



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Mayor Zebian and Members of West Hants Regional Municipality Council

Submitted by: _____
John Ogilvie, Climate Action Coordinator

Date: 2025-04-22

Subject: Nova Scotia Flood Risk Investment Infrastructure Program (FRIIP) Application

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

NS *Municipal Government Act*, Section 65

RECOMMENDATION

...that Council endorses an application to the Nova Scotia Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program, to assist in funding the Home Flood Protection Pilot Program, for which Council has previously allocated \$480,000 in the 2024-25 Operating Budget and is being carried over into the 2025-26 Operating Budget.

BACKGROUND

Property ☒	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☒	Social ☐	Economic ☒	Councillor Activity ☐
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At the January 23, 2024, Council meeting, Council passed the following motion:

“Council direct staff to create a home flood protection program and present it to Council by the March Committee of the Whole meeting for viewing and/or approval for budgetary implications”.

Following Council decisions on key program parameters and Council approval of the program policy, the Home Flood Protection Pilot Program (HFPPP) opened for applications for six (6) weeks from early September to mid-October 2024. At the December 10, 2024, Council meeting,

Council approved the 33 eligible applications to the HFPPP and allocated an additional \$80,000 to the program budget. Since that approval, I have worked with applicants to execute participation agreements between them and the Municipality as well as the Clean Foundation to prepare for home flood risk assessments; this work is ongoing.

Since the motion of Council to create the HFPPP, staff have continued to investigate funding sources for this program to offset the municipal budget allocation.

DISCUSSION

The FRIIP is targeted toward projects involving flood intensity mitigation, mapping to identify flood-prone areas, and identifying potential solutions to mitigate flood impacts. Funding can go toward professional services and construction/equipment per plans and specifications. A resolution of Council supporting the application is required for the FRIIP, which is the first recommended motion in this report.

Council has previously allocated \$480,000 in the 2024-25 Operating Budget for the HFPPP, which is being carried over into the 2025-26 Operating Budget. Staff are recommending an application to the FRIIP, which may fund up to 50% of project costs, to offset the municipal allocation for the HFPPP. Staff have already applied to the Intact Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants program for up to \$200,000 to support this project and are awaiting results of that application. The two (2) funding sources could be stacked if the Municipality receives both.

If the Municipality receives funding from the FRIIP and/or Intact Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants program, the withdraws from the WHRM Operating Reserve associated with the HFPPP will be significantly reduced.

NEXT STEPS

If Council supports the funding application, I will submit the application to the FRIIP by the April 28, 2025, deadline.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Submitting the application to the FRIIP will not have an impact on municipal finances. If the application is successful, it may result in significant funding for the HFPPP up to \$240,000. This funding would significantly reduce the municipal allocation of funding for this program by reducing the withdraw from the WHRM Operating Reserve.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may:

- Choose not to support the application to the FRIIP;
- Make the recommended motions with specific amendments; or

- Request further information on a specific topic.
- If the external funding is received, Council could re-allocate municipal funds toward further climate action efforts to reduce emissions and enhance climate change resiliency throughout the region. This allocation would remain subject to Council approval for use as the municipal contribution toward climate action projects.

ATTACHMENTS

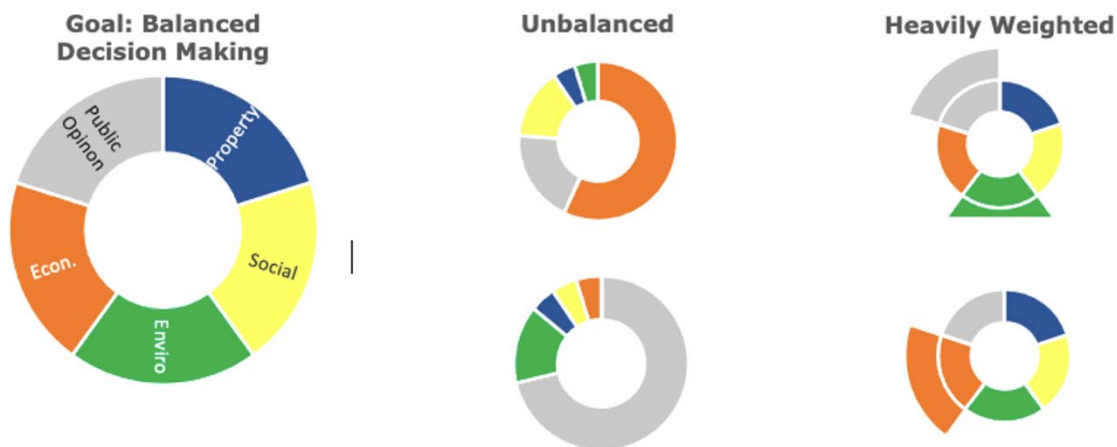
There are no attachments to this report.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

As noted in the report, a motion of Council is required to accompany the application. This is a great initiative put forth by the coordinator.

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: _____

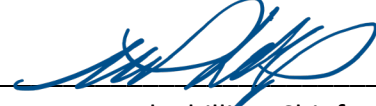
John Ogilvie, Climate Action Coordinator

Report Reviewed by: _____

Kari Fougere, Acting Director of Planning and Development

Report Reviewed by: _____

Carlee Rochon, Director of Financial Services

Report Approved by:  _____

Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer