
CITY OF KELOWNA
MEMORANDUM

Date: August 30, 2006
File No.: 0550-04

To: City Manager

From: Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services

Subject: Shore Facilities for Boaters on Okanagan Lake

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT City Council support in principle the Regional District of Central Okanagan undertaking the preparation of a plan for the development of amenities to support boating activity on Okanagan, Wood, and Kalamalka Lakes;

AND THAT the Regional District be requested to consider a budget allocation in 2007 to cover the costs of preparation of a plan by a qualified independent consulting firm;

AND FURTHER THAT the Regional District be asked to approach Tourism Kelowna as a potential partner in the creation of the plan.

BACKGROUND:

Increasing local population and tourism are creating a growing demand for facilities to support boating activity. The portion of Okanagan Lake within the Regional District of Central Okanagan has very limited opportunities for the development of amenities to support boating due to topographic constraints, environmental sensitivity, and existing development along the shoreline. Woods Lake and Kalamalka Lake have similar challenges. Careful planning is needed to identify opportunities and the impacts of developing those opportunities.

Planning ought to be conducted on a regional basis for a number of reasons:

- Amenities such as boat launches, marine fuel stations, sanitary pump-outs, safe moorage buoys, and moorage basins provide a resource to activity that crosses different jurisdictional boundaries.
- The land base to support these facilities is scarce and may not be available within one particular jurisdiction.
- The services have an impact on tourism opportunities regionally.
- Costs of preparing the plan and developing the amenities should be shared.

The purpose of the plan would be to:

- Identify preferred sites within the Regional District for future boating facilities such as boat launches, parking for boat launches, sanitary pump out facilities, commercial facilities such as marine gas stations, moorage buoy locations, marinas and moorage basin locations

- Create a ranking criterion for sites to assist the Regional District and its municipal partners in selecting sites for future development.
- Recommend an equitable model for allocating the capital and operating costs associated with these facilities.
- Identify the regulatory approvals or barriers for development such as rezoning, environmental, and navigable waters
- Identify land tenure or land ownership requirements to allow the developments to proceed.
- Recommend criteria for determining the preferred timing for the development of facilities.
- Identify potential partners in the development or funding of facilities.

City staff anticipates working closely with the Regional District and its consulting team in the preparation of this plan. Timing for conducting the plan would be subject to Regional District work plans but we would hope to complete the work during 2007.

David Graham
Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services