



Corporate Report

NO: R013

COUNCIL DATE: February 11, 2008

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: February 6, 2008
FROM: General Manager, Engineering FILE: 4808-901
SUBJECT: 2008 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program: "SHaRP"

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information.
2. Authorize staff to award the contract related to managing the SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Ltd., in the amount of \$81,000.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the SHaRP program for 2008 including the activities to be undertaken by the students hired under the 2008 SHaRP program.

BACKGROUND

The 2008 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 intervening years, the program has grown in size and scope, and has evolved into 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;
- Invasive plant species removal;
- Riparian and wetland planting;
- Neighbourhood awareness/education campaigns; and
- Community partnerships.

The program is unique amongst municipalities due to its size, longevity, integrated watershed-based approach, and commitment to career-oriented leadership training for local youth.

DISCUSSION

2007 SHaRP Program

In 2007, the SHaRP program hired 10 post-secondary Team Leaders and 17 Surrey high school students for a total of 27 students. These students were divided into five teams, each with a different primary focus as follows:

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

To incorporate the City's goal of providing year-round student opportunities as part of Nature Matters, a fall SHaRP program was created. To recognize the renewed support from School District #36, the program was expanded to include more students. This allowed planting projects and community event participation to continue through the fall months to mid-November. Thirteen Surrey youth, new to the SHaRP program, benefited from this fall program.

The funding breakdown for the 2007 program was as follows:

City of Surrey (Engineering capital projects, Nature Matters, Drainage Utility)	\$285,300
West Nile Virus (UBCM Funding)	10,000
Council Initiatives Fund	33,000
Ministry of Environment	20,000
School District #36	25,000
Tree Canada Foundation	14,000
Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative (AEPI)	5,000
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	15,100
Real Estate Foundation of BC (REF)	5,000
Shell Environmental Fund	<u>5,000</u>
Total	\$382,000

In 2007, 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. However, the BC Agriculture Council has advised that SHaRP would not be eligible for funds in 2008 as the Council has supported this program's efforts for five consecutive years.

Council Initiatives funding was provided to SHaRP in 2007 to offset the unexpected withdrawal of funding from the Federal Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and the reduction in funding support from the BC Agriculture Council. Funding support from HRDC is not expected in 2008, as the application criteria was changed to an extent that SHaRP is no longer an eligible program to receive funding. The Ministry of Environment and School District #36 reinitiated their support for SHaRP in 2007. A new funder for the 2007 program included the Tree Canada Foundation. This organization, along with past funders, will be approached for continued support of the 2008 program.

Proposed 2008 SHaRP Program

This year, SHaRP will be comprised of 5 teams, with each team taking one of the following as a primary focus:

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

The program will run primarily within the spring and summer months. The program may be extended into the fall months, in a manner similar to 2007, to complete planting projects and to support community event participation; however, this is contingent on external funding being obtained. A brief description of the proposed 2008 work plan is documented in Appendix I.

Funding for 2008 SHaRP Program

The SHaRP program fulfills two roles, namely fish habitat protection/restoration and summer youth employment/training. The following levels of funding for 2008 are currently available from City sources:

General Drainage Utility	\$ 150,000
Nature Matters Program	\$ 50,000
Capital Projects	<u>\$ 68,000*</u>
Total	\$ 268,000

** Estimate of costs for SHaRP to complete works at capital project sites confirmed to date*

Based on the above confirmed funding, the 2008 program would be comprised of 17 students. To increase the scope and scale of the program in 2008, staff is again searching for external funding partners that can supplement the confirmed City funding. Applications have been made for funding for 2008 from external sources as follows:

West Nile Virus (UBCM Funding)	\$ 10,000
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	\$ 15,000
Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program (PSF)	\$ 10,000
Tree Canada Foundation	\$ 12,500
Home Depot – Evergreen	\$ 7,500
Real Estate Foundation of BC	\$ 5,000
Youth Philanthropy Council	\$ 5,000
Monsanto Fund	\$ 25,000
Shell Environmental Fund	\$ 5,000
School District #36	\$ 25,000
Ministry of Environment	\$ 20,000
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands	\$ 10,000
Total	\$ 150,000

* *Application to be submitted in the next month.*

The Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and School District #36 will be approached again in 2008 to determine if they would contribute funding support for the program; in 2007, SD #36 provided the SHaRP program with \$25,000 and the Ministry of Environment provided the SHaRP program with \$20,000.

Staff does not anticipate that all of the applications that have been submitted will be successful; however in 2007, \$89,100 of external funding was secured to support the SHaRP program. If a similar amount of external funding is achieved for the 2008 program, the program will increase to include 26 students. In addition, should more enhancement sites required for City capital work projects be secured for SHaRP 2008 students to complete, then the size of the program will also increase to reflect the additional funding.

Table 1

SHaRP Program Funding	No. of Students	Student Costs
Confirmed Funding to Date	17	\$266,000
Confirmed Funding & Small Portion of External Funding	20	\$293,000
Ultimate Funding	26	\$336,000

2008 Consultant Assignment for SHaRP

The Engineering Department will oversee the 2008 SHaRP program with the day-to-day management being provided by Dillon Consulting Ltd. (Dillon). Dillon has managed the program in all previous years of the Program's existence.

Dillon has developed a comprehensive training program for the students and is intimately familiar with the community events and stewardship groups with whom SHaRP works each year. They have also been successful in securing funding on the City's behalf through Human Resources Development Canada. Over the years, Dillon's program management costs have not changed significantly. Their efficiency and knowledge of the program has lead to good value for the City.

It is recommended, in accordance with Section 1.2 of the Engineering Department Practice CCM3 under Authorization Policy H8, that Dillon Consulting Ltd. be awarded the contract to manage the SHaRP program in 2008 at a cost of \$81,000 on a sole source basis.

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.

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council authorize staff to award on a sole source basis the contract related to managing the SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Ltd in the amount of \$81,000, and to authorize staff to proceed with the program as per funding outlined in Table 1.

Paul Ham, P. Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

PH/VL/CAB:kd/brb

Appendix I - Description of Proposed 2008 SHaRP Program

Description of Proposed 2008 SHaRP Program

- **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 to complete enhancement works in riparian areas that are required as part of the City's commitments to fulfill planting requirements to satisfy Fisheries and Oceans Authorizations associated with past capital work projects (e.g., Trouton Pit). By linking the needs of Surrey capital works projects and the abilities of the SHaRP team, the City is able to obtain better value to complete these required works. The team will also continue to undertake stabilization of erosion sites identified in the ravine assessment report completed in 2007, enhance the creek relocation initiative and wetlands created for the Campbell Heights development, and complete restoration works at riparian sites identified by the general public and stewardship groups.

- **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. This team will also complete an extensive storm drain marking program to increase the awareness of the sensitivity of storm water runoff for Surrey's salmon habitat. Storm drain markings will be placed adjacent to storm drains in high pedestrian locations on arterial roads and around City facilities (e.g., recreation centres).

- **Agricultural Stewardship**

The Agricultural Stewardship team will continue to be active in the agricultural community. In the seven 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 2008, we hope to continue to develop partnerships within the farming community and to work closely with the Surrey Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to ensure that their initiatives within Surrey are achieved. New initiatives in 2008 will include invasive plant removal activities to eradicate invasive plants 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. In 2008, the media team will link search for media attention across a wide cultural base in order to spread the stewardship message to more audiences, and will help host joint events with other 'Nature Matters' initiatives 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.