

Corporate Report

NO: R041

COUNCIL DATE: February 28,

2005

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **February 22, 2005**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering** PROJECT FILE: **4805-905**

SUBJECT: **2005 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program: "SHaRP"**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council authorize the 2005 SHaRP program for watershed stewardship and environmental enhancement activities to proceed with City funding to be set at \$150,000.
2. That a copy of this report be forwarded to Surrey's MLA's, MP's, and the Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection (MWLAP) to help pursue external funding towards the 2005 SHaRP program.
3. That Council authorize a SHaRP 10 year reunion event highlighting the partnerships and community spirit of the Program.
4. That Dillon Consulting Ltd. be hired to manage the 2005 SHaRP program.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to apprise Council of the 2004 SHaRP program and seek authorization for the activities to be undertaken by the students in the SHaRP program during the summer of 2005 with respect to watershed stewardship.

BACKGROUND

The SHaRP program started in 1996, employing 18 high school and post-secondary students during the summer for the purpose of fish habitat enhancement. Through the following years, the program has grown in size and scope and has evolved a more integrated approach to watershed restoration. Recent projects have included:

- Instream restoration and enhancement;
- Agricultural stream enhancement;
- Community education displays and events;
- Industrial education for businesses geared towards protecting water quality;
- Riparian and wetland planting; and
- Community partnerships.

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.

2004 SHaRP Program

In 2004, the SHaRP program hired seven (7) post-secondary Team Leaders and 23 Surrey high school students for a total of 30 students. These students were divided into the following five teams:

- Community & Industrial Education;
- Media & Public Relations;
- Watershed Environmental Enhancement; and
- Agricultural Stewardship.

The funding breakdown for the 2004 program was as follows:

City of Surrey - Engineering	\$200,000
Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC)	\$ 42,116
Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative (AEPI)	\$ 30,000
Habitat Conservation & Trust Fund (HCTF)	\$ 10,000
Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF)	\$ 4,500
Total	\$286,116

In 2004, the BC Agriculture Council, through the AEPI, continued their support of the SHaRP Program with funding targeted at SHaRP activities benefiting the agricultural community in Surrey. A request for continued partnering in 2005 will be initiated from this organization. A new funder for the 2004 program included the Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection Habitat Conservation & Trust Fund. This organization, along with past funders, will be approached for continued support of the 2005 Program.

Funding for 2005 SHaRP Program

The SHaRP program fulfills two roles; namely, fishery habitat protection/restoration and summer youth employment/training. Both of these roles are almost entirely a Provincial and Federal mandate; consequently, we are relying on funding from both senior levels of government. With a \$150,000 commitment from City funds towards the 2005 program, we will still be contributing over 50% of the total budget for SHaRP. Should funding not be confirmed by the Provincial and Federal Governments and other external sources by the end of April, the 2005 SHaRP Program may be cancelled or reduced in size. The following level of funding for the 2005 program is available from the City and has been applied for from external sources:

General Drainage Utility	\$150,000
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund*	\$ 10,000
School District 36 Funding*	\$ 10,000
AEPI*	\$ 30,000
HRDC*	\$ 33,000
PSF*	\$ 10,000
HCTF*	\$ 10,000
Unilever - Evergreen*	\$ 10,000
Total	\$263,000

* All external funding has been applied for but not confirmed. Staff do not anticipate that all of the funding applications will be approved.

Proposed 2005 SHaRP Work Program

Based on the above assumed funding, the 2005 program would comprise of up to six (6) team leaders and 18 high

school students working in the following areas:

- **Watershed Environmental Enhancement**

The Watershed team's focus will be to complete instream 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 team will also undertake plantings in Riparian areas as part of our commitments to fulfill plantings required in various DFO authorization for a variety Capital projects. By linking the needs of Surrey Capital Works projects and the abilities of the SHaRP team, the City is able to obtain better value for certain types.

- **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 instream 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 2005. In 2005 we also intend to work closely with the Surrey AAC and MAFF on distributing and informing the local farm community on Noxious Weed Control.

- **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 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 workload for the Environment staff in Engineering due to the need for more 'hands on' management of the program 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 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 anticipate the value of the contract to be \$65,000.

SHaRP 10 Year Anniversary Event

2005 will mark the 10th anniversary of the SHaRP program in the City of Surrey. Throughout the 10 years, over 250 students have passed through the program. We have seen the heightened awareness of the value of creeks and natural environment in Surrey and also the awareness of offering Surrey students an opportunity to work for the benefit of their community.

In celebration of the 10 year anniversary, we would like to have an evening reception celebrating the students past and present, funding partners, sponsors and those who have worked with and for the SHaRP program through the years. This event would be a great opportunity to highlight the SHaRP project to those who are not as familiar with it, potential funding partners, and those who have supported the project throughout the years. Displays and testimonials from those who have gone through the project would also be prepared in preparation for the event.

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.

Should external funding not be received, the City may have to consider an overall cancellation or reduction of this year's program.

Paul Ham, P. Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

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