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MEMORANDUM

TO: Western Common Wilderness Common Advisory Committee
FROM: Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist – Parks and Recreation
DATE: May 18, 2018
SUBJECT: Western Common Advisory Committee – Update on Nichols Lake Trail

During the March 28 2018 meeting of the Western Common Wilderness Common Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee requested an update on the progress of the Nichols Lake Trail, including the budget carry over from 2017 to 2018.

HRM Parks and Recreation, Parks Capital Projects are continuing with the construction of the Nichols Lake Trail.

Trail Construction Phasing Summary:

- Phase 1A – Quotation 16-205 issued 2016 (Terra Industrial 600 meters of trail);
- Phase 1B – Tender 17-010 issued 2017 (Cobequid Trail Consulting 1600 meters of trail);
- Phase 1C – Proposed 2018 tender and construction (4 options described below).

As of May 15, 2018:

Approximately 1900 meters of trail has been completed as per 16-205 and 17-010 (Phase 1A and 1B). This 1900 meters includes clearing, grubbing, surge and type 2 gravels (but excludes the type 1 gravel, crusher dust and bark mulch). The last 300 meters of the western trail is cleared and grubbed, but excludes all gravels and mulch. The 300 meters of surge and type 2 were not placed as part of Phase 1B due to insufficient funds in the PO (extra gravel was required during Phase 1B).

Phase 1C – 2018 Proposed Scope of work options:

- **Option 1** - Continue the trail as per the master plan and extend Northeast. This option requires a significant water crossing (bridge) at the waterfalls. This option would involve the Community Centre as a staging area and result in the trail system to remain closed to the public. The Consultant has expressed concerns regarding the site conditions (wet and swampy) on the north side of the waterfalls;
- **Option 2** – Continue the trail as per the master plan and extend Northwest. This option requires a significant water crossing (bridge) over Nichols Run (between Nichols Lake and MacDonald Lake). This option would involve the Community Centre as a staging area and result in the trail system to remain closed to the public;

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- **Option 3** – Construct a new temporary construction access from MacDonald Lake Drive and create a new staging area. This would allow the completion of Phase 1A and most of Phase 1B with type 1 gravel, crusher dust and bark mulch as part of Phase 1C. Phase 1C under this option would also include the design of a significant water crossing (bridge) over Nichols Run (between Nichols Lake and MacDonald Lake). This option would mean that more than 2000 meters of trail could be completed and used by the public by Fall 2018, the downside is that the temporary construction access from MacDonald Lake Drive would be in place for the next several phases;
- **Option 4** – Select a new point of access from the Prospect Road or Old Coach Road and start trail construction from the direction. This would temporarily allow the completion and use of more than 2000 meters at the Community Centre, however there would come a time where construction would shift back to the Community Centre. This shift would result in the closure of the trail during multiple phases of construction.