



Corporate Report

NO: R022

COUNCIL DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2007

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **February 21, 2007**
FROM: **General Manager, Engineering** FILE: **4807-905**
SUBJECT: **2007 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program: "SHaRP"**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Authorize staff to pursue Provincial and other external funding towards the 2007 SHaRP program.
2. Authorize the 2007 SHaRP component of the Nature Matters program to proceed with drainage utility funding to be set at \$150,000, and Nature Matters Program funding set at \$50,000.
3. Authorize staff to retain Dillon Consulting Ltd. to manage the 2007 SHaRP program with the Expenditure Authority for their services to a maximum limit of \$80,000 with GST.
4. Direct staff to forward a copy of this report to Surrey's MLA's, MP's and the Ministry of Environment (MOE).

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to apprise Council of the 2007 SHaRP program and seek authorization for the activities to be undertaken by the students in the SHaRP program during the summer of 2007.

BACKGROUND

The 2007 SHaRP program is a major component of the Nature Matters initiative. The SHaRP program started in 1996, employing 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 into a more integrated approach to watershed restoration. Recent projects have included:

- In-stream restoration and enhancement
- Agricultural stream enhancement
- Community education displays and events
- Industrial education for businesses geared towards protecting water quality
- Riparian and wetland planting
- Neighbourhood awareness/education campaigns
- 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.

DISCUSSION

Review of the 2006 SHaRP Program

In 2006, the SHaRP program hired 9 post-secondary Team Leaders and 23 Surrey high school students for a total of 32 students. These students were divided into the following five teams:

- Community Education
- Industrial Education
- Media & Public Relations
- Watershed Enhancement
- Agricultural Stewardship

The funding breakdown for the 2006 program was as follows:

City of Surrey – Engineering (LTM, NM, drainage)	\$266,150
City of Surrey – Engineering Operations	20,000
West Nile Virus (UBCM Funding)	10,000
Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC)	31,360
Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative (AEPI)	10,000
Evergreen – Wal-Mart Green Grant	7,500
Real Estate Foundation of BC (REF)	5,000
Ministry of Environment	2,000
Shell Environmental Fund	<u>2,500</u>
Total	\$354,510

In 2006, 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 2007 will be initiated from this organization. A new funder for the 2006 program included the Shell Environmental

Fund. This organization, along with past funders, will be approached for continued support of the 2007 program.

Proposed 2007 SHaRP program

This year, SHaRP will be comprised of 5 teams with the following focuses:

- Watershed Enhancement
- Community Education
- Industrial Education
- Agricultural Stewardship
- Media & Public Relations

The main timelines for the program will be within the spring and summer months. New to this year is extending into the fall some planting projects and community event participation for some of the students. Following is a brief description of the tentative 2007 work plan:

- **Watershed Enhancement**

The Watershed team's focus will be to complete in-stream enhancement work and plantings that complement ongoing City projects. The team will work extensively in Campbell Heights and the Stokes Pit area to enhance the creek relocation initiative and wetlands created for the Campbell Heights development. They will also be involved with site education to residents using the facility and try to educate the drivers of off-road vehicles currently trespassing and harming the area. The team will also continue to undertake stabilization of erosion sites identified in the ravine assessment report completed in 2005. Plantings in riparian areas, as part of the City's commitments to fulfill planting requirements within various DFO authorizations for a variety of capital projects, will also be a priority. 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 of work.

- **Community Education**

The focus for the Community 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 and limiting intrusions into watercourses, wetlands, and riparian areas. The team will attend various community events and deliver education programs at day camps throughout the spring and summer. The team will also organize neighbourhood awareness days to inform residents in neighbourhoods of the local natural areas and creeks and sustainable practices that can be implemented in their daily tasks. New display materials and programs will be developed that will focus on various environmental initiatives that are a part of the overall Nature Matters program; the new displays and programs will be utilized throughout the year by the Nature Matters program.

- **Industrial Education**

The Industrial Education team will again target industrial areas 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. It should be noted that areas targeted last year by the students have resulted in industrial park tenants contacting the City regarding pollution concerns associated with neighbouring tenants; this would indicate that the education initiatives within the targeted areas played an important role in community awareness and responsibility.

- **Agricultural Stewardship**

The Agricultural Stewardship team will continue to be active in the agricultural community. In the six years that this team has been part of SHaRP, they have expanded their scope from on-farm in-stream projects to include community outreach, education, and participation in many agricultural events. The team worked on several projects in partnership with local community groups and provided information to the local farm community on property stewardship. The team also worked closely with MOE to contact agricultural landowners who have property where there were issues with livestock management adjacent to streams. In 2007, we hope to continue to develop partnerships within the farming community and to work closely with the Surrey AAC and MAFF to ensure that their initiatives within Surrey are achieved. New initiatives in 2007 will include an education initiative for the Erickson ditch watershed community to provide residents information on best management practices for their properties that will reduce water quality concerns, and invasive plant removal from City property adjacent to agricultural property in order to reduce the potential of invasive plant impacts on crops, and to increase the interaction of the general community with the agricultural community.

- **Media & Public Relations**

The Media & Public Relations team presents the visible component of the program that is essential to the overall success of SHaRP. This team actively searches for opportunities for multimedia coverage to highlight the environmental initiatives accomplished by Surrey through various programs, such as SHaRP. The media team will link with the overall Nature Matters program team to facilitate media for the larger initiative and to help host joint events throughout the summer.

These five 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.

Funding for 2007 SHaRP Program

The SHaRP program fulfills two roles, namely fish habitat protection/restoration and summer youth employment/training. The following levels of funding for 2007 are suggested from the City and has been applied for from external sources:

General Drainage Utility	\$150,000
Nature Matters Program	50,000
West Nile Virus (UBCM Finding)	10,000
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund*	15,100
AEPI*	30,000
HRDC*	33,000
PSF*	10,000
HCTF*	10,000
Tree Canada Foundation*	25,000
Home Depot – Evergreen*	6,000
Unilever - Evergreen*	10,000
Wal-Mart – Evergreen – Green Grants*	10,000
Shell Environmental Fund*	<u>5,000</u>
Total	\$364,100

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

The Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and School District #36 have been approached to determine if they would contribute funding support for the program; in previous years, SD #36 provided the SHaRP program with \$25,000 and the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection (now MOE) provided the SHaRP program with \$5,000.

Based on the above assumed funding, the 2007 program would comprise of up to 10 team leaders and 25 high school students.

2007 SHaRP Consultant Assignment

It is proposed that the 2007 SHaRP program will be 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.

We have received a proposal by Dillon Consulting to manage the program for 2007. The suggested scope of work and costs are in line with previous years and are reasonable.

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 difficulties with program delivery as alternative management firm with environmental expertise will be required who can also handle the significant payroll costs associated with the short-term large staffing influx that happens with this program.

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.

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. Additionally, the SHaRP program forms a significant component of the City's overall Nature Matters environmental stewardship initiative. 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 reduction of this year's program.

Paul Ham, P.Eng.
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