

NO: R040

COUNCIL DATE: March 1, 2010

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **February 16, 2010**
FROM: **General Manager, Engineering** FILE: **4810-901**
SUBJECT: **2010 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program ("SHaRP")**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Approve the award of a contract for the management of the 2010 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$85,000 including GST/HST and contingencies;
3. Approve the award of the 2010 SHaRP student salary program to Dillon Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$192,000 including GST/HST and contingencies; and
4. Set the expenditure authorization limit for the 2010 SHaRP student salary program at \$280,000 including GST/HST and contingencies, subject to sufficient external funding materializing.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council regarding the SHaRP program for 2010 and to obtain Council approval for the award of contracts related to that program.

BACKGROUND

The 2010 SHaRP program is a major component of the Surrey 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. Over 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:

- In-stream restoration and enhancement;
- Agricultural stream enhancement;
- Community education displays and events;
- 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 among municipalities based on its size, longevity, integrated watershed based approach and commitment to career-oriented leadership training for local youth. Over the tenure of the program, summer employment has been provided for over 370 Surrey students.

DISCUSSION

Overview of the 2009 SHaRP Program

In 2009, the SHaRP program hired 8 post-secondary Team Leaders and 21 Surrey high school students for a total of 29 student employees. These students were divided into five teams, each focusing on one of following elements of the program:

- Community Education;
- Industrial Education;
- Media and Public Relations;
- Watershed Enhancement; and
- Agricultural Stewardship.

Consistent with the City's goal of providing year-round student opportunities as part of Nature Matters, a fall SHaRP program was organized for a second year, which allowed planting projects and community event participation to continue through to the end of October. This allowed the program employees to complete an additional 4 enhancement sites and be involved in an additional 3 community events.

The funding breakdown for the 2009 program was as follows:

City of Surrey	
- Engineering Capital Works	\$105,000
- Nature Matters	\$ 50,000
- Drainage Utility	\$150,000
Outside Organizations	
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	\$ 18,200
- Fraser Salmon Watersheds Program	\$ 41,500
- School District #36	\$ 25,000
- West Nile Virus education funding	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
Grand Total	\$399,700

In 2009, the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund provided the program for a third consecutive year with funding support. The Fraser Salmon Watersheds Program provided a second year of funding, through the joint program offered by the Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Fraser Basin Council. Surrey School District #36 also provided funds for the program after being unable to contribute in 2008. An application will be made to all of these sources for 2010 funding assistance.

Proposed 2010 SHaRP program

Much like last year, in 2010 the employees of the SHaRP program will be divided into 5 teams with each team being responsible for one of the following areas:

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

The program will run primarily within the spring and summer months. The program may be extended into the fall months, similar to 2009 to complete planting projects and to support community events; however, this is contingent on external funding being obtained to allow for such an extension.

A brief description of the proposed 2010 work plan is documented in Appendix I.

Funding for 2010 SHaRP Program

The SHaRP program fulfills two roles, namely fish habitat protection/restoration and summer youth employment/training. There is currently \$300,000 budgeted from City sources including Engineering Capital Projects, Nature Matters, and the Drainage Utility. This funding is required for program management, student salaries, and materials and services necessary to support the Program.

Engineering Capital Projects are a significant source of SHaRP's funding, as it is more cost efficient for the City to complete some of the environmental works associated with capital projects using the SHaRP program than to retain external contractors.

Based on the confirmed funding and the anticipated costs, the 2010 program will involve the hiring of 16 students. Staff is continuing to search for external funding partners that could supplement the confirmed City funding. The summary of confirmed and expected funding for 2010 is as follows:

City Funding

- Engineering Capital Projects	\$100,000
- Nature Matters	\$ 50,000
- Drainage Utility	<u>\$150,000</u>
Confirmed Funding Sub-total	\$300,000

Potential Funding Partners

- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	\$ 18,200
- Fraser Salmon Watersheds Program	\$ 41,500
- Ministry of Environment	\$ 20,000
- School District #36	\$ 25,000
- West Nile Virus Education Funding	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
Potential Funding Sub-total	\$122,700

The Ministry of Environment and School District #36 are being requested to provide funding in 2010. In each of 2007 and 2009, SD #36 provided the SHaRP program with \$25,000. In each of 2007 and 2008, the Ministry of Environment provided the SHaRP program with \$20,000.

Table 1 summarizes the potential scale of the SHaRP program based on confirmed and potential funding:

Table 1

SHaRP Program Funding	No. of Students	Student Salary Program
Confirmed Funding to Date from Surrey	16	\$192,000
Confirmed Funding & Moderate Amount of Ext. Funding Secured (\$60,000)	23	\$235,000
Confirmed Funding & Optimistic Amount of Ext. Funding Secured (\$125,000)	31	\$280,000

2010 Consultant Assignment for SHaRP

The Engineering Department will oversee the 2010 SHaRP program. It is proposed that a contract for the day-to-day management of the program be awarded to Dillon Consulting Ltd. (Dillon). Dillon has managed the program in all previous years of the Program's existence. Dillon Consulting has submitted a proposal for the 2010 program. Dillon provides student labour at cost; i.e., there is no markup on the student salary program (flow through).

Dillon has developed a comprehensive training program for the students and is intimately familiar with the community events and stewardship groups with which SHaRP works each year. For several years, they were also successful in securing funding on the City's behalf through Human Resources Development Canada. Dillon's program management costs have not changed significantly over the years. The efficiency that they offer and their knowledge of the program has achieved good value for the City.

In an effort to identify other potential consultants for this program, and the Save H2O Program, the Engineering Department will be issuing an Expression of Interest (EOI) prior to the implementation of the 2011 SHaRP program.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The City's SHaRP program supports the Social and Environmental Pillars of the City's Sustainability Charter in relation to goals:

- SC5: Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents,
- EN6: Enhancement and Expansion of the Nature Matters Programs, and
- EN17: Enhance Biodiversity,

by providing an employment program for youth and by implementing practical and effective management of fish habitat.

CONCLUSION

The primary benefits of the SHaRP program include fish habitat restoration and employment opportunities for Surrey secondary and post-secondary students.

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Approve the award of a contract for the management of the 2010 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$85,000 including GST/HST and contingencies;
- Approve the award of the 2010 SHaRP student salary program to Dillon Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$192,000 including GST/HST and contingencies; and
- Set the expenditure authorization limit for the 2010 SHaRP student salary program at \$280,000 including GST/HST and contingencies, subject to sufficient external funding materializing.

Vincent Lalonde, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

VL/CAB/brb

Appendix I - Description of Proposed 2010 SHaRP Program

Description of Proposed 2010 SHaRP Program

The five work areas described in the following paragraphs were selected as the focus for the 2010 SHaRP program with a view to enhancing existing City projects, restoring and enhancing creeks and streams throughout the City and maximizing the benefits of the program generally.

- **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 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 capital work projects. By linking the needs of Surrey capital works projects and the abilities of the SHaRP team, the City is able to obtain better value than alternative approaches offer. The team will also continue to undertake stabilization of erosion sites identified in the ravine assessment report completed in 2009, 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 be directed at raising awareness of natural areas and fish habitat within Surrey. 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 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 that either affects the City's storm sewer system and/or watercourses. Industrial tenants in areas that were targeted last year by the students have been contacting the City regarding pollution concerns, which indicates that the education initiatives within the targeted areas are effective in building community awareness and responsibility. This team will also complete an extensive storm drain marking program that was started in 2008, to increase awareness about the sensitivity of storm water runoff relative to 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 be active in the agricultural community. In the eight years that this component has been part of the annual SHaRP program, the scope has expanded from on-farm, in-stream projects to include community outreach, education, and participation in agricultural events. The team will work on several projects in partnership with local community groups and provide information to the local farm community on property stewardship. In 2010 the team will 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.

- **Media & Public Relations**

The Media & Public Relations team is responsible for ensuring that the program is visible and profiled. This team actively searches for opportunities for media coverage to highlight the environmental initiatives that SHaRP accomplishes. In 2010, the media team will search for media attention across a wide cultural base to disseminate the stewardship message to a broad spectrum of audiences and will assist in hosting joint events with other 'Nature Matters' initiatives throughout the summer.