

NO:R031

COUNCIL DATE: **February 20, 2012**

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **February 20, 2012**  
FROM: **General Manager, Engineering** FILE: **4812-901**  
SUBJECT: **2012 Salmon Habitat Restoration Program ("SHaRP")**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Award Contract 4812-901/02 related to management of the 2012 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$92,600 including HST and contingencies;
3. Award Contract 4812-901/03 for the student salary component of the 2012 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$276,900 including HST and contingencies; and
4. Approve an expenditure authorization limit for the student salary component of the 2012 SHaRP program of \$328,600 including HST and contingencies subject to external funding becoming available to allow for such an increase over the amount noted in 3. above.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the SHaRP program for 2012 and to obtain Council approval for the award of contracts in support of the Program.

## BACKGROUND

The 2012 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 years, the program has grown in size and scope, evolving 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;
- Removal of invasive plant species;
- Riparian and wetland planting;
- Neighbourhood awareness/education campaigns; and
- Community partnerships.

The program is unique among municipalities due to its size, longevity, integrated watershed-based approach and commitment to career-oriented leadership training for local youth. Over its tenure the program has provided summer employment for 465 students.

## DISCUSSION

### Overview of the 2011 SHaRP Program

In 2011, the SHaRP program employed 7 post-secondary students and 20 Surrey high school students for a total of 27 student employees. These students were divided into five teams, each focusing on one of following elements:

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

Consistent with the City's goal of providing year-round student opportunities as part of Nature Matters, a fall SHaRP program was organized in 2011 for a fourth year. This fall component allowed planting projects and community event participation to continue through to the end of November. A full time post-secondary student was employed in the fall of 2011 to organize and oversee the work of the fall team which allowed more education programs to be accomplished as well as additional watershed enhancement sites to be completed.

The following provides a summary of the funding that was available to the Program in 2011:

City of Surrey	
- Engineering Projects	\$144,300
- Nature Matters	\$ 37,000
- Drainage Utility	\$170,000
Outside Organizations	
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	\$ 21,848
- School District #36	<u>\$ 25,000</u>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$398,148</b>

In 2011, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation provided the program with a fifth consecutive year of funding support. The Surrey School District also provided funds for the Program for a third year in a row. Applications will be made to each of these sources for funding assistance for 2012.

### Proposed 2012 SHaRP program

In 2012 the SHaRP program will include 4 teams of students with each team being responsible for one of the following areas:

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

A fifth team that will focus on Industrial Education & Business Community Outreach will be added if sufficient external funding is secured.

The program will operate between the months of May and August and may be extended into the fall months, similar to 2011, to complete planting projects and to support community event participation. The extension of the program into the fall is contingent on sufficient funding being secured to allow such an extension.

A more fulsome description of the proposed 2012 SHaRP Program is included as Appendix I.

### Funding for the 2012 SHaRP Program

The SHaRP program fulfills two roles, namely fish habitat protection/restoration and summer youth employment/training. There is currently \$377,000 budgeted from City sources including Engineering Projects, Nature Matters, and the Drainage Utility. This funding will allow 24 students to be hired under the Program. If additional funding is secured from other external sources additional students will be hired.

Engineering Projects are a significant source of SHaRP's funding based on the fact that it is less costly to complete the environmental works associated with these projects in comparison to retaining external contractors to undertake the same work.

The following is a summary of confirmed and potential Program funding sources for 2012:

Confirmed City Funding:	
- Engineering Projects	\$142,000
- Nature Matters	\$65,000
- Drainage Utility	<u>\$170,000</u>
<b>Confirmed Funding Sub-total</b>	<b>\$377,000</b>
Potential Funding Partners:	
- Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation	\$25,072
- RBC Blue Water	\$5,000
- Surrey School District	\$25,000
- Private Organization support	<u>\$5,000</u>
<b>Potential Funding Sub-total</b>	<b><u>\$60,072</u></b>

A request has been forwarded to the Surrey School District for funding in the amount of \$25,000 for 2012, which is the same amount as the School District has provided in each of the last 3 years.

Staff is also pursuing funding through a grant application to the RBC Blue Water Fund and from potential private sector partners. In this regard, staff is currently working with CleanCare, which is a Surrey-based business that provides oil collection and recycling services. That company has committed in support of their environmental stewardship goal to donate 1% of their annual earnings to SHaRP as a grant.

In 2011, \$46,848 of external funding was secured to support the SHaRP Program. If all potential external funding is achieved for the 2012 Program as identified above, a total of 30 student employees will be hired to undertake the work of the Program in 2012.

*Table 1*

SHaRP Program Funding	No. of Students	Student Salary Program
Confirmed Funding to Date from Surrey	24	\$276,900
Confirmed Funding & Optimistic Amount of Ext. Funding Secured (\$ 60,072)	30	\$328,600

### **2012 Consultant Assignment**

Engineering Department staff will oversee the 2012 SHaRP Program with the day-to-day management of the Program being contracted to a consultant.

A Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) was issued by the Engineering Department with a view to retaining a consultant to provide management services for the 2012 SHaRP program. Only one consultant, Dillon Consulting Ltd. (Dillon), expressed an interest in the assignment. Following the EOI, a second consultant expressed an interest in the assignment; however, this consultant did not respond to staff's request for a statement of qualifications indicating their ability to undertake the work.

As a result of the above the City requested a proposal from Dillon Consulting for the 2012 SHaRP Program. Dillon has managed the Program in all previous years of the Program's existence and has performed the work very effectively. The cost that has been quoted by Dillon to manage the Program in 2012 is comparable to previous years' costs. Dillon is responsible for hiring the students to undertake the work of the Program. Dillon recovers the cost of the student labour from the City with no mark up.

Dillon has developed a comprehensive training program for the students and is very 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 to cover part of the labour costs. 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.

On this basis, staff is recommending that Dillon Consulting Ltd. be retained by the City to manage the SHaRP Program in 2012.

## SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The City's SHaRP program assists in achieving the Social and Environmental Pillars of the City's Sustainability Charter; more particularly, the following goals:

- SC5: Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents;
- EN12: Enhance and Protect Natural Areas, Fish Habitat and Wildlife Habitat;
- EN6: Enhancement and Expansion of the Nature Matters Programs; and
- EN17: Enhance Biodiversity.

The program provides training for youth while implementing initiatives that protect and enhance the natural environment across the City.

## CONCLUSION

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

- Award Contract 4812-901/02 related to management of the 2012 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$92,600 including HST and contingencies;
- Award Contract 4812-901/03 for the student salary component of the 2012 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$276,900 including HST and contingencies; and
- Approve an expenditure authorization limit for the student salary component of the 2012 SHaRP program of \$328,600 including HST and contingencies subject to external funding becoming available to allow for such an increase over the amount noted above.

Vincent Lalonde, P.Eng.  
General Manager, Engineering

JA/LA/brb

Appendix I - Proposed 2012 SHaRP Program

## Proposed 2012 SHaRP Program

The five work areas described in the following paragraphs were selected as the focus for the 2012 SHaRP program on the basis of their contribution to enhancing existing City projects, restoring and enhancing creek and stream locations, and the benefits that would accrue to the general public and government agencies.

- **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 riparian enhancement works that are required as part of the City's commitments to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Authorizations associated with past capital work projects. By linking the needs of Surrey capital and operational works projects and the abilities of the SHaRP team, the City obtains an overall better value. Watershed Enhancement will also continue to undertake stabilization of erosion sites identified in the ravine assessment completed in 2011, 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. 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 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.

This team will also help deliver a pilot student program created through the Nature Matters program to engage one grade level at 2-3 schools in Surrey with fish themed activities over the summer period. The results of this pilot will direct the full-scale implementation of a fish themed summer engagement program to be released in Spring 2013.

- **Agricultural Stewardship**

The Agricultural Stewardship team will continue to be active in the agricultural community. In the ten 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 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 conducted an extensive resident contact program for landowners living within the Little Campbell River Watershed. The team also conducted invasive plant removal activities on City properties adjacent to agricultural property in order to reduce the potential impacts on crops, and to increase the interaction between the general community and the agricultural community.

In 2012, the team will be spearheading a new initiative to address water quality contamination concerns that have been systemic within the Little Campbell River Watershed. Commenced in the 2011 season, Agricultural Stewardship team began a water quality assessment of the tributaries of the Little Campbell River to narrow down the potential areas where fecal related contamination is originating. In 2012, the team will further expand on this work by commencing a detailed review of land use practices along each tributary that has fecal contamination. This is the inaugural year of a joint multi-year initiative between SHaRP and A Rocha Canada which has an environmental education centre located within the watershed.

- **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 2011 Fall SHaRP program completed a salmon spawning video that will be hosted on the City's website to highlight the resource present in the City.

In 2012, the media team will establish media attention across a wide cultural base in order to spread the stewardship message to a broader audience. The media team will also update the existing SHaRP website on the City's website to highlight new and innovative initiatives underway, and the media team will create a database of video footage of SHaRP works to be used in web tools highlighting the program.

- **Industrial Education & Business Community Outreach**  
*(should sufficient external funding be secured)*

The Industrial Education team comprised 2 components in the 2011 program. Half of the team's time was dedicated to industrial education tasks with the other half spent within the Campbell Heights Enhancement Area providing environmental enhancement and monitoring for unsanctioned activity within the enhancement zone. This model proved effective as a deterrent to the people that were conducting off-road activities in the Campbell Heights Enhancement Area while also educating to other users of the area (i.e., dog walkers) of the harm that can be caused to the sensitive habitat areas. Since completion of the 2011 program, unsanctioned activity has not appeared to have increased within the area; therefore, the need for this scope within the SHaRP team structure will not be continued for the 2012 season.

Should sufficient funds be secured, this team will again be split in 2012 in order to accomplish two goals. Approximately two-thirds of the team's time will be dedicated to industrial education tasks and the remaining one-third will be spent expanding upon community outreach within the business sector of the City. Similar in scope to the industrial education tasks of informing industrial business organizations, this team will actively engage businesses in the City to become active stewards in the City and realize firsthand the resource that they will be protecting by implementing best management practices to prevent storm drain contamination.