



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: 2024-06-11

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

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

NS Municipal Government Act, Section 65

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

...that Committee of the Whole recommend that Council support 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 allocated \$400,000 in the 2024-25 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".

At the March 26, 2024, Council meeting, Council passed the following motion.

“Council direct staff to create a home flood protection program offering both flood risk assessments and grants for eligible upgrades”.

At the April 24, 2024, Council meeting, Council passed the following motion:

“Staff expedite the grant program and have it in place, so residents have the ability to purchase their own emergency kits to store and have readily available when they are needed.”

At the May 29, 2024, Council meeting (continued from the May 28, 2024, Council meeting), Council voted on the following parameters of the proposed Home Flood Protection Pilot Program:

- 1) Mandatory home flood risk assessments for grants to perform home upgrades;*
- 2) Funding to provide home flood risk assessments for applicants;*
- 3) Staff processing grants for recommendation to Council for approval;*
- 4) Council offering to fund 100% of home upgrades for a successful applicant property, to the specified limit; and*
- 5) Allocating funding for home upgrades for successful applicants, up to \$10,000 per eligible property, with a specific limit of up to \$20,000 per eligible property that has been impacted by combined sewer overflows.*

Since the motion made at the January 23, 2024, Council meeting, staff have been investigating external funding sources that could reduce the financial impacts on the Municipality in establishing the Home Flood Protection Pilot Program.

DISCUSSION

The Home Flood Protection Pilot Program is included in the 2024-25 Operating Budget at \$400,000. Staff are investigating the FRIIP to either expand funding for the Home Flood Protection Pilot Program or offset the Municipal contribution for that program. Funding from this program may significantly improve the Municipality’s ability to assist residents through the Home Flood Protection Pilot Program, which will lead to enhanced climate change resiliency throughout the Region.

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. The program will fund up to 50% of eligible costs, subject to program budget constraints. A resolution of Council supporting the application is required for the FRIIP, which is the recommended motion in this report.

NEXT STEPS

If Council supports the funding application, staff will submit the application to FRIIP by the June 13, 2024, deadline.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The application to FRIIP itself will not have any impact on Municipal finances. If the application is successful, it would result in significant additional funding for the Home Flood Protection Pilot Program. This may enable Council to support a larger number of homes with home flood risk assessments and/or upgrades through the pilot program.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may:

- choose not to support the application to FRIIP;
- request further information on a specific topic.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

Report Prepared by: _____
John Ogilvie, Climate Action Coordinator

Report Approved by: _____
Sara Poirier, Director of Planning and Development and Acting
Chief Administrative Officer