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WEBSITE HOSTING FOR THE LAKE SIMCOE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, November 27, 2003, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. York Region host the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy website.
2. The Regional Solicitor be authorized to develop a Website Hosting Service Level Agreement with Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and that the Commissioners of Planning and Development Services and Finance be authorized to execute the agreement.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is:

- To provide background on the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS) website of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA).
- To seek authority to enter into a Service Level Agreement with LSCRA.

3. BACKGROUND

LSEMS is a program to identify, measure, evaluate and remediate phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe. Partners include York Region, the Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Newmarket, Whitchurch-Stouffville, and the Township of King.

Within the framework of the YorkInfo Partnership Memorandum of Understanding, LSCRA and York Region Geomatics recognized the synergies in developing the LSEMS website based on York Region and partner data. Upon review of the requirements and website architecture, Information Technology Services staff determined that hosting the LSEMS website would not burden the Region's staff or technology resources. It was determined that we should establish a service agreement including cost recovery.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

LSRCA is a member of the YorkInfo Partnership and York Region is a partner in the LSEMS. In hosting the website, there are opportunities to enhance the website functionality to ensure that the data is maintained and integrated with the Region's Internet mapping capability. Other websites hosted by the Region will not be impacted.

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority does not have the infrastructure to host the LSEMS website at this time. The Internet Service Provider used by LSRCA for their corporate website does not currently have the capability nor capacity.

On this basis, it is appropriate that the Region consider hosting the LSEMS website.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

LSRCA is prepared to provide annual financial support for cost recovery of services provided by the Region.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are no local municipal implications for this report.

7. CONCLUSION

As a partner in the program, York Region can provide significant value to LSEMS by hosting the website for the LSRCA. The Regional Solicitor should be authorized to develop a Website Hosting Service Level Agreement. The Commissioners of Planning and Finance should be authorized to execute such agreement.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.