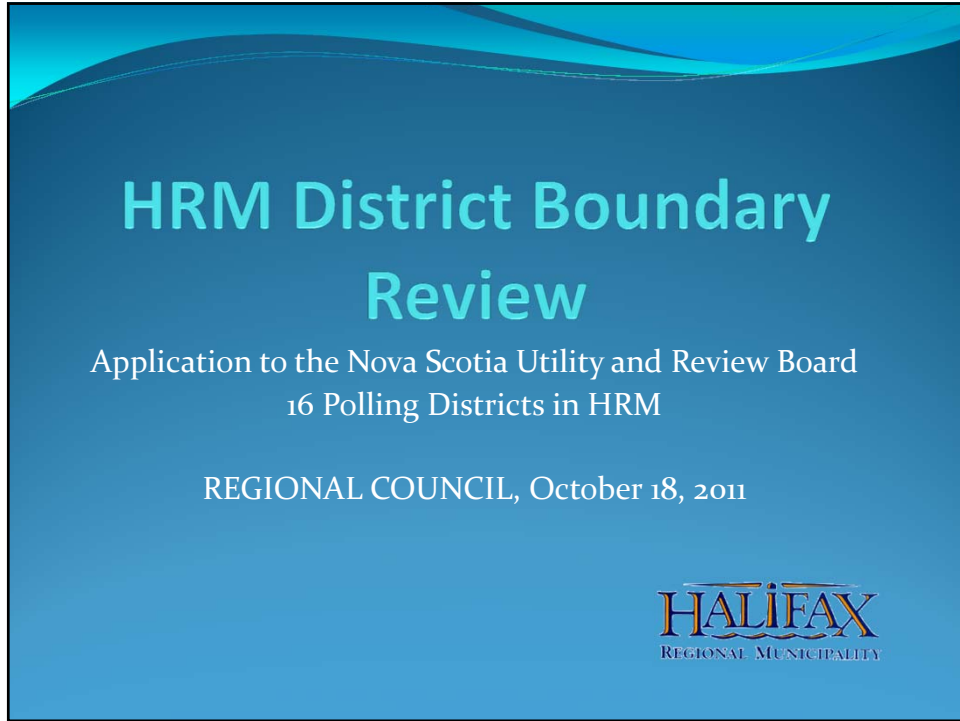


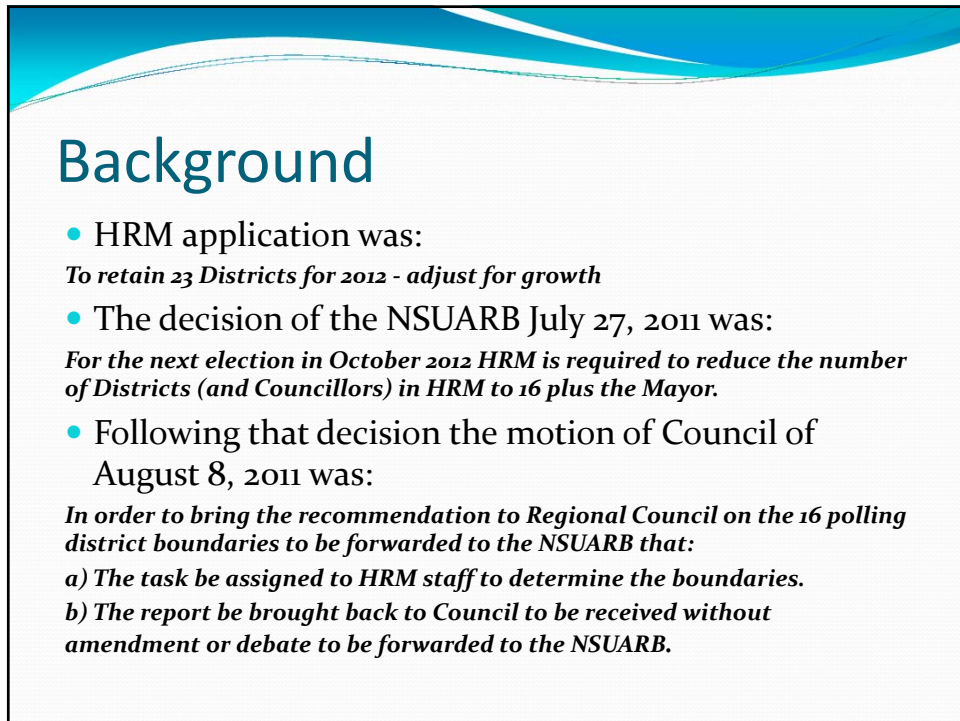

Re: Item No. 11.1.1



HRM District Boundary Review

Application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board
16 Polling Districts in HRM

REGIONAL COUNCIL, October 18, 2011



Background

- HRM application was:
To retain 23 Districts for 2012 - adjust for growth
- The decision of the NSUARB July 27, 2011 was:
For the next election in October 2012 HRM is required to reduce the number of Districts (and Councillors) in HRM to 16 plus the Mayor.
- Following that decision the motion of Council of August 8, 2011 was:
In order to bring the recommendation to Regional Council on the 16 polling district boundaries to be forwarded to the NSUARB that:
 - a) *The task be assigned to HRM staff to determine the boundaries.*
 - b) *The report be brought back to Council to be received without amendment or debate to be forwarded to the NSUARB.*

Consultation Undertaken

Initial dates of NSUARB were tentatively set for Oct 12-14th making public consultation challenging

- Adopted the principles used in setting the boundaries
- Drafted options and alternatives
- Engaged Stantec Consulting
- Consulted on options -internally & externally
- Placed 2 Scenarios before the public for discussion & input
- On-line Survey
 - By invitation
 - Open survey
 - Initially closing on September 14th
- Sought an extension from the NSUARB to consult more broadly
- Hearings Rescheduled to November 7-10th

Consultation Undertaken

- Based on the Extension scheduled 8 public information meetings
- Extended the survey deadline
- Engaged the HRSB in discussions regarding a joint application to the NSUARB
- Continued reviews with Stantec
- Engaged internal review of Scenarios
- Engaged Volunteer Review Panel

Outcome

- Merit in both options/scenarios – preference often based in where in HRM one lives
- Public Input – Attachment 3
 - Survey Results
 - By invitation
 - Open Survey
- Public Information Meetings – Attachment 4
- Written Submissions – Attachment 5
- HRSB review and recommendations
- Advice from Consultant
- Advice of the Independent Review Panel

Recommended changes

- Purpose of consultation is to listen and respond
- General comments
- Reviewed each recommendation that came forward
 - Some incorporated
 - Discarded others based on constraints of the process
- All changes outlined in Attachment 6
- Not just “one factor” has gone into the final recommendation before Council/NSUARB
- The staff recommendation is the result of input and consensus built over the 2 and ½ months of consultation

Recommendation

- That Halifax Regional Council recommend to the NSUARB Scenario 1, as revised during the public consultation process, with the 16 polling district boundaries as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report.