

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, September 21, 2012				Report Date	Wednesday, September-12-12			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce Proposal and Deputation - Report #21/09/12/1102 - Updated									

Subject: A summary of the meeting attended by the Reeve and Clerk on Friday, August 24, 2012 by the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce and the deputation presented by that same group to Council on Friday, September 7, 2012.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council seriously consider supporting the proposal of the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce.

**WHEREAS** the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce is lobbying for support in principle for the development of a feasibility study for the construction of a tourist destination centre combining a display of Nuclear Science and Technology with a municipally supported visitor information centre;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria agrees that a destination attraction would benefit area residents and businesses including those in Head, Clara & Maria through increased area visitation and public awareness;

**AND WHEREAS** the financial viability of the communities of Deep River and Laurentian Hills will ultimately affect the quality of life for Head, Clara & Maria residents even if the new proposal does not directly benefit our municipality;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby agree to enter into an agreement in principle with the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce and others and authorizes employees to participate in the feasibility study process by providing information and support specifically towards financing and grant opportunities.

Background/Executive Summary: On Friday, August 24, 2012 Reeve Stewart and the Clerk attended a meeting of area Heads of Councils, CAOs, AECL staff and members of the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce to hear a proposal put forth by the Chamber for consideration of participation in "A Center for the History of Canadian Nuclear Science & Technology" coupled with a Tourist Information Center for the Greater Upper Ottawa Valley.

The Chamber members attended Council on September 7, 2012 and made a very similar presentation. Some additional information was included as HCM was last on the "tour" and suggestions were brought forth by others. The basis of the presentation is as follows:

- They are currently looking for a commitment in principle from stakeholders prior to proceeding to the next level for support for a high level concept facility.
- Ultimately, a facility will be built, housing an AECL display as well as a separate section dedicated to local tourism and information.

- The Chamber will take the lead in applying for grants and procuring capital likely financing 50%. They will remain the landlords and once the facility is paid for, will not charge an annual rental fee.
- AECL will be responsible for furnishing and staffing the displays for their section.
- The three (possibly more) municipalities are being requested to consider supporting a pro-rated debt repayment schedule as well as financing annual operating costs specific to the tourist information section.
- The center will be operational year round.
- The entire concept is in its infancy and may develop in ways not yet even considered.
- The Chamber is simply looking for buy-in; prior to spending time and resources going forward.

Why should Council consider supporting this venture?

- It is a cost effective way of providing year-round tourist information.
- Provides unlimited opportunities for marketing, tourism and economic development.
- May provide a significant area attraction.
- Potential job creation.
- Supports the nuclear industry which has been the economic engine for this area for many years in the past and hopefully many years into the future.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: Obviously the Chamber is looking for a long term commitment to financing and support.

Using the data in the report presented in the Chamber's presentation and the "usual" pro-rated per-capita split amongst the three area municipalities; the \$45,330 annual expenses would result in approximately

- \$25, 838 – Deep River
- \$17,225 – Laurentian Hills and
- \$2,266 – Head, Clara & Maria.

The Chamber used in their presentation a 33% split however; the municipalities have agreed in the past to use the fairer per capita split. Details will need to be negotiated and confirmed however a preliminary nod of heads at the initial meeting recognized this distinction.

Obviously this is a very high level estimate, the details will need to be broken down however; the costs do not seem unreasonable for Head, Clara & Maria at this level.

Policy Impact: None, municipalities are free to enter into these types of agreements.

Others Consulted/Resources/References: UOVCC presentation. DRDH cost sharing estimates for physician recruitment.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,  
Municipal Clerk

*Melinda Reith*