

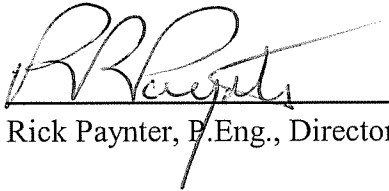
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PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council  
December 16, 2003

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Rick Paynter, P.Eng., Director, Public Works & Transportation Services

**DATE:** December 8, 2003

**SUBJECT:** **Open Ditch Maintenance**

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### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

Regional Council meeting of May 27, 2003.

#### BACKGROUND

Councillor Goucher requested a staff report relative to the areas of HRM that are prone to flooding and require open ditch system maintenance and HRM's ability and responsibility for clean-up of open ditch systems so flooding conditions are not exacerbated. This report is in response to that request.

## DISCUSSION

Technical and Underground Services of Public Works and Transportation is responsible for maintenance of open storm water drainage systems on HRM easements and Street Right of Ways. Maintenance of these systems is carried out through planned and demand programs of the fiscal operating budget.

Planned maintenance programs are derived from annual inspections of these systems and include such activities as re-defining open drainage ditches, vegetation control, culvert replacements, storm sewer inlet and outlet control upgrading.

Demand maintenance programs are the result of deficiencies identified during periodic inspections and storm events which cannot wait to be rectified during the planned program cycle. This would include such activities as pre and post inspections of known problem storm inlets, outlets and low lying catchbasins which have a tendency to collect debris, collapsed culverts and systems damaged during extreme storm events.

## BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The TUGS annual maintenance budget relative to open ditch maintenance activities is \$1,519,776.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

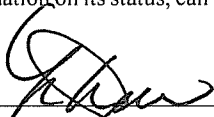
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

## ALTERNATIVES

There are no recommended alternatives.

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:

  
Larry Drew, Manager, Technical and Undergrounds Services (490-4944)