

# Strategic Directions 2011 - 2016



November, 2011

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#### 1. Introduction

The Souris Harbour Authority Inc. (SHAI) is a community based not-for-profit corporation that took over port and harbour ownership and management from Transport Canada in 2006.

This strategic directions document is the second draft resulting from a review of the port's situational analysis, the authority's experience to date, consultations and a planning session with the SHAI board and management. After written feedback from the board, another planning session will take place in early November to finalize the Authority's strategic direction for the next five years.

#### 2. Mission Statement

The Souris Harbour Authority Inc. owns and operates a safe, efficient, and financially viable port that facilitates the marine transportation and commercial needs of the industries it serves.

#### 3. Vision

- The Souris Port is a successful, financially self-sustaining and environmentally responsible port providing marine and fishery services support.
- SHAI initiates new viable business development necessary to generate new revenues and support the business and economic development objectives of our community and the province.
- The Souris Port meets or exceeds all safety standards and regulatory requirements, providing a high level of safety to all port users.
- The Souris Port generates loyalty from its users and provides high levels of customer satisfaction while exhibiting a strong image of success.
- The Souris Port develops and maintains strong partnerships with the Eastern P.E.I. business community, government agencies, other ports in the Atlantic region and other community stakeholders to cooperatively maximize the value and economic impact of the port.

# 4. Situational Analysis

The geographic, economic and business conditions at the Souris Port and Harbour center on a number of underlying circumstances that focus the strategic direction of the port. These include:

- The Souris Port is P.E.I.'s most easterly port providing both commercial marine shipping services as well as safe harbour berthage and buying stations for the fishery.
- The port is also the home of an interprovincial ferry service between P.E.I. and the Isles de la Madeleine, P.Q.
- The Souris Port is a cornerstone asset of economic importance in Eastern P.E.I. by virtue of its strategic location and long history as an important base for the fishery and commercial shipping;
- Operations are guided by many provincial and federal acts and regulations including a 15 year contribution agreement signed with the federal government upon transfer in 2006.

- Traffic is highly seasonal and heavily dependent on the strength of the construction industry and the mobility characteristics of the fishery;
- Growth in revenues is highly likely to be from new business initiatives rather than from traditional port operations;
- Revenue is highly dependent on earnings from vested funds;
- Expenses have a high fixed cost structure and increase as infrastructure ages;
- Partnerships and alliances with key industry and government stakeholders have and will continue to prove invaluable;
- Meeting or exceeding regulations and guidelines are standard management practices that fulfill the SHAI's commitment to environmental stewardship;
- Employee personal values, experience, commitment and team work positively contribute to the success of the corporation;
- SHAI has benefited from contracted services provided by its Business Development Consultant and Construction Management Advisor who are experienced, local professionals. This expertise has been most beneficial to SHAI's transition from a government operated port to a community based business.
- Board of Directors, management and contracted personnel foster good governance, initiative, teamwork, entrepreneurship and professionalism.

# 5. Value Statement and Opportunities

#### • Facilities and Equipment

The Souris Port has excellent facilities and infrastructure. The port is capable of accommodating domestic and international marine traffic. The port has the most ice free of any commercial harbour on P.E.I. that is even more accessible in winter now that the CTMA ferry service operates year around. The Authority also maintains its facilities and operations equipment to a high and safe standard as evident by its annual investments in its capital program and the positive comments received by its users, residents and Transport Canada staff conducting annual monitoring visits.

#### • Sound Financial Position

The Authority enjoys a favorable financial position with total assets of \$28 million of which \$19.5 million is invested capital. Since transfer, over \$9 million has been invested in land, capital infrastructure, major repairs, equipment and improvements. This was achieved by utilizing \$5.7 million from internally generated reserves, \$1 million in financial contributions from government partners and \$2.9 million in long-term debt.

## • Community/Business/Government Support

A dedicated and experienced Board of Directors has led the port's growth and development and with management has enjoyed excellent communications with and support from community, business and government stakeholders.

#### • New Marine Business Opportunities

To maintain and grow marine traffic, the Authority must seek new opportunities where demand is warranted. A marine business study being conducted by Capt. Jeff Monroe of HDR Inc., an international consulting group will be helpful in identifying new potential port users and opportunities. He is researching the business case and assessing shippers' interest, logistics and viability of using the port as a feeder container terminal.

#### • Lack of a Diversified Revenue Base and High Fixed Cost Structure

The Souris Port was divested by Transport Canada because the federal government was not committed to continue supporting this infrastructure. As a result, the divestiture contribution fund manifested the government's divestiture strategy, thus revenues from investments received from the divestiture contribution represent a high proportion of total earned revenue. Fifty-six percent of total earned revenues are from investments. For comparison purposes, the Charlottetown Harbour Authority's investment revenue represents 35% of its earned revenues. Notwithstanding this fact, in order for the Authority to grow operational revenues, it needs to expand its marine and land side business base. SHAI has prepared a long term capital repairs plan and has its 10 year financial forecast demonstrates it can sustain future major repairs.

#### New Business Development

Since its start-up, the Authority has researched, prospected and implemented new business development opportunities. A waterfront lands and related business opportunities plan developed a vision and land use plan for the highest and best use of existing and future SHAI waterfront lands. These opportunities included a number of initiatives, some started and others not as noted in the Appendix "A". Other opportunities were subsequently identified as a result of SHAI's active involvement in the business community.

#### 6. Goals and Action Strategies

The Authority has identified six long-term goals with twenty-one accompanying action strategies which support the SHAI mission statement and moves the Authority towards accomplishment of its vision. Goals and action strategies surround the following strategic elements:

#### 6.1 Maintain High Quality Port Infrastructure and Services

Provide facilities, infrastructure and services that exceed the expectations of the users, regulators, and tenants and contribute to a positive user and community image that meets or exceed all safety, security and environmental guidelines, standards, and regulations.

#### Actions

- Ensure Capital Committee regularly follows and updates capital maintenance plan as prepared by EastPoint Engineering
- Maintain a progressive rehabilitation strategy for all berthing and topside infrastructure.
- Develop and implement an approved safety management system that exceeds best practices in the industry.
- With insurers, implement a risk assessment and incident reporting system.

#### **6.2 Pursue Marine Services Growth**

Pursuant to Jeffery Monroe's study, develop and maintain shipping services that increases port capacity and growth meeting the needs of the shippers, our industries and the users.

#### Actions

• Follow up on Jeff Monroe's recommendations including making necessary investments in capturing the potential new marine business.

#### **6.3 Enhance Community and Customer Reputation**

Increase community support, user loyalty and enhanced awareness of the value of our port.

#### <u>Actions</u>

- Revamp website profiling port and business initiatives.
- Personally invite media, business leaders, mayor and councillors, stakeholder organizations, MLA's, MP's, economic development people, etc. to a SHAI annual function.
- Issue media releases for significant port events and happenings.
- Have meetings with users when requested.
- Prepare a summary of community support provided by SHAI for inclusion in community newsletter, on website. Information should include support to various individuals and organizations (not names but the \$ amounts provided in total) to inform the community about SHAI's support in our community.
- Take advantage of representation and leadership in various organizations including IMPAC and ACPA.

#### **6.4 Optimize Financial Performance**

Operate a fiscally responsible and financially sustainable port that reduces the operating deficit and ensures sufficient capital reserves are available for capital improvements and major maintenance.

#### **Actions**

- Establish a Business Management Oversight Committee for the various new SHAI business entities to review performance and operations.
- When required, seek guidance and advice on financial matters from the Authority's auditors and other professionals including the investment management team.
- Continue to use the financial forecast spread sheet model with ten year operations
  cash flows to accurately project cash reserves against mid and long-term capital
  requirements. This spread sheet should be dynamic capable of sensitivity analysis
  with the ability to change assumptions in revenue and expenses (including payroll
  increases) in order to provide the Finance Committee and Board with an impact
  assessment tool for analysis and decision making when facing significant financial
  impact decisions.
- Review expense categories and accounts with the view to seek potential savings.

#### **6.5 Initiate New Business Development**

Continue the development of new businesses at the waterfront and in the Town of Souris in order to bring additional revenues to the corporation and generate positive economic impact to the area.

#### **Actions**

- Review new initiatives/projects through the Business Development/Marketing and Finance Committees and obtain final approval required by the Board of Directors.
- Seek new business initiatives/projects that have synergies with port and waterfront opportunities.
- Initiatives/projects should be designed to garner higher returns on SHAI's cash equity than traditionally received from the investment portfolio.
- Initiatives/projects should attempt to have government program contributions to reduce risk and lever SHAI's equity positions.
- Continue to work with Innovation PEI with business prospecting.

#### 6.6 Practice Good Corporate Leadership and Culture

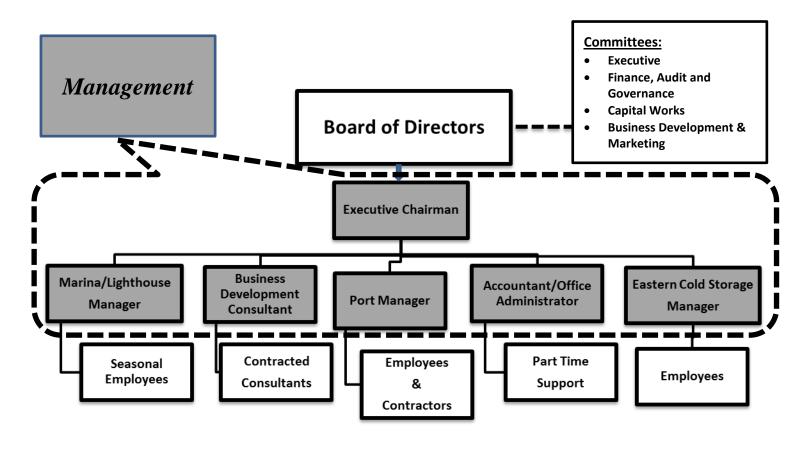
Sustain and promote a corporate culture that ensures effective board governance and a talented, motivated and professional management team and staff who contribute to a viable port.

#### **Actions**

- Once every two years, hold a professional development session with the Board of Directors to provide new insights on the role and responsibilities of board members.
- Prepare a plan that offers professional development and training opportunities to management to ensure that employees have the required skills and competencies.
- Conduct a board evaluation on a scheduled basis.

# 6.7 Organization Structure and Decision Making

# **Organization Chart**



#### **Decision Making**

In simple terms, the Board decides on the right things to do and the management decides on the right way to do them. The Board must be seen as independent, objective, and well informed, and avoiding micromanaging. Micromanaging means during board meetings discussing and communicating with management with questions on day to day details. Management must make and implement decisions that produce results acceptable to the corporation without placing it at an undue risk. The Board's principle function is to provide strategic direction to management to oversee the Corporation's performance. The Board should not be involved in the day to day operations and issues related to same. Since the management and staff work for the full Board and report to the Executive Chairman, neither Committees nor individual Board members exercise authority over the management or staff. The management need not seek Committee approval to carry out a management act; that is, an action that is included or intended to be included within an existing policy statement, spending authority or budget approved by the Board.

Financial authorities that permit spending to specific limits are authorized by Board policy and an excellent guide for independent management decision making. The Board should not be unduly questioning management spending decisions within their respective authorities. This is an example of micromanaging and lack of confidence in management. In other words, management has approved spending authority levels in order to efficiently transact company business. Board oversee of all expenditures is beneficial, but the Board's focus should be more on policy, strategic plans and issues and with mid to long term planning.

#### **Committees**

Committees are assigned to provide more detail policy alternatives and implications on specific corporate areas of responsibility for board deliberation. They are responsible to reinforce the wholeness of the Board, but never to interfere with the delegation from the Board to the management. Members or Committees may not speak or act for the Board except when formally given such authority for specific and time limited purposes. Expectations and authority will be carefully stated in order not to conflict with the authority delegated to the management.

Since the management and staff work for the full Board, neither Committees nor individual board members exercise authority over the management or staff. The management need not seek Committee approval to carry out an executive/management act; that is, an action that is included or intended to be included within an existing policy statement or budget approved by the Board.

#### Appendix "A" SHAI New Business Development

#### **Land Purchases**

A strategic part of SHAI's long term sustainability plan is to purchase properties adjacent to the port for future development. To date, 14 parcels totalling 13 acres costing \$376,000 purchased from 9 different owners. Key purchases allowed for consolidation of topside storage property on Breakwater Street and leases to Shirley's Takeout, CTMA and Leo Mallard. Other purchases consolidate land east of marine facilities to and including the lighthouse and a strategic location on corner of Breakwater Street and MacPhee Avenue.

#### Eastern Cold Storage

ECS opened for business at the end of June 2009. After an unusually successful first year with Oxford Foods filling the freezer, the business is now maturing in the market place with a wide variety of seafood and agriculture industry customers plus a growing bait freezing and storage service. In October/November 2011, SHAI management and MRSA are conducting a comprehensive cost/revenue review of ECS including its financing and operations.

#### Souris Light House

After a number of years of negotiation, agreement was reached with Canada Coast Guard to divest the Souris Light to SHAI. In 2009, SHAI developed the facility and lands as an anchor waterfront attraction on the waterfront. In 2011/12, SHAI, with extensive financial support from Skills PEI is construction a 1,200 sq.ft. building to accommodate a gift shop and washrooms to enhance the lighthouse visitation experience. The building will be designed and built to look and feel similar to one of the smaller historic buildings that was on the site.

#### Ice House

In 2009 after legal research, SHAI had determined that the ice house on the Marine Terminal Wharf that was operated by Ocean Choice International was owned by SHAI. Subsequently, SHAI leased the facility to OCI for two years but now operates it independently providing a full ice supply service to the fishery.

#### Souris Marina

The Marina was divested to SHAI from the Town of Souris and under SHAI management is experiencing continual growth and in concert with a new topside storage facility forms an integral part of the waterfront development plan.

#### Topside Vessel Storage

As part of the waterfront master planning process, SHAI developed a 2.5 acre topside storage facility for a marina/vessel services utilizing travel lift, winter storage on SHAI lands, and the utilization of local resources/services for refits, repairs, maintenance of vessels. SHAI levered 2/3 government funding for the \$450,000 construction cost of the facility.

#### Canadian Coast Guard

In anticipation of the Canadian Coast Guard relocation from Charlottetown, SHAI prepared proposals, carried out public relations and lobbied to demonstrate the cost/benefit of a potential relocation to Souris. After CGG's decision to stay in Charlottetown, this project is not an active file for SHAI.

#### CTMA Terminal Expansion

SHAI prepared plans and presented proposals to Transport Canada in concert with CTMA to expand Ferry Terminal and relocate marina to north side of the port. This project may have potential as SHAI is negotiating with Transport Canada on another matter that may have synergies with this project.

#### Aquaculture

SHAI conducted studies and tests to measure salt content, yields and volumes of its salt water well and drilled a new well to encourage interest from aquaculture firms to establish a facility at the waterfront. Meetings and consultations were held with five different firms. To date, interest from Sustainable Blue, a Nova Scotia firm is being assessed.

#### Wind Turbine Installation

SHAI had a study prepared by Carl Brothers P.Eng of Frontier Energy Systems on the economics of a wind turbine to support Cold Storage power supply. SHAI has obtained special permission from Province of PEI and Maritime Electric to install a 330 Kw turbine, which is well over the 100 Kw installations allowed by legislation. SHAI is now investigating green energy and other government funding support possibilities for the installation.

### **Bio-Mass Energy Development**

SHAI is engaging an engineering firm to prepare a pre-feasibility study with ROI payback analysis to feed district heat to AgraWest Foods and institutional users in eastern Souris. Supply of the bio feedstock would be non-commercial wood chips and/or rotation crops from the agricultural industry. The study will measure heat energy demand from a variety of eastern Souris institutional and industrial users including AgraWest Foods, Ocean Choice International, Eastern Cold Storage, the Eastern Kings Health Centre/Souris Hospital, the Eastern Kings Arena, and the Main Street Mall. Also, the new manor and K-12 school could be potential heat customers. All are or to be located in or close to the Souris Food Park in the eastern end of the town.

#### Souris Harbour Centre

SHAI is purchasing the former French School property located on 41 Breakwater Street overlooking the Isles de Les Madeline Ferry Terminal. The purchase is for 1.26 acres of land bordering on Breakwater Street and Knights Ave. plus the main building that will allow for the development of commercial space. The main building would be completely renovated with new bay windows and outside decking facing the street and wrapping around to an expanded parking lot.

#### Other Prospects

In concert with Innovation PEI, SHAI is in negotiations with two other companies who are considering relocating to Souris. These include a Nova Scotia yacht manufacturer and a British firm that tools parts for the aerospace industry.

# Appendix "B" SHAI Financial Forecast

SOURIS HARBOUR AUTHORITY INC. Financial Forecast			Expense >	Revenue >	ROI SHF	ROI SOF						
			3%	3%	4%	6%						
For year ending March 31	Actual					Projected						
(Confidential)	2010	<u>2011</u>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
PORT OPERATIONS REVENUE												
Berthage Harbour Maintenance Fees	45,959 84,277	45,923 83,443	47,301 1,500	48,720 1,501	50,181 1,502	51,687 1,503	53,237 1,504	54,834 1,505	56,479 1,506	58,174 1,507	59,919 1.508	61,717 1,509
Ice House	9,390	24,424	25,157	25,911	26,689	27,489	28,314	29.164	30,038	30,940	31,868	32,824
Lease and Permits Revenue	40,643	76,402	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Marina Fees	13,974	20,893	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Miscellaneous	4,531	23,676	23,676	23,676	23,676	23,676	23,676	23,676	23,676	23,676	23,676	23,676
Recreational Topside	12,146	11,075	12,183	13,401	14,741	16,215	17,836	19,620	21,582	23,740	26,114	28,726
Wharfage Total Ports Operations Revenue	52,191 <b>263,111</b>	52,609 <b>338,445</b>	57,870 <b>219,186</b>	63,657 <b>228,366</b>	70,023 238,311	77,025 <b>249,095</b>	84,727 <b>260,795</b>	93,200 <b>273,499</b>	102,520 287,302	112,772 302,309	124,049 318,634	136,454 336,405
Total Forts Operations Revenue	203,111	336,443	219,180	220,300	230,311	243,033	200,755	273,433	287,302	302,303	318,034	330,40.
Other Revenue												
Gain on Sale of Investments	220,200	172,991			PROJECTE	D INVESTME	NT REVENUE	SHOWN IN C	ASH FLOW B	ELOW		
Government Contributions	4,722	8,076										
Interest on investments	837,922	738,845										
Transfer Contributions Recognized	712,452 159.347	888,107 160,442										
Amortization of contributions Unrealized Gains/Losses	207,235	166,944										
Total Other Revenue	2,141,878	2,135,405										
TOTAL REVENUE	2,404,989	2,473,850	219,186	228,366	238,311	249,095	260,795	273,499	287,302	302,309	318,634	336,409
EXPENSES	45.051	0	0.55-		0.5==	0.7			40.7	405	40.5	
Advertising Amortiztation	15,061 190,525	8,309 207,092	8,558 0	8,815	9,079	9,352	9,632	9,921	10,219	10,526	10,841	11,167
Amortiztation Bad debt	3,667	-1,800	2,767	2.850	2.936	3.024	3,114	3,208	3,304	3,403	3,505	3,610
Board remuneration	82,700	82,400	54,872	56,518	58,214	59,960	61,759	63,612	65,520	67,486	69,510	71,596
Business development and planning	64,709	22,072	22,734	23,416	24,119	24,842	25,587	26,355	27,146	27,960	28,799	29,663
Donations	9,350	7,215	7,431	91,599	94,347	97,178	100,093	103,096	106,189	109,374	112,656	116,039
Engineering	13,021	12,274	12,642									
Fees and licenses	4,363 8,343	4,972 13,541	5,121 13,947	14,366	14,797	15,241	15,698	16,169	16,654	17,153	17,668	18,198
Ice house	0,343	21,774	22,427	23,100	23,793	24,507	25,242	25,999	26,779	27,583	28,410	29,26
Insurance	28,915	28,240	29,087	29,960	30,859	31,784	32,738	33,720	34,732	35,774	36,847	37,95
Interest and bank charges	2,292	2,520	2,596	2,673	2,754	2,836	2,921	3,009	3,099	3,192	3,288	3,387
Investment counsel fees	38,115	39,456	40,640	40,640	40,640	40,640	40,640	40,640	40,640	40,640	40,640	40,640
Light house	-	13,794	14,208	14,634	15,073	15,525	15,991	16,471	16,965	17,474	17,998	18,538
Management fees	66,099 13,723	77,733 17,162	93,000 17,677	95,790 18,207	98,664 18,753	101,624 19,316	104,672 19,895	107,812 20,492	111,047 21,107	114,378 21,740	117,810 22,393	121,344 23,064
Marina Meeting costs	3,499	9,474	9,758	10.051	10,753	10,663	10,983	11,312	11,652	12,001	12,361	12,73
Office supplies	9,274	7,064	7,276	7,494	7,719	7,951	8,189	8,435	8,688	8,948	9.217	9,49
Professional fees	19,542	27,672	28,502	29,357	30,238	31,145	32,079	33,042	34,033	35,054	36,106	37,189
Property taxes	430	1,989	2,049	2,110	2,173	2,239	2,306	2,375	2,446	2,520	2,595	2,673
Rental	7,343	11,622	11,971	12,330	12,700	13,081	13,473	13,877	14,294	14,722	15,164	15,619
Repairs and maintenance Reserve allowance	77,153	73,914 261,315	76,131 0	78,415 0	80,768	83,191 0	85,687 0	88,257 0	90,905	93,632	96,441	99,334
Training	5,266	100	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Travel	19,447	39,703	29,575	30,462	31,376	32,317	33,287	34,286	35,314	36,374	37,465	38,589
Utilities	84,788	61,227	73,008	75,198	77,454	79,777	82,171	84,636	87,175	89,790	92,484	95,258
Vehicle	6,240	6,240	6,427	6,620	6,819	7,023	7,234	7,451	7,674	7,905	8,142	8,386
Wages	113,718	141,727	145,979	150,358	154,869	159,515	164,300	169,229	174,306	179,536	184,922	190,469
Total Operating Expenses NET OPERATING INCOME	887,583 1,517,406	1,198,801 1,275,049	625,257 -406,071	642,766 -414,400	660,799 -422,488	679,374 -430,279	698,506 -437,711	718,212 -444,713	738,509 -451,207	759,416 -457,107	780,949 -462,314	803,128 -466,723
INC. OF EIGHTING INCOME	1,317,400	1,273,043	-400,071	-414,400	-422,400	-430,273	-437,711	-444,713	-431,207	-437,107	-402,314	-400,72.
CASH FLOW IN												
Beginning Cash			123,055									
Beginning Investments			19,711,080	19,757,508	19,640,493	19,540,477	19,458,995	19,397,735	19,358,553	19,343,488	19,354,782	19,394,899
Net Operating Income Investment Income			-406,071 884,744	-414,400 914,596	-422,488 939,683	-430,279 966,008	-437,711 993,663	-444,713 1,022,743	-451,207 1,053,354	-457,107 1,085,612	-462,314 1,119,642	-466,723 1,155,583
Total Cash Available		123,055	20,312,808	20,257,704	20,157,688	20,076,206			19,960,700	19,971,993	20,012,110	20,083,758
. Star Cash Available		223,033	20,312,000	_0,_3,,,04	10,137,000	_0,0,0,200		22,223,734		10,001,003	_0,022,110	_0,000,700
CASH FLOW OUT												
Major Capital Repairs			-555,300	-617,211	-617,211	-617,211	-617,211	-617,211	-617,211	-617,211	-617,211	-617,211
Net Cash Available			19,757,508	19,640,493	19,540,477	19,458,995	19,397,735	19,358,553	19,343,488	19,354,782	19,394,899	19,466,547
Souris Harbour Fund		15,602,705										
Souris Opportunity Fund		4,108,376 19,711,081										
Total Investments		15,/11,081		1	1							
Total Investments End of Year Unrestricted Funds		4,815,057	6,214,800	7,703.143	9,219,465	10,765,145	12,341,657	13,950,580	15,593,603	17,272.538	18,989.332	20,746.07
Total Investments End of Year Unrestricted Funds End of Year Restricted Funds		4,815,057 14,896,023	6,214,800 13,542,708	7,703,143 11,937,351	9,219,465 10,321,012	10,765,145 8,693,850		13,950,580 5,407,973	15,593,603 3,749,886	17,272,538 2,082,244	18,989,332 405,566	20,746,077 -1,279,530

- Notes to Forecast:

  1. Actuals from 2010 and 2011 audited statements.

  2. CTMA Harbour Maintenance Fees shown as uncollectable through reserve account.

  3. Minor Repair and Maintenance estimated at average of last two years.

  4. Major Capital Repairs are projected using EastPoint Engineering estimates for first year and averaging next ten years.

  5. Scotia Asset Management investment return estimated at 4% on restricted funds and 6% on unrestricted funds.

  6. Allocations are made from restricted to unrestricted funds as operating and capital expenditures are made and income i

  7. Board and Meeting expenses reduced by \$30,000 (CEO/Chairman's honourium) and \$45,000 added to management.

  8. Revenues are estimated to increase 3% per year.

  9. Expenses and payroll are estimated to increase 3% per year.

  10. Depreciation not reflected as this forecast mainly a cash flow analysis.

  11. Transactions between SHAI and Eastern Cold Storage are not consolidated in this forecast. ECS analysis to be presented after preparation and review by management.