

Memo



Date: March 10, 2010
File No.: 1200-40
To: City Manager
From: Policy and Planning
Subject: Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Report Prepared By: Graham March, Planner Specialist

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council direct staff to apply for a grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 from UBCM to cover the cost of updating our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

BACKGROUND:

In 2004, the City of Kelowna undertook a review of lands within the city to assess the risk of wildfire, the subsequent threat to structures and natural features, as well as fire suppression constraints. The outcome from this review was the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

It is generally accepted that the CWPP and the information used to develop the document is only valid for a 5 year period to remain current with changes in forest cover, new developments within interface areas, areas that have received treatment, etc., and should be updated in conjunction with new ortho photos which were acquired last spring (2009).

The work proposed under this funding application includes two components. The first is to update the GIS based Wildfire Hazard Analysis (WHA). The second component consists of a detailed field inventory as well as the development of the CWPP document.

The WHA analysis effectively highlights the primary factors that affect wildfire management planning. This includes fire behavior on the landscape, identify new developments within interface areas, the risk of ignition, as well as fire suppression constraints. All fuels rated as moderate to high risk in the WHA will be field verified and conditions inventoried. The mapping generated through this work will become the Wildland Fire Hazard Development Permit Map currently adopted into the OCP.

The second component of the update includes the development of the CWPP. The updated CWPP document will provide a detailed analysis of the existing and future risks, as well as long-term and short-term abatement strategies. This will include both operational strategies as well as policy changes. This information is essential to understanding where the risks of wildfire lie.

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As the original mapping was created in 2004 it is now appropriate and necessary to update that information to ensure appropriate identification of potential hazard areas. Updated mapping would be incorporated into the Draft OCP, which it is anticipated will be presented to Council by the end of the year.

LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Local Government Act - Section 919.1(1)(b)

EXISTING POLICY:

Official Community Plan Bylaw 7600 includes Wildland Fire Hazard Development Permit Area Designation - Map 7.2

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

There is grant money available on the basis that there will be matching contribution from the City of Kelowna. It has been established that consultant work to generate updated mapping would be on the order of \$50,000.00. The City matching contribution will be "in-kind" of approximately \$25,000.00 in the form of access to all the 2004 data and GIS information related to the original project, as well as through operational fuel mitigation. It would be appropriate to seek grant funding from UBCM in the amount of \$25,000.00 to cover the remaining cost of the project with the result that there would be no impact to the 2010 budget.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

This will be an interdepartmental initiative primarily involving Parks as well as Policy & Planning. Parks staff will taking the lead role for the wildfire management and fuel modification portions, whereas Policy & Planning will be the lead wherever recommendations for planning and policy are required.

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:

EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:


INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS:

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted by:



G. March
Planner Specialist



G. Stephen
Long Range Planning Manager

Approved for Inclusion:

Director of Policy and Planning

