



Corporate Report

NO: R063

COUNCIL DATE: April 4, 2005

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor &
Council** DATE: **March 29,
2005**

FROM: **General Manager,
Engineering** FILE: **5280-80
(WNV), 5280-
80 (MOSQUITO)**

SUBJECT: **Regional Coordination Function for Mosquito
Control – West Nile Virus**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the establishment, by the GVRD, of a mosquito administration and coordination function on behalf of member municipalities.

INTENT

To seek Council's support of a regional function for administration and coordination of mosquito control, primarily relating to communications. Future information will be brought forward on actual mosquito control actions and activities.

BACKGROUND

With the likely arrival of mosquito borne West Nile Virus (WNV) this year or next year, the issue of municipal action on mosquito control has come to the forefront. While many of these mosquito control activities will be carried out by individual municipalities, the fact that mosquitoes will be mobile between municipalities and control, or lack of control, activities in one municipality will affect neighbouring ones, indicates the need for the coordination and consistency in communications to the public and the media. In a similar vein, the GVRD is acting to bring together the staff from the member municipalities for coordinating overall control strategies.

In February 2005, the GVRD Board received the attached report and approved the establishment of a Mosquito Control Administration and Coordination function for those member municipalities interested in participating. The Chair of the GVRD has now written to all member municipalities to determine interest and support for this proposal (copy of letter attached). For 2005, this function would be funded from GVRD general government reserves. Once it is known which municipalities wish to participate in this function, a GVRD by-law will be prepared and forwarded to municipal councils for consideration. Those municipalities which do not choose to participate will not be included in the service area.

So far, south of the Fraser, Delta and Langley City Councils have agreed to participate and Langley Township staff are recommending participation to their Council.

DISCUSSION

Due to the mobility of mosquitoes and the overlapping effects of control activities, City staff have been encouraging

the GVRD to take on the development of a regional communications strategy and support the City of Surrey's participation in this regional function. The prime agencies for public education and communication relating to WNV are the Regional Health Authorities; however, the GVRD coordination function will allow for a consistent message to be provided to the public about WNV and mosquito control activities being carried out at the municipal level. A staff working group from the GVRD and a number of municipalities (including Surrey) has been set up to help coordinate communication strategies and liaise on mosquito control approaches.

Contract for Mosquito Control

The City of Surrey, together with a number of adjacent municipalities, will continue with the current contract for mosquito control, increasing the level of control as necessary, should WNV appear this year.

New Funding for Mosquito Control

The Province, through UBCM, recently announced new funding to be provided to municipalities for mosquito control. This funding is in the range of \$1.00 per capita.

CONCLUSION

A coordinated and consistent approach to public communications and municipal activities relating to mosquito control and WNV is a prudent approach. Consequently, staff support the establishment of a regional function for the administration and coordination of mosquito control.

Paul Ham, P. Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

PH:brb
Attachment

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