

Memo



Date: April 6, 2011
File: 0700 - Associations, Clubs and Societies
To: City Manager
From: Todd Cashin - Manager, Environment & Land Use
Subject: Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Partnership (OCCP) - Update
Report Prepared by: Greg Sauer

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the Report from the Manager, Environment & Land Use dated April 6, 2011 with respect to the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program;

AND THAT Council receives, for information, the presentation by the Program Coordinator, Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program;

AND FURTHER THAT Council endorses the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program.

Purpose:

To obtain information on the mandate of the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP), the value that this initiative adds to the City of Kelowna and an update of past, current and future projects.

Background:

The OCCP was formed in May 2006 to address inter-municipal conservation considerations. The importance of this effort arises from the fact that the Okanagan landscape sustains an array biological diversity and ecological processes (referred to as ecosystem goods and services) which are critical to our existence and which must be protected for future generations. As the name would suggest, the OCCP works collaboratively on regional issues such as valley-wide wildlife corridors which typically do not adhere to administrative boundaries.

The OCCP's mandate is to "coordinate and facilitate conservation and stewardship efforts on public and private lands, set conservation and stewardship goals and objectives, and generate the support and resources needed to maintain this effort". A primary goal is to collaborate with all levels of government, providing appropriate information to planners and decision-makers to make well-researched decisions. It is expected that improved decision-making will result in the maintenance and preservation of functioning ecological corridors and representation of all major habitat types in the Okanagan Valley.

At present, 34 partners have signed a "Statement of Cooperation". Signatories include representatives from all three levels of government, land trusts, stewardship outreach

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organizations, and academia. The growth and interest in this Program speaks to its importance and what can be achieved when partners work collaboratively. The diverse partners include:

- Allan Brooks Nature Centre
- BC Ministry of Environment
- Bishop Sanctuary of Coldstream
- Central Okanagan Land Trust
- Central Okanagan Naturalists Club
- City of Kelowna
- City of Vernon
- Community Mapping Network
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- District of Coldstream
- District of Lake Country
- District of Peachland
- District of West Kelowna
- Ducks Unlimited of Canada
- Environment Canada
- Grasslands Conservation Council
- Lake Country Environmental Society
- Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia
- North Okanagan Naturalists Club
- North Okanagan Parks & Natural Area Trust
- Okanagan Basin Water Board
- Okanagan Partnership
- Outdoor Discoveries
- Regional District of the Central Okanagan
- Regional District of the North Okanagan
- Sciences Opportunities for Kids
- Society for the protection of Kalamalka Lake
- Sustainable Environmental Network Society
- South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program
- The Land Conservancy of BC
- The Nature Conservancy Canada, BC Region
- UBCO Nancy Holmes
- UBCO Centre for Social, Spatial & Economic Justice
- Village of Lumby

Since 2006, the OCCP has built on the efforts of its partners to complete several important mapping projects. Mapping is a valuable tool that provides information that is critical to effective current and future planning, in addition to assisting in enforcement when unauthorized development has occurred. A key project over the past two years is an update to the Okanagan Lake Foreshore Inventory Mapping (FIM). Unlike its predecessor, the FIM update is a comprehensive look at the state of the foreshore for the entire Lake and builds on the 2005 report that was prepared by the Regional District of Central Okanagan. This updated report and video is expected to be delivered by the consultant this spring.

The Program has led to the development of other initiatives such as the Okanagan Habitat Atlas and Geolive. Geolive is an open source mapping extension developed by researchers at UBC Okanagan which allows users (anyone with an internet connection) to share their own content on the map. Since Geolive content is created and managed locally, administrators can analyze: content, participation, community use patterns, and much more.

As part of its mandate to share information, OCCP partners have created the Okanagan Conservation Planning web portal, referred to as the OKCP. This portal has been designed to provide easy access to resources that will support ecosystem planning and conservation efforts in the Okanagan basin. Staff expect to use this portal to disseminate information such as the Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping (SHIM) and Wetland Inventory and Mapping (WIM) to stakeholders and consultants.

In terms of future initiatives, the five year plan includes the development and implementation of a Regional Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Central and North Okanagan. Biodiversity and connectivity strategies are critical to ensuring the protection of appropriate habitat and corridors. Projects such as the biodiversity strategy are most appropriately undertaken at a regional/watershed level. The Regional Biodiversity Conservation Strategy is an important tool in the protection of biodiversity and the creation of connectivity in this Valley. The Strategy will compliment and build upon Draft OCP policy (*Kelowna 2030: Greening our Future*) with respect to biodiversity and connectivity. The Strategy is expected to be largely funded through the RDCO and will therefore come at little, if any additional cost to the City of Kelowna.

Another important aspect of the OCCP and its members is outreach and education. The OCCP will continue with these efforts as they relate to conservation and biodiversity in the Okanagan.

The OCCP fulfills a unique niche and appears to be hitting its stride in its ability to leverage partner funding to obtain funding from other agencies. Examples include Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) and various federal (e.g. Environment Canada) Programs such as the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP).

Existing Policy:

Official Community Plan

7.3 Watershed Policies:

- **Co-operation:** Encourage Federal, Provincial and Local Governments, agencies, First Nations, and the public to work co-operatively, through partnerships, for integrated and consistent watershed management.

7.5 Tree Policies

- **Forest Areas:** Pursue further co-operative initiatives with the appropriate agencies regarding planning and management of forested areas within and around the periphery of the City.

7.10 Natural Environment Policies:

- **Public Education:** Continue comprehensive education programs to schools and local organizations by City staff, and encourage public and private interests directed at natural resource protection and watershed stewardship
- **Donation Towards Environmental Protection:** Encourage the activities of nature trust organizations and corporations for the purposes of receiving donations of funds or land toward protection of natural attributes within the community.
- **Land Donations:** Facilitate the work of groups and individuals willing to donate land for protection of natural attributes or public access.
- **Natural Features Identification:** Continue to identify and assess Natural Environment Areas with the objective of formulating protective strategies and obtaining knowledge to facilitate appropriate land use and servicing decisions.
- **Maintaining Biodiversity:** Seek to maintain ecological linkages and biodiversity, including wildlife movement corridors and aquatic and terrestrial pathways, in all land use and development decisions.

Personnel Implications:

Environment & Land Use staff are members of the Steering Committee in addition to sub-committees as appropriate. The staff time dedicated to the OCCP is thought to average approximately 30 hours annually. The value in terms of what we receive in return far exceeds this output.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Internal Circulation:
Legal/Statutory Authority:
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:
External Agency/Public Comments:
Community & Media Relations Comments:
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:



Todd Cashin, Environment & Land Use Manager

Approved for inclusion:



Shelley Gambacort - Director, Land Use Management

cc: Policy & Planning



Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program OCCP




PRESENTATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF KELOWNA
By
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo OCCP Coordinator
April 2011

Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program - OCCP

It is a **partnership** of organizations and institutions with shared goals like:

- Maintaining regional biodiversity,
- Protecting species at risk,
- Maintaining ecological connectivity throughout the Okanagan Basin and
- Balancing regional growth with conservation.

Partners in action model

Our History

May 2006

Representatives from the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, Local Governments, Grasslands Conservation Council among others, decided to form a partnership organization with a mandate to **facilitate a collaborative basin-wide approach to conservation and biodiversity protection.**



2006-2011


The program has built on the efforts of its partners to complete several important mapping projects including:

- foreshore Inventory Mapping for the North end of Okanagan Lake, and the
- completion or updating of Sensitive Ecosystem Inventories and Rankings for all of Greater Vernon and the Central Okanagan.



2006-2011

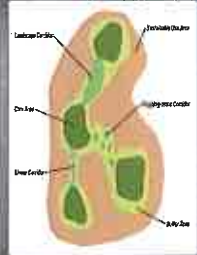
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WWW.OKCP.CA

2010 - 2015

The OCCP's 5-year plan includes the development of a Regional Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Central and North Okanagan, and its implementation, including the identification of connectivity corridors.





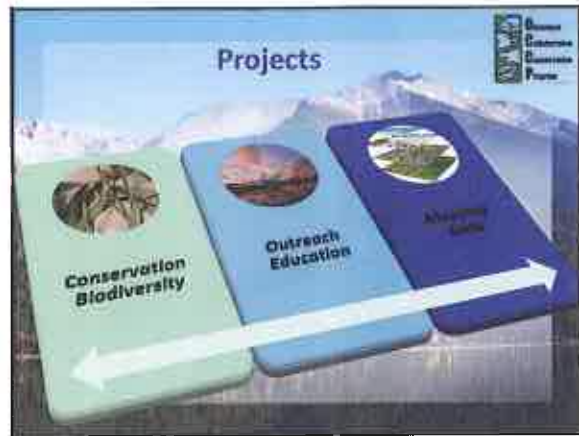
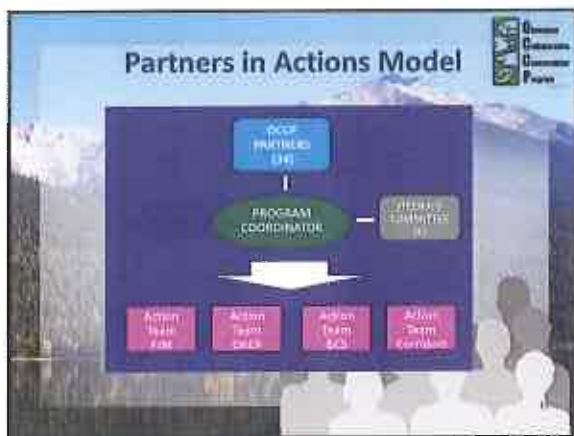
As of 2011, 34 partners signed a Statement of Co-operation, including representatives from three levels of government, land trusts, stewardship outreach organizations, and academia.



What are the Program Goals?

- To assist our partners in sharing information.
- To work together (partners) to meet common challenges.
- To collaborate on research efforts to fill knowledge gaps identified by the OCCP partners.
- To set priorities for conservation issues.
- To provide tools to meet common challenges.
- To translate commitments into annual Action Plans.
- To monitor progress and address emerging challenges.

"We facilitate, communicate, and educate"





Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Project

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

- Biodiversity refers to the variety of species and ecosystems that exist on the earth.
- The diversity of plant and animal life in a particular habitat (or in the world as a whole)

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Project

WHY BIODIVERSITY IS IMPORTANT?

Because we like:

- Clean air
- Clean water
- Healthy food

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Project

OPPORTUNITIES?

- To reduce services costs
- To increase quality of life
- To increase land values

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Project

The strategy identifies natural area values and *provides a template at a landscape level for land use decision-making* for public agencies, local governments and conservation groups.

Provides a *"road map" for coordinated efforts* to manage land and water of ecological value in a region.



Outreach and Education

- OCCP Web portal
- Education programs for and school kids in connectivity outdoors
- Marketing and Outreach activities
- General public awareness in Biodiversity and Conservation

Mapping Data

Mapping - Data

- Sensitive Ecosystem Jewellers for Greater Vernon, Shuswap, West Kelowna and Peachland
- Forest Inventory Mapping for Okanagan, Kootenai and Wood Lakes
- Aquatic Habitat Index for Okanagan, Kootenai and Wood Lakes
- Mapping component Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

City of Kelowna and the OCCP

- Vegetable Inventory Mapping 2008-2011
- Connectivity Corridors 2008-2011
- OCCP Web portal 2009-2010
- Sensitive Ecosystem Jewellers 2007-2009

OCCP

Our Funding Needs

- Coordination position has been supported mainly by funds for project administration and specific grants for core funding
- Our partners identified need of additional coordination time in order to continue improving and increasing the services the partnership provides to them.
- Our budget for coordination and core funding is \$67,500.00 for 2011

Sources of Core Funding

Supporters	Expected	%
Funds already in place	\$ 8,000.00	11.85%
Projects Administration	\$ 25,000.00	37.04%
External Sponsors	\$ 12,000.00	17.78%
OCCP Partners	\$ 22,500.00	33.33%
Total	\$ 67,500.00	100%

Partners Support

Partners	Amount
OBWB	\$ 5,000.00
Municipalities	\$ 12,500.00
Other partners	\$ 5,000.00

Municipality	Population	% Pop.	Contribution
Colosse	116,477	81.81%	\$ 6,000.00
Deseronto	30,600	17.27%	\$ 2,000.00
Pedreira	5,300	2.55%	\$ 500.00
West Kelowna	28,793	13.79%	\$ 1,500.00
Calistoga	10,320	4.93%	\$ 800.00
Lake Country	10,613	5.07%	\$ 1,000.00
Nunby	1,000	0.44%	\$ 200.00
Total	292,297	100.00%	\$ 12,500.00

The support of the City of Kelowna is fundamental to the success of our partnership and initiatives in the region



Thanks for your attention.
Questions and Comments

