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# Corporate Report

NO: R152:

COUNCIL DATE: June 20, 2005

**REGULAR COUNCIL** 

Mayor & DATE:

Council

FROM: General Manager, FILE: 5280-80

Engineering (WNV), 5280-

**80** (mosquito)

June 14, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Establishment of a Service Function for the

**Co-ordination and Administration of Mosquito** 

**Control Activities in the GVRD** 

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the GVRD by-law as attached for the establishment of a Service Function for the Co-ordination and Administration of Mosquito Control activities on behalf of member municipalities.

## **INTENT**

To seek Council's approval of a regional by-law for the GVRD to provide a service function for administration and coordination of mosquito control, primarily relating to communications.

# **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 April 2005, Surrey Council endorsed in Corporate Report No. R063, that the GVRD Board approve 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 requesting them to approve the proposed GVRD by law required for the GVRD to undertake this function on behalf of its member municipalities wishing to participate.

#### **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. The City of Surrey was granted \$390,000 to conduct preemptive WNV mosquito control in the City.

#### **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. The attached by-law is required for the GVRD to complete the steps required to be able to add mosquito control activities as part of their service function.

Paul Ham, P. Eng. General Manager, Engineering

CAB:rdd Attachment

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