

Memo



Date: September 7, 2010
File: 1260-51
To: City Manager
From: General Manager, Community Services
Subject: West Nile Virus Larviciding Program Funding

Recommendation:

THAT City Council approve the following resolution and forward it to UBCM for consideration at their upcoming convention:

WHEREAS the Okanagan valley including the Regional Districts of RDOS, RDCO, NORD, CSRD, RDKB and TNRD are high-risk zones for West Nile virus and the virus is now established in the southern BC interior;

AND WHEREAS local governments are legislated under the BC Public Health Act and WNV Control Regulation BC Reg. 357/2004 to mitigate the West Nile virus health hazard by mosquito larviciding as directed by local Medical Health Officers

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities recommend to the provincial government to provide local government in West Nile virus high-risk zones with adequate sustained funding to carry out mosquito larviciding each spring and summer.

Purpose:

To seek Council's approval to forward a resolution to UBCM to request the Provincial Government to continue the West Nile Virus larviciding program.

Background:

Under Provincial advice and funding, the City and Regional District began an annual larviciding program in 2006 to limit exposure to our citizens of mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus (WNV). While WNV did not spread as quickly into British Columbia as originally anticipated, the virus was first detected in mosquitoes in BC in the south Okanagan in August 2009 and caused human WNV cases, and has now advanced its range northwards with 3 birds and one human case detected with WNV in the Kelowna area in August 2010. This now confirms that it is in the area. The Thompson Okanagan Shuswap area and Kootenay-Boundary area have also been identified as the high risk areas of the province for WNV spread.

The Central Okanagan Regional District has provided a larviciding program of ponds to limit mosquito populations for many years for all areas of the region. The WNV program expanded treatment to other standing water on public property including all storm drains as well as more

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frequent treatment of ponds. Details on the West Nile program are available on the Regional website at www.regionaldistrict.com.

Within the City over 7500 storm drains are treated three times during the mosquito season. Total expenditures for 2010 for CORD were \$275,000. Funding for this program was administered thru UBCM from Provincial sources. Overall funding within the Interior Health region was some \$832,700.

The City has been advised that the Province has discontinued the funding of this program in 2009, though due to unspent funds there were sufficient funds to support the 2010 program.

Recognizing that WNV has just arrived in the Central Okanagan it is important that a comprehensive program be continued for 2011 and future years. As the attached letter from Interior Health indicates it is the obligation of local government to ensure this program is in place. The costs of the larviciding would have a significant impact on CORD and the member municipalities for 2011 and following years budgets. On that basis, it is recommended that Council approve the resolution to UBCM and therefore to the Provincial government to continue this funding.

Internal Circulation: Utilities Service Manager

Legal/Statutory Authority: The City is obligated to ensure treatment occurs as per the attached letter from IHA.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations: Without provincial funding the City would have to fund treatment of all its storm drains plus participate in Regional funding of treatment of ponds.

Personnel Implications: Current program delivery is thru CORD. Depending on funding agreements this may change to have to be done by City staff or a contractor.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Community & Media Relations Comments:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Alternate Recommendation:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Submitted by:



John Vos

General Manager - Community Services

Attachment - Interior Health letter dated Aug 21, 2010



August 31, 2010

Mr. Ron Mattiussi
City Manager
City of Kelowna
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

sent via e-mail rmattiussi@kelowna.ca

Dear Mr. Mattiussi,

Re: Spring-Summer 2011 West Nile Virus Control Activities

West Nile virus (WNV) first appeared in BC in August 2009 in the South Okanagan area. Surveillance during the summer of 2010 has now detected WNV in the Kelowna area as well. We expect that the excellent effort of local jurisdictions to reduce vector populations has likely contributed to a lower impact of the virus.

Given the expected ongoing northward spread up the Okanagan valley of WNV in the mosquito and bird populations, and that incremental spread may not always be detected immediately by surveillance, the whole Okanagan valley from Osoyoos north to Kamloops and the Shuswap Lake area should now be considered a WNV risk zone. The WNV high risk area maps, as outlined by the BC Center for Disease Control, are based on high summer temperature gradients and presence of vector mosquito species.

This letter is to inform you as a local government, and under the BC Public Health Act and the West Nile Virus Control Regulation, that as a Medical Health Officer it is my expectation that the City of Kelowna will conduct mosquito larviciding for WNV control in the spring and summer of 2011. This can be arranged by your municipality individually or in conjunction with your regional district.

The IH Medical Health Officer group and the Interior Health- Health Protection staff look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you on West Nile virus control activities, as we have done for the past several years.

I would be happy to discuss with you any aspect of planning for the spring and summer of 2011.

Yours truly,

Robert Parker MD, MHSc, FRCP (Community Medicine)
Medical Health Officer

RP/ls

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