



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ✓	Recommendation ☐	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ✓
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To: Committee of the Whole – West Hants Regional Municipality

Submitted by: Jim Ivey, Councillor Windsor South, District 11

Date: May 14, 2024

Subject: Request for Information Report – Flood Zone Property Option

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy – Councillor Report

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

Council direct the CAO to engage staff for delivery of a report by May 28, 2024 regarding considerations that should be taken into account in the event Council wished to explore the option of property buy-outs where combined sewer overflows occurs, resulting in sewer water flowing over land onto private properties on a recurring basis.

BACKGROUND

Property ☐	Public Opinion ✓	Environment ☐	Social ☐	Economic ✓	Councillor Activity ☐
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Discussion on stormwater and combined sewer overflows have been frequent within the Windsor West Hants area for the past 3 years. In the last year a public statement was made that essentially encouraged residents experiencing such unmitigated results that if they considered asking council to put in a request to the province for a provincial buyout program for flood-prone homes as was done in HRM it would receive council's attention and consideration.

Although this statement was made publicly, nothing has been done to date for Council to be able to comprehensively even consider such an option. With no solutions in sight, it is time and perhaps even necessary for Council consider alternative courses of action.

DISCUSSION

To be determined.

NEXT STEPS

To be determined.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To be determined

ALTERNATIVES

Options for motion revisions or other options from Councillors

ATTACHMENTS

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

As background, I have had the opportunity to speak to DFA (Disaster Financial Assistance) representatives recently, their comments within the existing program is that the program is not currently offering that manner of support. Nor has that support been provided by the DFA program as part of the response to the July 2024 floods, including areas in HRM. This was a verbal update provided to me. There may be additional provincial or federal financial support for such initiatives, they would have to be explored to see if they exist. We are not aware of any programs at this time.

The MGA speaks to the authority of the municipality to purchase lands for municipal purposes.

We await the direction from Council regarding this matter.

Report Prepared by: Jim Ivey

Councillor, Windsor South, District 11

Report Reviewed by: 
Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer