

NO: **R039**

COUNCIL DATE: **March 11, 2013**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **March 5, 2013**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering**

FILE: **4813-901**

SUBJECT: **2013 Salmon Habitat Restoration Program ("SHaRP")**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Award Contract 4813-901/02 related to the management of the 2013 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Limited in the amount of \$111,353 including applicable taxes and contingencies;
3. Award Contract 4813-901/03 for the student salary component of the 2013 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Limited in the amount of \$359,247 including applicable taxes and contingencies; and
4. Approve an expenditure authorization limit for the student salary component of the 2013 SHaRP program of \$396,247 including contingencies, subject to external funding becoming available to allow for such an increase over the amount noted in recommendation 3. above.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the SHaRP program for 2013 and to obtain approval for the award of each of two contracts in support of the delivery of the 2013 program.

BACKGROUND

The 2013 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, and has evolved into a more integrated approach to watershed restoration. Recent projects have included:

- In-stream restoration and enhancement;
- Agricultural stream enhancement;
- Water quality testing;

- 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 490 students.

DISCUSSION

Overview of the 2012 SHaRP Program

In 2012, the SHaRP program hired 7 post-secondary Team Leaders and 21 Surrey high school students for a total of 28 student employees. These students were divided into five teams, each team focusing on one of following elements:

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

Consistent with the City's goal of providing year-round student opportunities as part of Nature Matters, the SHaRP program was extended into the Fall for a sixth year. This allowed planting projects and community event participation to continue through to the end of November. The year 2012 was the second year that a full time post-secondary student was employed to facilitate the fall team which allowed more education programs to be accomplished as well as enhancements at some additional watershed sites to be completed.

The following provides a summary of the funding that was available to the program in 2012:

City of Surrey	
- Engineering Capital Works	\$63,000
- Engineering Operations	\$150,000
- Nature Matters	\$ 12,000
- Drainage Utility	\$150,000
Outside Organizations	
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	\$ 25,000
- School District #36	<u>\$ 25,000</u>
Grand Total	\$425,000

In 2012, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation provided funding support to the program for a sixth consecutive year. The Surrey School District also provided funds for the program for a fourth consecutive year. Applications have been made to these sources for funding assistance for the 2013 program with the Surrey School District already having committed to \$25,000.

Proposed 2013 SHaRP program

In 2013 the SHaRP program will again involve 5 teams of students with each team being responsible for one of the following areas:

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

The program will run between the months of May and August and may be extended into the fall months, similar to 2012, to complete planting projects and to support community events.

A more detailed description of the proposed 2013 SHaRP Program is included in Appendix I.

Funding for the 2013 SHaRP Program

The SHaRP program fulfills two roles, namely fish habitat protection/restoration and summer youth employment/training. There is currently \$450,000 available for the 2013 program from City sources including Engineering Capital Projects, Nature Matters, and the Drainage Utility. This funding will be directed to program management, student salaries, materials and services necessary to support the program.

Engineering Capital Works and Operational Works are a significant source of SHaRP's funding, as it is more cost efficient for the City to fund the SHaRP program to complete necessary environmental works in comparison to retaining external contractors.

The 2013 program will involve the hiring of 28 students. Staff is continuing to search for external funding partners to further augment the 2013 program.

The following is a summary of confirmed and potential funding sources for 2013:

City Funding		
- Engineering Capital Works	\$ 94,000	
- Engineering Operational Works	\$ 121,000	
- Nature Matters	\$ 65,000	
- Drainage Utility	<u>\$170,000</u>	
Confirmed City Funding Sub-total	\$450,000	
External Funding		
- School District #36	\$ 25,000	
- Private Organization support	<u>\$ 1,122</u>	
Confirmed Funding Sub-total	\$26,122	\$476,122
Potential Funding Partners		
- Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation	\$27,000	
- TD Friends of the Environment Fund	<u>\$ 10,000</u>	
Potential Funding Sub-total	\$37,000	\$37,000

As mentioned above, the Surrey School District has agreed to provide funding for the 2013 SHaRP program in the amount of \$25,000. A local Surrey business, Clean Care Environmental Services, has committed to provide \$1,122 in funding, which represents 1% of their annual earnings. Staff will pursue other partners in the business sector of the City with a view to raising additional funds to further augment the 2013 program.

In 2012, \$50,072 of external funding was secured to support the SHaRP program. If all potential external funding is achieved for the 2013 program as identified above, an additional 4 students will be hired for a total of 32 students as documented in the following table.

Table 1

SHaRP Program Funding	No. of Students	Student Salary Program
Confirmed Funding to Date from Surrey & External Funding Sources	28	\$287,350
Confirmed Funding & Optimistic Amount of External Funding Secured (\$ 37,000)	32	\$325,850

2013 Consultant Assignment

Engineering Department staff will oversee the 2013 SHaRP program with the day-to-day management of the program contracted to a consultant.

A Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) was issued by the Engineering Department in 2012 with a view to retaining a consultant to provide management services for the 2013 SHaRP program. Two consultants expressed an interest in the assignment; however, only Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) submitted a proposal.

Dillon has managed the SHaRP Program in all previous years of the Program's existence and performed the work very effectively. The price quoted by Dillon to manage the program in 2013 is comparable to previous years' costs. Dillon is responsible for hiring the students for the Program and providing the student labour at their cost.

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. 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 that Dillon Consulting Ltd. be awarded the contract to manage the SHaRP program in 2013 given their experience with the program over the last 17 years.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The City's SHaRP program supports the Social and Environmental Pillars of the City's Sustainability Charter in relation to 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 4813-901/02 related to the management of the 2013 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Limited in the amount of \$111,353 including applicable taxes and contingencies;
- Award Contract 4813-901/03 for the student salary component of the 2013 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Limited in the amount of \$359,247 including applicable taxes and contingencies; and
- Approve an expenditure authorization limit for the student salary component of the 2013 SHaRP program of \$396,247 including contingencies, subject to external funding becoming available to allow for such an increase over the amount noted under the second bullet point above.

Vincent Lalonde, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

JA/NM/brb

Appendix I - Proposed 2013 SHaRP Program

Proposed 2013 SHaRP Program

The five work areas described in the following paragraphs were selected as the focus for the 2013 SHaRP program on the basis of their contribution to enhancing existing City projects, restoring and enhancing creeks and streams and the benefits to the general public and other 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 commitment to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) authorizations associated with capital work projects. By linking the needs of Surrey capital and operational works projects and the abilities of the SHaRP team, the City achieves overall better value. The Watershed Enhancement Team will also continue to undertake stabilization of erosion sites identified in the City's ravine assessment that was completed in 2011, and also 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 their local natural areas and sustainable practices that can be implemented in relation to their daily routines. New display materials and programs will be developed to focus on various environmental initiatives 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 to 3 schools in Surrey with fish-themed activities over the summer period. The results of this pilot will inform the full-scale implementation of a fish-themed summer engagement program to be implemented in the Spring of 2014.

- **Agricultural Stewardship**

The Agricultural Stewardship Team will be active in the agricultural community. In the eleven years that this Team has been part of SHaRP Program, 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 opportunities. 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 to reduce the potential impacts on crops of such species. In 2013, the Team will be continuing the water quality initiative in the Little Campbell River Watershed that was started in 2011. The Team has completed a water quality assessment of the tributaries of the Little Campbell River to determine where contamination is originating. In 2013, the Team will further expand this

project by commencing an in-depth land use assessment along tributaries of the River to identify contamination sources. This is a joint multi-year initiative between SHaRP and A Rocha Canada, which has an environmental education center located within the watershed.

- **Media & Public Relations**

The Media & Public Relations Team presents the visible component of the SHaRP Program that is essential to the overall success of SHaRP. This Team actively searches for opportunities for media 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 is on the City's website, which highlights the spawning resources present in the City. In 2012, the media team created 6 short videos about SHaRP that are now showcased on a website and on the City's YouTube channel. In 2013, the media team will search for media attention across a wide cultural base to spread the stewardship message to a wider audience and will upgrade the existing SHaRP webpages on the City's website to highlight new and innovative initiatives using new web tools.

- **Industrial Education & Community Relations**

The Industrial Education Team will target their efforts at one industry sector regarding storm water pollution. In 2012, the focus was on the painting and hot tub industries. A mail-out to individual businesses was followed by a visit by a team member to each such business to inform the business operator about best management practices related to disposing of the business's waste products. In 2013, the Team will be targeting their efforts to the car-washing industry. During low flows and on hot days in the summer, the City receives numerous spill calls and complaints regarding car wash run-off and its effects on fish habitat. The Team will also partner with a local Surrey business to demonstrate a salmon-friendly car wash day. Similar in scope to the industrial education tasks of informing industrial business organizations, this Team will actively engage businesses in the City to become stewards and realize firsthand the resource they will be protecting by implementing best management practices to prevent storm drain pollution.