
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 25, 2009
File No.: 5280-01
To: City Manager
From: Infrastructure Planning Project Manager
Subject: Okanagan Basin Water Board Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council endorse the attached applications to the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants for the following:

- Community Outreach & Communication Program for the Mission Creek Restoration Project;
- Mission Creek Channel Width Assessment for the Mission Creek Restoration Project;
- Bringing Xeriscape Knowledge and Action to the Okanagan

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the Okanagan Basin Water Board's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Initiative is to assist local government in addressing issues that enhance valley wide sustainable use of water. As part of the application process, all applications must be accompanied by a Board or Council resolution from the respective Regional District Board and/or Municipal Council. This includes applications from local governments and all non-profit/ community groups or improvement districts.

The following applications were submitted to the OBWB for the February 1st deadline:

- ***Community Outreach & Communication Program for the Mission Creek Restoration Project***
 - Applicant: Mission Creek Restoration Working Group.
 - Amount: \$10,000.
- ***Mission Creek Channel Width Assessment for the Mission Creek Restoration Project***
 - Applicant: Mission Creek Restoration Working Group.
 - Amount: \$10,000.
- ***Bringing Xeriscape Knowledge and Action to the Okanagan***
 - Applicant: Okanagan Xeriscape Association
 - Amount: \$30,000.

Community Outreach & Communication Program for the Mission Creek Restoration Project

The Mission Creek Restoration Working Group is a partnership between the Ministry of Environment, City of Kelowna, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Westbank First Nation, Regional District of Central Okanagan, Friends of Mission Creek Society and the Central Okanagan Land Trust. Funding is needed to hire a Community Outreach Coordinator to develop the Outreach Plan.



The Coordinator will work with the Mission Creek Group to develop an information brochure and set up meetings with land owners most affected by the proposed project. The purpose of these information sessions is to communicate project intentions and benefits to local residents, gain the support from the community, and address any concerns they may have. The Coordinator will then arrange and conduct at least two public meetings to inform the general public and stakeholders about the project. The Coordinator and the Group will prepare and submit a final report on the Outreach Plan to the OBWB. The Plan is intended to be transferable for use in other jurisdictions within the Okanagan Basin for similar projects that engage the public.

Mission Creek Channel Width Assessment for the Mission Creek Restoration Project

The Mission Creek Restoration Working Group is a partnership among the Ministry of Environment, City of Kelowna, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Westbank First Nation, Regional District of Central Okanagan, Friends of Mission Creek Society and the Central Okanagan Land Trust.

The funding will be used to develop the Terms of Reference for and hire a qualified professional to conduct the "Channel Width Assessment" on lower Mission Creek. The site-specific field assessment is required on Mission Creek where priority properties for acquisition have been identified. The contractor will model the optimum channel width(s) needed to meet project objectives. The information will help determine how many channel widths of Mission Creek are required to be set back to re-naturalize Mission Creek and achieve improvements to water quality. A Final Report will be prepared outlining the methodology, results, and recommendations of the assessment.

Bringing Xeriscape Knowledge and Action to the Okanagan

The main goal of the Okanagan Xeriscape Association (OXA) is to enable residents throughout the Okanagan to create xeric landscapes at their homes, places of work, and in their communities. This indirectly conserves significant amounts of water and potentially reduces water pollution due to reductions in fertilizers, pesticides and herbicide use. OXA previously has partnered with the City of Kelowna WaterSmart program and the City of Kelowna Parks Division for the creation of a xeriscape demonstration garden.

The association aims to achieve its goal of enabling the creation of xeric landscapes throughout the Okanagan by carrying out three main objectives: (i) providing a knowledgeable and centralized source of xeriscape information; (ii) working closely with local nurseries to create a viable market for xeric plants; and (iii) promoting the benefits and beauty of xeriscaping.

LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Chapter 7 of the Official Community Plan.

EXISTING POLICY:

From the Official Community Plan:

- Section 7.2.2 Water Smart Public Education Program
- Section 7.2.3 Xeriscape Landscaping
- Section 7.3.9 Development of Watershed Management Plans
- Section 7.8.5 Aquatic Habitat Restoration Feasibility Plans

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

The City of Kelowna's contribution to these projects is already accounted for within existing budgets.

EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The Regional District of Central Okanagan and the Ministry of Environment are partners on the respective applications.

INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:

Utility Services Manager
Environment & Land Use Manager
Infrastructure Planning Director

Considerations not applicable to this report:

LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS:

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted by:



Mark Watt
Infrastructure Planning Project Manager

Approved for Inclusion:



Director of Infrastructure Planning & Asset
Management

cc: General Manager Citizen Services
Neal Klassen, WaterSmart
Mission Creek Working Group