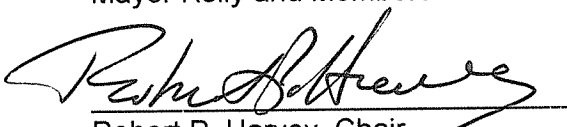

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
August 20, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM: 
Robert P. Harvey, Chair
North West Community Council

DATE: August 6, 2002

SUBJECT: Environmental Study for Sackville River

ORIGIN:

North West Community Council meeting held on July 11, 2002.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the environmental study for the Sackville River be included in the next budget for 2003/04.

ATTACHMENT:

Excerpt from North West Community Council Minutes for May 23, 2002 and July 11, 2002.
Information Report dated April 22, 2002.

4.1.7 Environmental Study for Sackville River

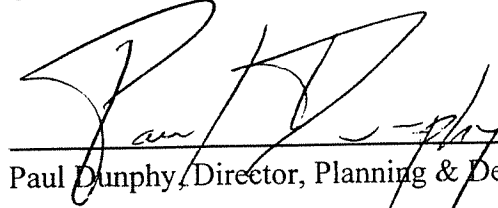
A recommendation was sent to Paul Dunphy that the environmental study for the Sackville River be included in the next budget for 2003/04. Since it was unknown whether or not the study would be included, it was agreed to send this item on to Regional Council with the same recommendation.

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Goucher to recommend to Paul Dunphy, Director of Planning and Development that the environmental study for the Sackville River be included in the next budget for 2003/04. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

North West Community Council
May 23, 2002

TO: Chair and Members of North West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning & Development Services



Tony Blouin, Manager, Environmental Policy

DATE: April 22, 2002

SUBJECT: Study of Sackville River

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

- Public participation request, March 30, 2000, for an environmental study on the Sackville River watershed.
- NWCC request, March 22, 2001, for an environmental assessment of the Sackville River watershed.
- NWCC request, May 25, 2000

BACKGROUND

Environmental Impact Assessment is a defined term under both the provincial Environment Act and the federal Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. The Assessment process is designed to predict the environmental impacts of a specific, defined project or undertaking, to consider appropriate mitigation, and to outline the residual impacts which will remain following mitigation. Various studies are undertaken, and an impact assessment report is submitted (there are various types of reports defined under the different federal/provincial legislation). An impact assessment is only done in relation to a specific project.

A Stormwater Management Plan is a different type of report. This is a much more specific plan to address methods for managing (collecting, transporting, treating and discharging) stormwater runoff. A stormwater management plan might be done for a specific area or development (as might sometimes be required under a development agreement or for permitting purposes), or it might be undertaken for a more general area such as a watershed.

The City of Halifax undertook stormwater management studies for certain areas of Halifax during the 1980s, and for the Birch Cove Lakes area in the 1990s as part of a more extensive study. A flood-plain study of the Little Sackville River has also been completed. HRM has conducted watershed management studies of Morris and Russell Lakes in response to anticipated development activity in those watersheds, prior to the development taking place. A stormwater management plan is currently in preparation for the Morris-Russell lakes area.

HRM currently has a study under way on Water Resources Management, which will examine related issues and may provide recommendations regarding watershed management plans. As well, the Regional Planning initiative will examine issues of watershed management under the Environmental Assets Management category.

DISCUSSION

Past studies undertaken by HRM or previous municipal units have generally been to plan for anticipated development activity, in response to a specific proposed development, or to address specific existing problems or issues identified. A general environmental assessment or watershed management study of a large drainage basin such as the Sackville River would be a very large undertaking. In the absence of a well-defined goal or a specific issue for investigation, it would be difficult to develop terms of reference for a study or to define the desired deliverables. Such studies are most effective when targeted at a particular development proposal, or to address a well-defined existing problem.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A defined watershed management study such as those done for Morris Lake and Russell Lake would cost in the range of \$20,000. A more extensive study such as the Birch Cove Lakes Environmental Study would cost in the range of \$100,000 or more. No funds exists within the FY 2001-2002 budget for such a study.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

ATTACHMENTS

None.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Tony Blouin, Manager, Environmental Policy, 490-4610