



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
--------------------------------------	--	---	--

To: West Hants Regional Municipality Council

Submitted by: Kevin Bennett, Manager Parks & Recreation Facilities

Date: September 12, 2025

Subject: Trail Grading and Finishing WHRMCD25-07 Recommendation Report

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act, Section 65, Powers to expend funds for a municipal purpose.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approves the award of tender WHRMCD25-07 RFP to Axeman Construction. for the grading and gravel on the rail line trail in the amount of \$149,760.00 plus applicable taxes to be funded through the Canada Community Building Fund.
2. Approves a contingency amount of \$7,500 plus applicable taxes for the project, to be funded through the Canada Community Building Fund.

BACKGROUND

Property ☒	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☒	Social ☒	Economic ☒	Councillor Activity ☐
--	--	---	--	--	---

In 2025 trail repairs were completed on 6.2km section of the rail line which included culvert replacement throughout the section; repairs to trail were completed and large stone placed on the trail. The trail needs to be graded and sloped with new gravels put on the existing surface to make it multi-use.

DISCUSSION

Included in the 2025-26 West Hants Regional Municipality Capital Budget, \$264,684 has been allocated for repairs and upgrades to the rail corridor trail system.

Tenders were called on the Provincial Procurement site and closed on July 31, 2025, for the WHRMCD25-07 RFP.

Six proponents responded to the amended tender, as follows:

Vendor	Item	Purchase Price	Total Value (incl. applicable taxes)
Nova Peak Contracting	Grading and gravels	\$179,500.00	\$214,678.62
Axeman Construction	Grading and gravels	\$197,760.00	\$205,393.53
Dexter Construction	Grading and gravels	\$239,575.00	\$248,822.59
Joe Dirt Excavation Ltd.	Grading and gravels	\$269,115.00	\$279,502.83
Landworks Excavation Inc.	Grading and gravels	\$345,000.00	\$358,317.00
Cumberland Paving and Contracting	Grading and gravels	\$731,111.00	\$759,331.88

A review of the tenders noted significant inconsistencies and prompted staff to reach out to each proponent seeking an update to their bid with a September 5th deadline to respond. The original tender called for recommendations for surfacing based on tonnage and width. However, staff found too many variations from vendor to vendor which made it difficult to make a fair and accurate decision. The proponents were requested to change the bid to specified measurement, using 3500 cubic yards and width of 12 ft. max.

Three proponents responded to the amended tender, as follows:

Vendor	Item	Purchase Price	Total Value (incl. applicable taxes)
Axeman Construction	Grading and gravels	\$149,760.00	\$155,540.73
Nova Peak Contracting	Grading and gravels	\$206,700.00	\$214,678.62
Dexter Construction	Grading and gravels	\$246,940.00	\$259,587.68

Staff are recommending \$149,760.00 plus applicable taxes and the \$7,500.00 contingency be allocated to this project.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of Council, staff will proceed with issuing this tender to Axeman Construction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Posted to Procurement	July 18, 2025
Closing Date	July 31, 2025
Deadline to submit	September 5, 2025
Price Expiry Date	October 19, 2025

2025-26 Capital Budget – Rail Corridor Trail System, Active Transportation & Community Trail Opportunities

Axeman Construction		
Tender Pricing		\$149,760.00
Contingencies (5%)	\$7,500.00	
Contingencies total	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Non-Recoverable Tax (3.86%)		<u>\$4,070.23</u>
Total Project Cost		\$163,330.23
Budget		<u>\$264,684.00</u>
Under Budget		\$100,953.77

The trail development is budgeted to come from the Canada Community Building Fund. With this project

coming under budget, it will reduce the draw from the CCBF reserve by \$100,953.77. The anticipated combine CCBF reserve balance on March 31, 2026, is estimated to be \$2.9 million.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council may choose not to proceed with project.
2. Council may choose to award this contract to an alternative proponent.

Neither of these alternatives are recommended by staff.

ATTACHMENTS

None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

I support the recommendation.

Report Prepared by: _____

Kevin Bennett, Manager, Parks & Recreation Facilities

Report Reviewed by: _____

Kathy Kehoe, Director Community Development

Report Reviewed by: _____

Carlee Rochon, Director Financial Services

Report Approved by:  _____

Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer