

Town of Riverview

COUNCIL REPORT FORM



Presented to: Mayor and Town Council

Presented by: Shane Thomson, Director ED & Colin Smith, CAO

Date: February 23, 2016

Subject: NB Power LORESS application

Agenda Item:

Meeting Date:

For use by Office of the Town Clerk only

BACKGROUND

Council will recall a staff report in February that was prepared after receiving Naveco Power's pre-feasibility study for the development of a solar farm on the Town's former dump site. At that time, staff's recommendation was for Council to defer applying to the Locally Owned Renewable Energy Projects that are Small Scale Program (LORESS) due to the number of unknown variables and unanswered questions.

Since that time, staff have received an unsolicited expression of interest from another company (QPA Solar) that seems more optimistic that a successful LORESS application is feasible and would like the Town to consider moving forward as a partner. This company has successfully completed other similar projects in Ontario, where solar has been historically more lucrative.

There would be no risk associated with the Town continuing to partner on this application, due April 30th, while we continue to evaluate the various business models and financing options that would allow for a viable project. QPA Solar is looking for a commitment in writing that the Town is an engaged partner and will act as the "local entity" in the application with no obligation financially at this time.

QPA Solar sees a viable business opportunity in continuing to pursue this application and there is no commitment for the Town to proceed any further should the application be successful. Council can evaluate, at that time, if there is any interest in proceeding with the project.

CONSIDERATIONS

Legal: n/a

Financial: None at this time

Policy: Strategic Land Management

Stakeholders:

Council

QPA Solar

Strategic Plan:

- **Planning for the Future**
- **Smart and Sustainable Growth**

Interdepartmental Consultation: n/a

Communication Plan: n/a

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct staff to provide QPA Solar with a written commitment from the Town to act as the local entity for the LORESS application.

Prepared by: Shane Thomson, Director, Economic Development

Approved by: