



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: West Hants Regional Municipality Council

Submitted by: Kevin Bennett, Manager Parks & Recreation Facilities

Date: November 28, 2025

Subject: Little River Bridge Construction WHRMCD25-10 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 WHRMCD25-10 RFP to Vaters Excavation Ltd in the amount of \$672,048.00 plus applicable taxes to be funded through the Canada Community Building Fund
2. Approves a contingency amount of \$33,602.40 (5%) plus applicable taxes for the project, to be funded through Canada Community Building Fund.

BACKGROUND

Property ☒	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☒	Social ☒	Economic ☒	Councillor Activity ☐
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The current Little River Bridge had assessments completed by Design Point and Trail Flow Consulting in 2021 and at that time it was determined the bridge was not considered safe, did not meet the Nova Scotia OHV trail bridge standards. Since those reports the current Little River Bridge has continued to deteriorate to the point where staff have placed barriers in place to prevent usage from OHV's and pedestrians. At this moment the Bridge is "walkable" only and not safe for anything else.

The bridge is a key linkage to the trail system and required to safely connect the trail.

DISCUSSION

Included in the 2025-26 West Hants Regional Municipality Capital Budget, \$750,000 has been allocated for the replacement of the bridge.

Tenders were called on the Provincial Procurement site and closed on November 13, 2025, for the WHRMCD25-010 RFP.

Six proponents responded to the tender, as follows:

Vendor	Item	Purchase Price	Total Value (incl. applicable taxes)
Bellerose Project Management	Supply and Install Bridge	\$1,549,377.00	\$1,609,182.95
Dexter Construction Company	Supply and Install Bridge	\$1,185,000.00	\$1,230,741.00
Timber Restoration Services	Supply and Install Bridge	\$880,000.00	\$913,968.00
Wilcraft Concrete Services Limited	Supply and Install Bridge	\$765,000.00	\$794,529.00
KB Civil Constructors Inc.	Supply and Install Bridge	\$773,000.00	\$802,837.80
Vaters Excavation Ltd.	Supply and Install Bridge	\$672,048.00	\$697,989.05

Staff evaluation

Proponent Name	Technical Score	Cost Score	Total Score	Total Bid Price (excluding HST)
Bellerose Project Management	66	13	78.5	\$1,549,377.00
Dexter Construction Company	67	17	84	\$1,185,000.00
Timber Restoration Services	63	22.9	85.9	\$880,000.00
Wilcraft Concrete Services Limited	64	26.4	89.9	\$765,000.00
KB Civil Constructors Inc.	64	26	90.1	\$773,000.00
Vaters Excavation Ltd.	61	30	91	\$672,048.00

After reviewing all submissions, staff are recommending Vaters Excavation Ltd. in the amount of \$672,048.00 plus applicable taxes and a \$33,602.40 contingency be allocated to this project.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of Council, staff will proceed with issuing this tender to Vaters Excavation Ltd.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Posted to Procurement	October 29, 2025
Closing Date	November 13, 2025
Price Expiry Date	February 13, 2026

In 2024-25, the Municipality received Off Highway Vehicle grant funding of \$50,000 and \$100,000 in Recreational Trail Expansion funding. Some of this funding went towards the design and engineering of the project. The remaining funds are to be used towards the construction of the bridge by March 31, 2026.

Design, Engineering, Project Management	\$65,470.00
Non-Recoverable Tax (4.29%)	<u>\$2,808.66</u>
Total Initial Project Costs	\$68,278.66
Provincial Grant Funding	<u>\$150,000.00</u>
Remaining	\$81,721.34

2025-26 Capital Budget – Little River Bridge

Recommended Tender Pricing	\$672,048.00
Contingencies (5%)	\$33,602.40
Non-Recoverable Tax (3.86%)	<u>\$27,238.10</u>
Total Project Cost	\$732,888.50
Budget	
Provincial Grant Funding Remaining	\$81,278.66
Canada Community Building Fund	<u>\$650,000.00</u>
Variance (over budget)	(\$1,167.16)

The remaining funding for the Little River Bridge project is to be funded through the Canada Community Building Fund. With this project coming in over budget, it will increase the draw from the CCBF reserve by \$1,167.16.

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

As noted in the report this is a critical piece of infrastructure that will link the WHRM trail section through to East Hants and its linear network toward Kennetcook plus various other trails leading north to Walton and south to Beaver Bank.

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