

Item No. 13.3
Halifax Regional Council
August 9, 2011

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Councillor Peter Lund, Chair, Environment and Sustainability Standing
Committee

DATE: August 4, 2011

SUBJECT: HRM Resolutions to UNSM Conference – Environment & Sustainability
Standing Committee

ORIGIN

A motion of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meeting of August 4, 2011 in regard to Resolutions to be forwarded to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Annual Conference.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee that Halifax Regional Council forward three (3) resolutions regarding *Invasive Species*, *Eco Trust Funding* and *Sedimentation and Erosion Control*, as outlined in the Discussion section of the staff information report dated July 8, 2011, to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Annual Conference.

Council Report

BACKGROUND

The 2011 UNSM Annual Conference is being held from November 1st to 4th in Halifax. Each year at the annual conference UNSM debates a number of resolutions submitted by its 35 member municipalities. A formal resolution passed by UNSM in support of an initiative may assist the municipality in securing support for their items. To be properly received, the resolutions must include whether the resolution was considered and passed by the municipality i.e. whether Council has approved it.

The July 8, 2011 report on HRM resolutions to UNSM Annual Conference, also before Council, noted that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee would be considering resolutions on:

- Invasive Species
- Eco Trust Funding
- Sedimentation and Erosion Control

Those resolutions were considered at the August 4th meeting of the Standing Committee and are now before Regional Council with the Standing Committees recommendation to approve and forward the resolutions on to the UNSM Annual Conference.

DISCUSSION

The Rationale for approving and forwarding the proposed resolutions on for discussion and debate at the UNSM Annual Conference can be found on page 3 of the July 8, 2011 staff report as attached.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As the attached staff report of July 8, 2011 indicates, there are no specific budget implications related to the three resolutions recommended. However, all three areas provide funding pressures or opportunities for the municipality. Adoption of the resolutions would provide a positive impact on HRM's budgets and resources by either reducing pressures or providing funding.

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

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee is comprised of eight duly elected members of Regional Council. Meetings are held monthly and are open to the public.

Council Report

ALTERNATIVES

Council could choose not to forward some or all of the proposed resolutions to the UNSM Annual Conference.

ATTACHMENTS

Staff report dated July 8, 2011

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: Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk 490-6519

Original signed

Financial Approval by:

Jerry Blackwood, A/Director of Finance, 490-6308



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Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
August 4, 2011

TO: Chair and Members of Environment and Sustainability Standing
Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

DATE: July 8, 2011

SUBJECT: UNSM Resolutions

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to provide a report outlining the Provincial Invasive Species Strategy, Eco Nova Scotia Municipal Program and the Nova Scotia Environment - Sedimentation Control Plans, including draft resolutions for consideration by the Standing Committee, for the August 4, 2011, meeting.

BACKGROUND

Resolutions for consideration for the fall Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Conference (UNSM) are required to be submitted to the UNSM by August.

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee asked staff for some assistance in preparing resolutions for the following three subjects:

- Invasive Species
- EcoTrust Funding
- Sedimentation and Erosion Control

DISCUSSION

Proposed Resolutions:

Provincial Invasive Species Strategy

Whereas municipalities are facing substantial social, economic, health and environmental challenges from new and expanding infestations of invasive species; And,

Whereas The Province of Nova Scotia has legislative authority and program delivery related to Health, Natural Resources, Environment and Economic Development; And,

Whereas The Government of Canada has identified Provincial responsibility in the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency document: "An Alien Invasive Species Strategy for Canada";

Be it resolved that the Province of Nova Scotia initiate an intergovernmental and interdepartmental Invasive Species Strategy for Nova Scotia.

Eco Nova Scotia Municipal Program

Whereas the EcoNova Scotia Municipal Program provided Nova Scotia Municipalities with \$7.9 million to help municipalities reduce emissions and build capacity for further reductions in the future; And,

Whereas the program is expected to reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions by 12,020 tonnes per year; And,

Whereas the program initiated economic progress in the municipal green economies;

Be it resolved that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities applaud the Province of Nova Scotia for the effectiveness of this program; And,

Further be it resolved that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities recommend continued funding programs for incubating Municipal progress on Climate Change Mitigation.

Nova Scotia Environment: Sedimentation Control Plans

Whereas the Province of Nova Scotia released Water for Life, The Nova Scotia Water Resource Management Strategy in 2010; And,

Whereas protection of the environment is the mandate of The Environment Act; And,

Whereas Protection of Water Resources is identified as a keystone in Integrated Water Management; And,

Whereas weather events causing sedimentation releases on construction sites are a major negative impact on watercourses;

Be it resolved that the Province of Nova Scotia adopt a Permitting service delivery model for Sedimentation and Control Plans for construction projects.

Rationale:

Provincial Invasive Species Strategy:

Recent years have brought substantial pressures to municipalities in responding to community concerns related to increased impact from invasive species. In the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) this includes: Black Legged Ticks, European Fire Ants, Giant Hogweed, Floating Yellow Hearts, and Longhorn Beetles.

These challenges cross governmental and departmental boundaries. Residents and municipalities need help dealing with these pressures.

Eco Nova Scotia Municipal Program:

As per the Eco Nova Scotia Final Report, which can be seen at the link at the bottom, HRM received approximately \$3 million of funding from the program to leverage projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money. This fund was key to incubating progress in the Green Economy.

Further programs would help some of the fledgling renewable industries develop sustainable capacity.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/ecoNovaScotia/pdf/EcoNovaScotia.Final.Report.2011.pdf>

Nova Scotia Environment: Sedimentation Control Plans:

Water quality has been a growing area of concern for residents. Sedimentation releases from construction projects appear to be an opportunity for improvement. Currently, there is no advance permitting of Sedimentation Control Plans required by the Department of Environment. It is only after responding to incidents that project Control Plans are reviewed. A permitting system would provide sound protection to water resources.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific implications related to the three resolution recommendations. However, all three areas provide funding pressures or opportunities for the municipality. Adoption of the resolutions would positively impact HRM budgets and resources by either reducing pressures or providing funding.

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

None

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and 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
