
CITY OF KELOWNA
MEMORANDUM

Date: March 1, 2007
File No.: 5280-01

To: City Manager

From: Environment and Solid Waste Manager

Subject: **Okanagan Basin Water Board Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grants**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council endorse the applications for the Okanagan Basin Water Board Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants attached to the Report of the Environment & Solid Waste Manager dated March 1, 2007.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Kelowna's Environment Division has submitted two applications to the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) for the 2007 / 2008 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant. The applications are for \$25,000 in funding towards Wetland Inventory and Mapping and \$20,000 for Mission Creek Restoration Planning.

Wetland Inventory and Mapping Grant Application (\$25,000)

In 2005, the City of Kelowna hired Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd to conduct Sensitive Habitat and Inventory Mapping (SHIM) of both Mill and Bellevue Creeks. In 2006, the City was able to re-hire Ecoscape with funding contributions from OBWB (\$25,000) and the City's Water and Drainage Division (\$25,000). In 2006 the consultant completed a total of 52.23 kilometers of SHIM. Numerous departments including Environment, Drainage, Planning, Parks and the Fire Department are using the information.

It is important to accurately identify, inventory, and locate waterbodies, their associated riparian habitats and fisheries-related attributes. SHIM provides urban planners with up-to-date information, allowing for more informed planning decisions.

It is estimated that over 85% of the valley bottom wetland and associated riparian habitats have been lost in the Okanagan. Many of the remaining wetlands are highly fragmented. Therefore, in 2007, the City would like to inventory and map 81 known and at least 57 unknown wetlands in the City of Kelowna boundaries. The mapped and inventoried wetlands are integrated into a GIS database and are an important tool that help staff make informed decisions to better protect, improve or enhance remaining wetland ecosystems. The estimated cost for this project is \$50 000, based on the number of wetlands. The City of Kelowna's Environment Division has allocated \$15,000 and the Water and Drainage Division has allocated \$10,000 in funding to be put towards partnering on this Wetland Inventory and Mapping project within City of Kelowna

boundaries. If successful with this application the City of Kelowna will receive \$25,000 from OBWB to match this internal funding.

Mission Creek Restoration Planning Grant Application (\$20,000)

The Mission Creek Habitat Restoration Feasibility Plan was completed for the Ministry of Environment in 2003, with a revision in 2006. The feasibility plan details the rationale for undertaking restoration in Mission Creek based on its relative contribution to Okanagan Lake fish production.

The Mission Creek Habitat Restoration Feasibility Plan is a multi-year plan which includes setback dykes (Gordon Drive to the Regional Park), meandering channel construction with riffle pool sequences (KLO Road and Regional Park) and riffle structures, sediment traps and meandering channels (Regional Park and East Kelowna Road). The City of Kelowna (Council) endorsed the plan on September 12th 2006.

The City would like to utilize the Mission Creek Habitat Restoration Feasibility Plan and hire a consultant to coordinate and prioritize projects, the necessary timelines, land purchase, create and distribute education / information pamphlets and investigate funding sources. This consultant will facilitate discussions with property owners along Mission Creek within the City of Kelowna and the Central Okanagan Regional District to determine the feasibility of the priority actions (set-back dykes, meandering channel construction, riffles and sediment traps).

The Ministry of Environment will contribute \$20,000 from the Okanagan Lake Action Plan towards this planning process. The City of Kelowna will contribute \$5,000 in-kind. Additionally, the City has funding from City infrastructure projects which can be utilized for on-the-ground projects (includes land purchase) once the planning has been finalized and all stakeholders are involved and in agreement.

Mark Watt
Environment and Solid Waste Manager



approved for inclusion:
John Vos
Director Works & Utilities

Attachments: OBWB Application for Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Applications

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The following is a list of the attachments that are **not** available with the electronic version of this report. The attachments can be viewed in the City Clerk's Department (3rd level, City Hall):

- Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant Application, Stream restoration planning for habitat improvement & flood control - \$40,000.
- Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant Application,. Wetland Inventory and Mapping - \$50,000.