item No. 4
Halifax Regional Council
July 6, 2010

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul Dunphy", written over a horizontal line.

Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development

DATE: June 4, 2010

SUBJECT: Petition - Formal Investigation of Effects of Development on Storm Water
Management, Cow Bay

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

May 25, 2010 (Item 9.2.2) - Petition to Regional Council to request a formal investigation of recent and future development and the effects they will have on existing infrastructure for storm water management.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

In October 2009, there were two significant rain storms which were particularly intense in the Eastern Passage/Cow Bay area. These storms resulted in numerous flooding issues, including areas which had previously not flooded. In addition to the 2009 flooding events, there has been other flooding in the area over the past 25 years.

Eastern Passage and Cow Bay are suburban areas with existing infrastructure that varies from rural ditches to piped storm sewers. Much of the area was developed 30-40 years ago but there has been significant in-fill development in the area in recent years. Many residents have raised concerns that the in-fill development has increased the flooding in the area and are concerned that there is limited storm water infrastructure in the area.

At a meeting with a number of affected residents on May 6th, HRM and Halifax Water (HW) staff outlined the significant storm water improvements required in many areas of HRM and the fact that due to the extensive list of required upgrades, prioritization of capital expenditures is required. This prioritization often results in substantial delays in completion of the improvements. In addition, staff outlined the technical review process that is undertaken for any development proposal to ensure there is sufficient capacity in the existing downstream system prior to the approval of a development.

HW staff is retaining a consultant to carry out a study on the existing system in the Cow Bay area in order to determine appropriate and effective upgrades. Ultimately, the solution to flooding issues is the installation of a deep storm water system in the area. The funding for the project and its timing will have to be prioritized along with all other capital commitments. This information was also shared with residents at the May 6th meeting.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

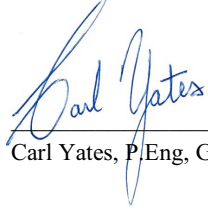
There is no specific community engagement associated with this petition.

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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