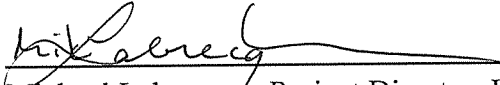


Halifax Regional Council
October 29, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Michael Labrecque, Project Director, Harbour Solutions Project

DATE: October 23, 2002

SUBJECT: Herring Cove Water and Sewer Services

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Regional Council meeting of October 15, 2002, Item 9.3.1.

Staff was requested to provide a report regarding the commission of a pre-design report for the sewer and water servicing of the Herring Cove area.

BACKGROUND

In regard to the land based aspect of the sewage treatment plant siting for the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project (HHSP), a “want it in my Neighbourhood’s backyard” (WINBY) strategy was considered desirable. The overall thrust of the strategy is for the community to become aware that:

- 1) wastewater treatment facilities can be developed and operated without negative impacts such as noise, odour, etc.; and,
- 2) facilities can be developed in such a way as to support host community needs such as infrastructure, parks, access to beaches, etc.

This strategy was endorsed by Halifax Regional Council for the HHSP and the budget for the HHSP includes allocation of funds to be available for host community enhancements. A motion was adopted by Regional Council on April 20, 1999, to “approve, in principle, that the \$5 million community integration fund be moved to Phase 1 of the Harbour Solutions Project”. This motion was reaffirmed on August 22, 2000, by Regional Council.

Subject to a staff review and future Council approval, the use of the community integration fund is to be recommended by the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) for the area. In the case of Herring Cove, the CLC is represented by the Herring Cove Ratepayers Association. The CLC has identified that the greatest need will be to provide central water and sewer service in the Herring Cove Area and that it is their intention to use part of the community integration fund to reduce the cost of servicing the community with water and sewer. The funding and application will require Halifax Regional Council approval.

At the December 18, 2001, Regional Council meeting, Council approved a motion to direct staff to prepare a tender document for the design of Municipal water and sewer services for Herring Cove pending successful resolution of land acquisition, and that staff be directed to meet with representatives of 360 networks to determine if negotiation and acquisition of an appropriate piece of property can take place. Staff of Public Works and Transportation Services and the Halifax Regional Water Commission have met and implemented the preparation of the necessary RFP for the necessary engineering design work associated with water and sewer services for the Herring Cove area. The document is completed and ready to be issued pending the resolution of the land issue.

At the October 22, 2002, Regional Council meeting, Council lifted unconditionally the condition precedent related to funding from the other levels of government, as currently stipulated in the Harbour Solutions Development Agreement, and proceeds with the Project in its entirety.

DISCUSSION

In 2000, a planning and servicing study of the Herring Cove area was carried out complete with a report, entitled “Herring Cove Area - Settlement and Servicing Strategy”. This report was designed to provide residents with key information about land capability and central servicing so that they could make informed recommendations about the future of their community. Although this study included some cost estimates on the proposed water and sewer servicing, the consultant that did the study recommended a pre-design study with identification of bedrock be carried out as the next step. Since the unit cost of rock excavation is very expensive, the amount of rock excavation must be determined before a meaningful overall cost can be established.

Staff is in agreement with the consultant's recommendation that the next step is to carry out a pre-design with the identification of bedrock to provide a more detailed preliminary design. The pre-design will provide a better cost estimate with consideration for various servicing options and alignments. In addition, the pre-design can provide input on appropriate phasing of the project. The estimated cost of such a study is approximately \$50,000.

Some of the key issues to be addressed in the pre-design study are as follows:

1. To identify the best servicing options, such as pressure sewer, vacuum sewer and conventional gravity systems.
2. To determine the best alignment for the proposed servicing, such as location of joint sewer & water trenches, separate force main trenches, etc.
3. To carry out a geotechnical investigation and estimate the quantity of rock excavation.
4. To estimate the construction costs of the water and sewer servicing.
5. To investigate if storm sewers are necessary and, if required, determine where best utilized.

Staff is preparing the RFP for the pre-design of sewer and water servicing of the Herring Cove area and will return to Council for the award of the RFP and withdraw of funds for the pre-design study.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There is no budget implication at this time. If Council approve the award of the RFP in the future, the estimated cost of \$50,000 is available from the \$5m integration fund allocated to Herring Cove that was tentatively approved by Regional Council.

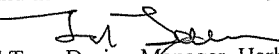
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN


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

ALTERNATIVES

Council could not approve the pre-design study at this time. This alternative is not recommended.

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:  Ted Tam, Design Manager, Harbour Solutions Project, at 490-6130

Report Approved by:  Mike Labrecque, Project Director, Harbour Solutions Project, at 490-4756