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COR-2024-329

Reg. #2284

Lucy Goosney
Central Development Association
P.O. Box 10
Parson's Pond, NL A0K 3Z0
E-mail: centdevassoc@nf.aibn.com

Dear Lucy Goosney:

RE: Great Coastal Trail – Parson's Pond to Daniel's Harbour (the Project)

Your proposal has been reviewed by an interdepartmental environmental assessment screening committee and an opportunity to comment has been provided to the public as required by Part X of the Newfoundland and Labrador **Environmental Protection Act**, SNL 2002, cE-14.2. Upon consideration of the comments received, please be advised that an Environmental Preview Report (EPR) is required.

The EPR is a report that supplements the information provided by the proponent in the environmental assessment registration document. Additional information requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Identification of any overlap of the trail with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (TI) property, including rights-of-way, and measures that will be undertaken in consultation with TI to mitigate land use conflicts;
- Identification of any overlap of the trail with other land ownership/use, such as municipal development plans, Local Service Districts, private lands, the Crown Land Wind Land Reserve Order, the Arches Provincial Park, etc., and mitigations that will be undertaken to address potential land use conflicts;
- Avoidance of sand dunes along the trail, particularly at Portland Creek and Clifty Point;
- Digital mapping of the trail, in consultation with the Crown Lands Division of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA);
- Plans to engage the Wildlife and the Crown Lands Divisions of FFA, and TI in discussions on the design of future phases of the Great Coastal Trail;
- Plans for a Short-eared Owl survey to be conducted by a qualified independent third party between late June and late July of the construction year;
- A Contingency Plan that considers potential accidents and malfunctions takes into account site-specific conditions and sensitivities.
- A Management Plan that includes appropriate preventative measures to minimize the risk of adverse effects on migratory birds and their habitats;

- An Environmental Protection Plan that describes measures that will be undertaken to:
 - prohibit motorized vehicle access on the trail;
 - prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species into waters from machinery and equipment working in/near water;
 - avoid Bank Swallow nesting colonies and critical habitat along/near the trail, particularly near areas with known breeding colonies at Parson's Pond and Portland Creek;
 - maintain a minimum 30-meter undisturbed buffer along all waterbodies (except coastline and water crossings) and wetlands (including bogs and marshes) that appear on 1:50,000 National Topographical Survey maps;
 - avoid a small section of a wetland next to the outfall of Portland Brook; and
 - monitor and maintain trail construction and operation by developing a Trail Monitoring and Maintenance Program that commits you to overseeing appropriate trail construction and use;
- A Waste Management Plan specific to the Project;
- Demonstration that the finished grade of the trail crest near the town of Parsons Pond will be below the 20-year flood elevation to avoid interference with the flow of water or displacement of water that could create a worse flooding situation for other locations; and
- An Historic Resources Impact Assessment.

An Environmental Assessment Committee will be appointed for the purpose of providing you with technical and scientific advice regarding the preparation of the EPR. As per the legislative requirements, within 60 days of this letter you will be issued guidelines for the completion of the EPR. Please be reminded that, in accordance with the **Environmental Protection Act**, Project activities may not proceed until the proposal is released from environmental assessment.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Sweeney, Director of the Environmental Assessment Division, at (709) 729-0673 or email joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



HON. BERNARD DAVIS, MHA
District of Virginia Waters – Pleasantville
Minister

Cc: The Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey, Premier
MHA for the District of Humber-Gros Morne