

Memo



Date: August 17, 2011
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 receives, for information, the Report from the Policy & Planning Department dated August 17, 2011 with respect to the staff and budget implications of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

PURPOSE:

To provide Council with the approximate cost, in dollars and personnel hours, for undertaking each of the eight 'Priority A' recommendations that are not currently being undertaken, in relation to wildfire preparedness.

This report is in response to Service Request 195997:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION FROM THE MAY 16, 2011 P.M. REGULAR MEETING: THAT Council receives, for information, the Report from the Policy & Planning Department dated May 11, 2011, with respect to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP); AND THAT Council directs staff to report back on staff and budget implications of the CWPP recommendations pertaining to initiatives not currently being undertaken.

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 that 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 five year period to remain current with changes in forest cover, new developments within interface areas, areas that have received treatment, etc.

The City received funding through a UBCM grant to assist with updating of the CWPP.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized 'R' or similar mark.

The CWPP report provides key recommendations which have been prioritized for implementation within the next 20 years. Priority A items are recommended for implementation within the short-term (1 - 5 years), Priority B within the mid-term (6-10 years) and Priority C within the long-term (10-20 years). Since it is commonly accepted that a CWPP should be updated every five years, this report only highlights the 'Priority A' recommendations.

The City is currently actively responding to the following 'Priority A' recommendations that were outlined in the CWPP report as part of regular ongoing mitigation:

Number	Action Item
Rec # 6	Treat all City owned interface polygons that were identified as posing a risk of moderate or greater
Rec # 8	All fuel treatments carried out in the wildland/urban interface should follow a "Fuel Treatment Prescription" developed and submitted to the City by a Professional Forester
Rec # 9	Monitor the pine beetles and be proactive to remove all dead and dying pine in the urban/wildland interface
Rec # 13	Basic suppression equipment should be kept in strategic locations around the City
Rec # 18	Ensure that grass is maintained and that all tree cutting is cleaned up adequately along roadways
Rec # 19	Ensure all roads constructed in interface areas meet standards required for suppression vehicles
Rec # 32	The FireSmart guidelines should be considered as the minimum standard any new development proposed within the Wildland Fire Hazard Development Permit Areas must adhere to
Rec # 37	Summaries of this report and associated maps should be posted at strategic public locations
Rec # 39	A representative from the District Parks Department and the Fire Department should be present at public events that take place in or near natural areas

Attachment 1 contains the 'Priority A' recommendations from the CWPP report that the City is not currently undertaking but which are recommended for completion within the next five years. The recommendations are divided into three tables. The first table (Rec #35, Rec #36) contains recommendations which will be undertaken as part of a previous Council Resolution (R098/11/01/31).

6.2 Director, Policy & Planning, dated January 17, 2011, re: Wildfire Policy and Regulations

Moved by Councillor Blanleil/Seconded by Councillor Hobson

R098/11/01/31 THAT Council directs Policy & Planning Department staff to bring forward, as part of the Official Community Plan review process currently underway, Official Community Plan amendments that would require Wildfire Development Permits only at subdivision;

AND THAT Council directs Development Services Department staff to implement a process whereby wildfire hazard information is provided to applicants building in wildfire hazard areas, prior to issuance of a building permit;

AND FURTHER THAT Council directs the Development Services Department, Fire Department and Civic Operations Department to work together to identify, for 2012 budget consideration, a pro-active and cost effective way to provide ongoing awareness-raising and monitoring/enforcement of covenants and Development Permit provisions.

Carried

The second table (Rec #34, Rec #41, Rec #38, Rec #7, Rec #44) in Attachment 1 are the recommendations which are not currently being undertaken by the City, and are also recommended by Staff to pursue. The recommendation in table three (Rec #16) has been deemed unnecessary because currently there are no forest licensees working within the City boundary and therefore the City is not impacted by this action. Attachment 1 also contains the approximate cost, in dollars as well as personnel hours, to undertake each of the recommendations, the department which will be responsible for overseeing each, as well as the budget year in which each recommendation will be undertaken.

In addition to providing recommendations, the CWPP updated fire hazard mapping to reflect new development and forest conditions in interface areas. The updated mapping has been reflected in the revised Wildland Fire Hazard Development Permit Area map, which is now part of the 2030 Official Community Plan.

LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

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

EXISTING POLICY:

Official Community Plan Bylaw 10500 - Chapter 13 Hazardous Condition DP Guidelines

Official Community Plan Wildfire DP Area - Map 5.7

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

This report outlines the approximate costs associated with carrying out each of the 'Priority A' recommendations that are not currently being actively pursued.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

Implementation of the initiatives listed in this report will be an interdepartmental effort primarily involving Parks, the Fire Department, as well as Policy & Planning. Attachment 1 highlights the approximate personnel and time implications associated with carrying out the 'Priority A' recommendations not currently being undertaken.

INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:

Manager of Parks Services
Assistant Fire Chief

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

**LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:
EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:
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

Cc: Manager of Parks Services
Assistant Fire Chief



Attachment 1

Table 1 - CWPP Recommendations already endorsed (funding not yet approved):

CWPP Recommendation	Action Item	Dept. responsible	Proposed budget year	Estimated cost in dollars (\$)	Estimated cost in staff hours
Rec # 35	Develop a public education and awareness program for wildfire management	Kelowna Fire Department	2012	\$59,246 in 2012 and then \$116,000 in subsequent years - FTE not included in existing budget	approx 50% of annual hours worked on education & 50% of annual hours worked on pre-incident planning
Rec # 36	Distribute educational material to all private land owners within 100 m of the Wildfire DP areas	Kelowna Fire Department	2012 - included as part of Rec #35	distribution to be coordinated by FTE under Rec #35	would be part of scope of duties for the employee therefore no additional hours

Table 2 - CWPP Recommendations not currently being undertaken, but recommended by Staff:

CWPP Recommendation	Action Item	Dept. responsible	Proposed budget year	Estimated cost in dollars (\$)	Estimated cost in staff hours
Rec # 34	Post wildfire awareness signs along major transportation corridors, at camp sites, recreation areas and high use trail heads that specify how to report a wildfire	Parks	2012 - can be done with existing operational budgets	\$450 to \$550 per sign including installation. 7 to 10 signs would be needed. These could be placed at fire halls and at the entrance to major Parks. Opportunity to apply for grant to recover portion of cost	no additional staff hours required

Rec # 41	Produce a video dealing with wildfire preparedness	Kelowna Fire Department	2012 - included as part of a KFD supplemental budget request for Public Education Supplies	approx maximum of about \$2,000; free to post online and no cost to posting on City website	approx. 6 - to 8 hours
Rec # 38	Host wildfire preparedness sessions for those living in hazard areas	Kelowna Fire Department and Parks	Annually- can be done with existing budget	no additional costs	no additional staff hours required outside of regular scheduled events
Rec # 7	Pursue opportunities for Fuel Reduction Pilot Projects through the UBCM	Parks	undetermined - to be determined based on grant availability	to be determined	is already part of scope of duties for Urban Forestry Supervisor
Rec # 44	Pursue funding sources to undertake pilot projects to treat the City owned interface polygons recommended in Appendix B	Parks	undetermined - to be determined based on grant availability	to be determined	is already part of scope of duties for Urban Forestry Supervisor

Table 3 - Recommendations not requiring follow-up:

CWPP Recommendation	Action Item	Response
Rec #16	Ensure that all forest licensees address the fuel hazards associated with any harvesting in interface areas	There are no forest licensees harvesting within City boundaries so this recommendation is considered unnecessary