



Committee of the Whole Excerpts
January 13, 2026

MILL LAKES DIVERSION PIPE TENDER AWARD EXCERPT

The Mill Lakes Diversion Pipe project was a critical capital initiative to ensure a reliable water supply to the Windsor Water Treatment Plant and to maintain required ecological flows in Falls Brook. Following repeated blockages of the Mill Lakes dam outlet control structure beginning in fall 2024 combined with low lake levels that halted gravity flow, emergency pumping was required on multiple occasions to sustain water supply, highlighting the need for a permanent solution. Design for the project was completed in 2025 and the work was tendered in December 2025, with five compliant bids received. Gary Parker Excavating Ltd. submitted the lowest compliant bid and based on price, experience, and compliance, was being recommended for award of the construction contract.

The recommended motion was that Committee of the Whole recommends ...

COUNCIL APPROVE THE AWARD OF TENDER WHRMPW25-14 — MILL LAKES DIVERSION PIPE — TO GARY PARKER EXCAVATING LTD. FOR THE TENDERED PRICE OF \$347,599.60 BEFORE APPLICABLE TAXES.

COUNCIL APPROVE A CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY AMOUNT OF \$52,139.94 BEFORE APPLICABLE TAXES.



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Committee of the Whole

Submitted by: 
Todd Richard, Director of Public Works

Date: January 13, 2026

Subject: Tender Award — Mill Lakes Diversion Pipe

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act, Section 65 authorizes Council to expend funds for municipal purposes.

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

Committee of the Whole recommends that Council:

- 1. Approve the award of Tender WHRMPW25-14 — Mill Lakes Diversion Pipe — to Gary Parker Excavating Ltd. for the tendered price of \$347,599.60 before applicable taxes.***
- 2. Approve a construction contingency amount of \$52,139.94 before applicable taxes.***

BACKGROUND

Property ☒	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☒	Social ☒	Economic ☒	Councillor Activity ☐
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The Mill Lakes Diversion Pipe project (see Figure 1-1) was included as a priority in the 2025/26 Capital Budget. In the fall of 2024, the outlet control structure at the Mill Lakes earthen dam became blocked (see Figure 1-2). Attempts made to remove the blockage were not successful. The fall of 2024 also saw low lake levels that resulted in the water level dropping below the overflow level. With the control structure blocked and the lake level below the overflow level there was no water flowing from the lake to the WTP. As an emergency response to the situation a temporary pumping system was installed to pump water from the lake to Falls Brook so the

water supply to Windsor WTP could be adequately maintained. This pumping system was removed when the lake level increased naturally after rain events. This same scenario repeated itself in the summer and fall of 2025. This project is critical to supply the required flows from Mill Lakes to the Windsor WTP for the Water Utility, as well as ecological maintenance flows through Fall Brook.

Figure 1-1. Project Overview

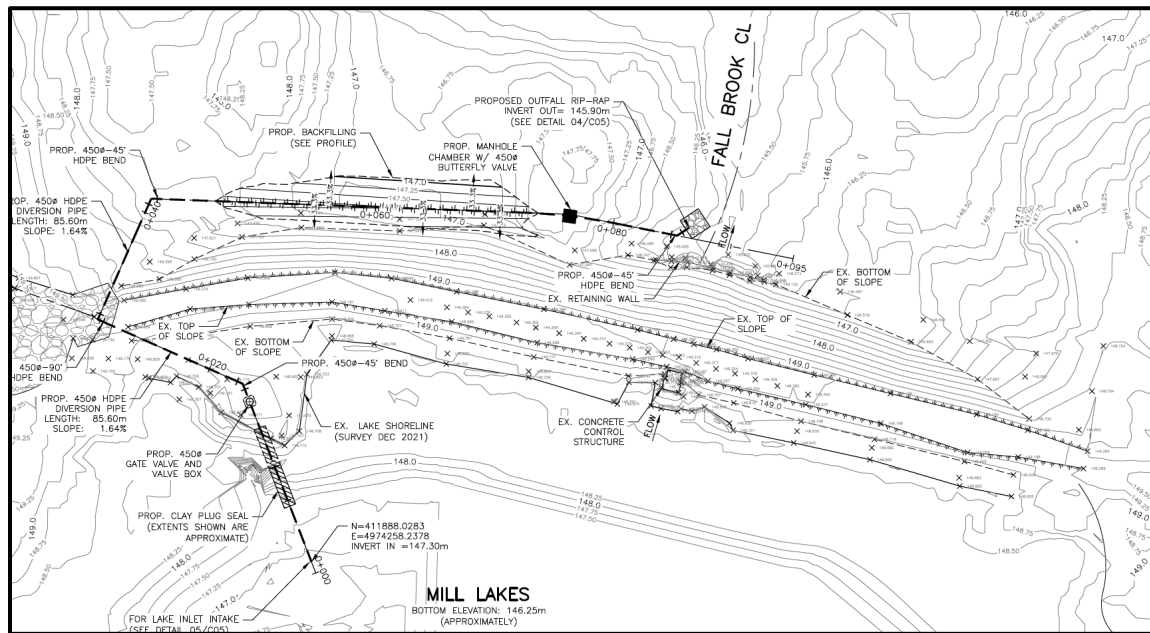


Figure 1-2. Existing Control Structure



DISCUSSION

The design work for this project was completed over the last year, and the project was tendered in December 2025. On December 18, 2025, five tenders were received for construction services for the Mill Lakes Diversion Pipe (Tender WHRMPW25-14), which were reviewed for mathematical checks and compliance by Engineering staff:

Tenderer	Tenderer's Location	Price (before HST)
Axeman Landscaping & Construction Inc.	Falmouth, NS	\$387,650.00
Dexter Construction Company Ltd.	Wolfville, NS	\$487,310.00
Gary Parker Excavating Ltd.	Kingston, NS	\$347,599.60
Harbour Construction Company Ltd.	Dartmouth, NS	\$438,690.00
Mid Valley Construction (1997) Ltd.	Kingston, NS	\$436,722.00

Gary Parking Excavating Ltd. (GPE) is the low bidder for this project. Their submission was fully compliant with the tender requirements. GPE has significant experience with similar projects within West Hants Regional Municipality and across the province, and is therefore being recommended to Council for award of this project.

NEXT STEPS

Following the award of the contract by Council:

- Sign Form of Agreement with successful contractor.
- Issue Purchase Order to successful contractor.
- Project Engineer will be responsible for contract administration/management.
- Construction to be substantially completed by August 30, 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Timeline: 60 days

Posted to Procurement	December 4, 2025
Closing Date	December 18, 2025
Price Expiry Date	March 18, 2026
Days Remaining	64

2025-26 Capital Budget - Mill Lakes Earthen Dam Intake Upgrades

Proposed Bid Total:	\$347,599.60
15% Project Contingency:	<u>\$52,139.94</u>
Total (applicable taxes extra):	\$399,739.54
Applicable Taxes (3.86%):	<u>\$15,429.95</u>
Total Project Costs:	<u>\$415,169.49</u>
2025-26 Budget	\$1,564,350.00
Less: Professional Services incl. Applicable Taxes (Previously Approved):	\$47,256.30
Less: Proposed Tender:	<u>\$415,169.49</u>
Remaining Budget*:	\$1,101,924.21
Project Funding	
Long-Term Borrowing - Utility	<u>\$415,169.49</u>
Total Project Funding:	<u>\$415,169.49</u>

*This project has had multiple components over the last few years. \$425,000 will be carried forward in 2026-27 to complete this project, and future upgrades to the Mill Lakes Source Water Infrastructure have been included in the 5-year Capital Budget Plan.

The total estimated debt servicing for this portion of the project is \$32,536.78.

ALTERNATIVES

- Council may choose not to proceed with this project and cancel the construction tender (not recommended).
- Negotiate reduced scope of work with low bidder (not recommended).

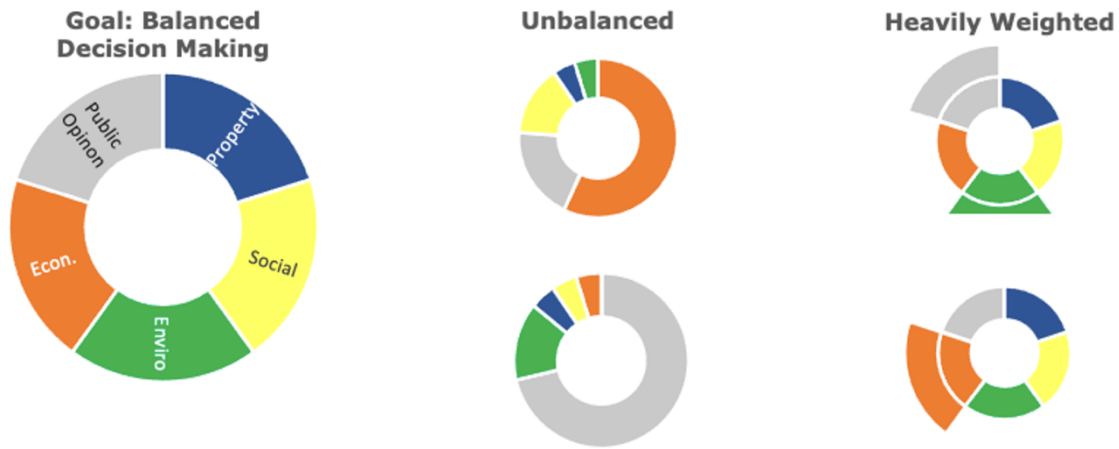
ATTACHMENTS

- None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

I support the recommendation.

Council has been provided with a reference taken from the Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy , Appendix C “Decision Making by Council and Committee of the Whole” as a reminder of the principles highlighted for good decision making.



Report Prepared by: Tim B
Tim Bouter, Project Engineer

Report Reviewed by: T. Richard
Todd Richard, Director of Public Works

Report Approved by: Mark Phillips
Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer