



# Corporate Report

NO: R145

COUNCIL DATE: JUNE 25, 2007

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **June 20, 2007**  
FROM: **General Manager, Engineering** FILE: **4807-905**  
SUBJECT: **Update on 2007 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program: "SHaRP"**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Engineering Department recommends that:

1. Council allocate \$33,000 from the Council Initiatives to provide additional 2007 funding for the SHaRP program to offset the loss of HRDC and Provincial AEPI funding that has been withdrawn from the program in 2007; and
2. The Mayor send letters to the appropriate Federal and Provincial ministries to encourage the reinstatement of historic funding to the SHaRP program.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to apprise Council of changes in expected funding for the 2007 SHaRP program and seek authorization for additional funds to be directed to the 2007 program.

## DISCUSSION

In February 2007, Council approved Corporate Report R022 entitled 2007 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program: "SHaRP". Within this report, tentative funding was outlined. Since the report went forward, some of the traditional external funding sources to the SHaRP program have not been achieved.

Key funding partners who have traditionally supported the program are Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and the Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative (AEPI). We have been informed that it is the City's last year to qualify for the AEPI program and funding from this source has been reduced from \$30,000 in 2006 to \$5,000 in 2007. We understand that in 2008 we will not be eligible for any contribution from this fund.

HRDC funding rules were changed this year with no notice to past recipients. There has been much controversy in the media over the changes as many communities were impacted by the changes. Originally the City and Dillon Consulting staff, the City's SHaRP program managers, were told the SHaRP program was still eligible; it was only after the submission during the review process in March that the HRDC internal decision matrix changed. We were not notified until May of the loss of funding. The loss of these two key partners resulted in a loss to the program of approximately \$60,000.

It is requested that Council look at covering some of this shortfall for 2007 of \$33,000 from the Council Initiatives fund to make up for the loss of HRDC funding. Other funding losses will be covered by the City Capital program for environmental work necessary for these projects and carried out by the SHaRP program.

### **Revised 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 are now proposed for 2007:

General Drainage Utility	\$150,000
Nature Matters Program	50,000
Capital Project Funding	48,000
West Nile Virus (UBCM Funding)	10,000
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	15,100
AEPI	5,000
Ministry of Environment	20,000
Tree Canada Foundation	14,000
Shell Canada*	5,000
Surrey School District*	<u>20,000</u>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$332,000</b>
<b><i>Council Initiatives</i></b>	<b><u>33,000</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$365,000</b>

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

Based on the above assumed funding, the 2007 program could be fully achieved with approximately 27 students hired to undertake the work.

### **CONCLUSION**

Changes in external funding partners have resulted in a change to the 2007 SHaRP program. One-time shortfall allocation from Council Initiatives funding would assist in strengthening the 2007 program.

Paul Ham, P. Eng.  
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