



Corporate Report

2004

NO: R037

COUNCIL DATE: February 23,

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor &
Council**

DATE: **February 17,
2004**

FROM: **General Manager,
Engineering**

PROJECT **4804-905**
FILE:

SUBJECT: **2004 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program:
"SHaRP"**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council authorize the 2004 SHaRP program for watershed stewardship and environmental enhancement activities to proceed with City funding to be set at \$200,000.
2. That the City pursue Provincial and other external funding towards the 2004 SHaRP program.
3. That Dillon Consulting Ltd. be hired to manage the 2004 SHaRP program, in the amount of \$60,000 excluding GST.
4. That a copy of this report be forwarded to Surrey's MLA's, MP's and the Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection (MWLAP).

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to apprise Council of the 2003 SHaRP program and seek authorization for the SHaRP program during the summer of 2004.

BACKGROUND

Since 1996, the SHaRP program has employed high school and post-secondary students during the summer for the purpose of fish habitat enhancement. The program has grown in size and scope over the years, and has evolved a more integrated approach to watershed restoration.

Our program is unique amongst municipalities due to its size, its integrated watershed based approach, and its commitment to career-oriented leadership training for local youth.

2003 SHaRP Program

During the summer of 2003, SHaRP was able to employ 31 students and accomplish many tasks beyond what was originally scheduled. The SHaRP program's Agricultural Stewardship Team and Watershed Enhancement Team completed many riparian and in-stream enhancement projects, including:

- Enhancement work on 13 watercourses and waterbodies throughout Surrey by the Watershed Enhancement Team and another 5 watercourses by the Agricultural Stewardship Team;
- Installation of rock weirs, log deflectors, rock wing deflectors, bank cover log structures, and large boulder placement to reduce bank erosion and increase channel complexity;
- Installation of over 15,000 riparian and wetland plants;
- Installation of cattle exclusion fences to minimize disturbance of streams by livestock;
- Installation of rip rap to stabilize failing banks and "ecopocket" planting of the rip rap;
- Construction of 100 linear metres of fence along the Little Campbell River to protect 230 trees and shrubs that were planted with help from the community and the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society; and
- Removal and control of invasive plants at several sites.

The SHaRP Community and Industrial Education Team attended many residences, schools and businesses informing the public of fish and fish habitat. Some of their accomplishments include:

- Participation in 19 Surrey community events;
- Presentation of 12 children's education programs at five Surrey Community Day Camps and one Elementary School Sports Day;
- Painting of 24 storm drains with yellow salmon to discourage dumping;
- Direct contact with 214 businesses and hand delivery of a newly created Industrial Education brochure; and
- Visits to 48 houses in the Elgin Creek area to discuss yard waste management with the residents.

These are just a few highlights of SHaRP's accomplishments in 2003.

The funding breakdown for the 2003 program was as follows:

City of Surrey	\$200,000
Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC)	34,700
Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection (MWLAP)	20,000
Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative (AEPI)	20,000
Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF)	10,000
Real Estate Foundation (REF)	<u>5,000</u>
Total	\$289,700

In 2003, the B.C. Agriculture Council, through the AEPI, continued their support of the SHaRP Program with funding targeted at SHaRP activities benefiting the agricultural community in Surrey. New funders for the 2003 program included the REF, MWLAP and the PSF. All of these organizations will be approached for continued support of the 2004 program.

Funding for 2004 SHaRP Program

The SHaRP program fulfills two roles, namely fishery habitat restoration and summer youth employment and training. These roles are shared by senior governments, local governments and private environmentally oriented foundations. Consequently, the SHaRP program must fit the funding provided by all partners. External sources of funding need to be confirmed by the end of April to finalize the size and scope of the 2004 SHaRP Program. The following is the preliminary budget for the program:

General Drainage Utility	\$200,000
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund*	15,000
School District 36 Funding*	10,000
Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative *	20,000
Human Resources Development Canada *	33,000
Pacific Salmon Foundation *	15,000
Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection*	20,000
Unilever-Evergreen Fund*	15,000
Real Estate Foundation *	<u>10,000</u>

Total **\$338,000**

** Funding to be applied for but not confirmed. Staff do not anticipate that all of the funding applications will be approved.*

Proposed 2004 SHaRP Work Program

Assuming we receive 70% of the funding we are applying for, the 2004 program would comprise of up to 8 team leaders and 26 high school students. The program can be expanded if all the funding requests are successful. The students will be working in the following areas:

- **Watershed Environmental Enhancement**

The Watershed team's focus will be to complete in-stream enhancement work and plantings that complement ongoing City projects. The team will continue to undertake stabilization of erosion sites identified in the ravine assessment report completed in 2002. The commitments for native vegetation plantings at Surrey Lake and Guildford Pond have been met by SHaRP in the 2002 and 2003 programs. However, any additional work that needs to be done at these two sites (maintenance, replanting of dead stock, etc.) will be conducted by the Watershed Team prior to the fisheries window.

- **Community & Industrial Education**

The focus for the Community & Industrial Education team will continue to be directed at raising awareness of natural areas and fish habitat within Surrey. This year emphasis will be placed on improving water quality within Surrey's watercourses. The Industrial Education component of this team will again target an industrial area within Surrey and go door to door providing educational information to businesses. The team will also gather information to add to the City database that is being developed to help track pollution and spill events when they occur in the City's storm sewer system and/or watercourses.

- **Agricultural Stewardship**

The Agricultural Stewardship team will continue to be active in the agricultural community. In the three years that this team has been part of SHaRP, they have expanded their scope from in-stream projects to include community outreach, education, and participation in many agricultural events, including the Cloverdale Rodeo. Last year's team worked on several projects in partnership with local community groups, and we hope to continue those partnerships in 2004.

- **Media & Public Relations**

The Media & Public Relations team presents the visible component of the program that is essential to the overall success of SHaRP.

These four work areas were selected on the basis of their contribution to enhancing existing City projects, restoring and enhancing creek and stream locations, and the benefits perceived by the general public and government agencies.

Consultant Assignment

This program is overseen by the Engineering Department with the day-to-day management of students being provided by Dillon Consulting Ltd. (Dillon). Dillon has managed the program in all previous years.

In the case of the Dillon appointment, the consultant is in a unique position to do this work because they have successfully managed all previous SHaRP programs. Dillon has developed a comprehensive training program for the students and is intimately familiar with the community events and stewardship groups that SHaRP works with each year. They have also been successful in securing funding on our behalf through Human Resources Development Canada. Loss of this continuity will result in an increased cost to run the program and the need for more 'hands on' management of the program by City staff in the event that a new consultant is brought in.

We are, therefore, recommending using Section 1.2 of the Engineering Department Practice CCM3 under Authorization of Policy H8, which allows a consultant to be awarded a contract on a sole source basis where it is clearly beneficial to the City to do so. We have negotiated a contract for \$60,000 for the 2004 scope of work. This is consistent with previous SHaRP program contracts.

CONCLUSION

As in other years, the primary benefit of the SHaRP program remains fish habitat restoration and protection; however, important spin-off benefits are the employment opportunities and experience for Surrey secondary and post-secondary students. For these reasons, the City is actively pursuing funding from the Provincial and Federal Governments, as well as other external sources.

Paul Ham, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

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