

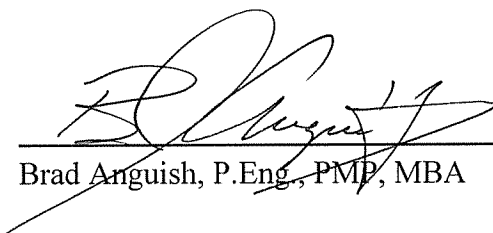


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Halifax Regional Council
December 16, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Brad Anguish, P.Eng., PMP, MBA

DATE: December 3, 2003

SUBJECT: **Flooding - Cole Harbour - District 4**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the Regional Council meeting of April 15, 2003, Item 7.1, a motion was passed to request “that staff, in consultation with members of Council, identify cross jurisdictional problems and suggest a solution to these concerns and how they can be addressed. Further, a report be provided as to the feasibility of a study being undertaken by an outside consultant relative to the flooding problems in the Ross Road/Delta area of District 4.”

BACKGROUND

Staff have met with Councillor Cooper to get a clearer understanding of the issues.

DISCUSSION

The Councillor has identified a number of issues. The issues, and staff's action on each, are as follows:

- 1 Culvert under Highway 207, near Old Lawrencetown Road - Staff are intending to replace the culvert, or add another, to improve flow capability. **Funding for this project is available in an approved budget and staff are currently designing the works with the intent to construct next year.**
- 2 Cross-jurisdictional issues - Responsibility for certain flooding issues are identified in the Municipality's Policy entitled "Drainage - Private Property," which was adopted by Regional Council on December 16, 1997. Other cross-jurisdictional issues have been identified to be addressed as part of the Water Resource Management Strategy.
- 3 Runoff from logged area - Staff have asked a consultant to investigate this matter to determine possible impacts to the community. Once a response is received, staff will review with the Councillor for the area.
- 4 Watercourse at culvert under Ross Road - Staff previously requested the Provincial Department of Environment and Labour (NSDEL) and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to allow HRM to remove a natural obstruction in the watercourse, which would have the effect of increasing the flow capacity of the watercourse, and possibly reduce local flooding.

In the 2002 Wallace Macdonald & Lively report entitled "Ross Road Area Storm Sewer - Servicing and Options Evaluation Report," it was recommended not to proceed with altering the watercourse for the following reasons:

- Both NSDEL and DFO consider the stream a watercourse. DFO also considers the stream a fish habitat and that any construction activity may harm the stream. Any construction on the stream would require reconstruction of habitat elsewhere on the stream at a minimum ratio of 3 to 1.
- Acquiring approvals to conduct work within the watercourse would be time consuming and costly.
- The stream directs surface water and basements are affected by groundwater with only secondary effects from the stream.

Councillor Cooper asked staff to revisit this issue and make the request of NSDEL again. Staff have had a discussion with NSDEL and now have a site meeting set up with DFO, and will convey any new information arising out of this meeting directly to the area Councillor.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Re Item 1, approved funding for a new culvert under Highway 207 is available under Account number CGR00492, "Ross Road Area Storm Sewer."

Re Item 3, cost for consultant investigation will be several thousand dollars, which is also available under Account number CGR00492.

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

None Recommended.

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.

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