

NO: R030

COUNCIL DATE: **February 28, 2011**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **February 22, 2011**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering**

FILE: **4811-901**

SUBJECT: **2011 Salmon Habitat Restoration Program ("SHaRP")**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Award Contract 4811-901/02 related to management of the 2011 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$88,000 including HST and contingencies;
3. Award Contract 4811-901/03 for the student salary component of the 2011 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$242,500 including HST and contingencies; and
4. Approve an expenditure authorization limit for the student salary component of the 2011 SHaRP program of \$285,300 including HST and contingencies to allow for potential external funding.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the SHaRP program for 2011 and to obtain Council approval for the award of contracts in support of the Program.

BACKGROUND

The 2011 SHaRP program is a major component of the Surrey Nature Matters initiative. The SHaRP program started in 1996, employing high school and post-secondary students during the summer for the purpose of fish habitat enhancement. Over the years, the program has grown in size and scope, and has evolved into a more integrated approach to watershed restoration. Recent projects have included:

- In-stream restoration and enhancement;
- Agricultural stream enhancement;
- Community education displays and events;
- Education for businesses geared towards protecting water quality;
- Removal of invasive plant species;
- Riparian and wetland planting;
- Neighbourhood awareness/education campaigns; and

- Community partnerships.

The program is unique among municipalities due to its size, longevity, integrated watershed-based approach and commitment to career-oriented leadership training for local youth. Over the tenure of the program, summer employment has been provided for over 440 students.

DISCUSSION

Overview of the 2010 SHaRP Program

In 2010, the SHaRP program involved 6 post-secondary Team Leaders and 17 Surrey high school students for a total of 23 student employees. These students were divided into four teams, each focusing on one of following elements:

- Community Education;
- Media and Public Relations;
- Watershed Enhancement; and
- Agricultural Stewardship.

Consistent with the City's goal of providing year-round student opportunities as part of Nature Matters, a fall SHaRP program was organized for a third year, which allowed planting projects and community event participation to continue through to the end of October. This allowed the program employees to complete enhancements at 3 additional sites and attend 3 additional community events.

The funding for the 2010 program included:

City of Surrey	
- Engineering Capital Works	\$87,100
- Nature Matters	\$ 9,600
- Drainage Utility	\$150,000
Outside Organizations	
- Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation	\$ 18,920
- School District #36	\$ 25,000
- Compensation Works	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$292,620</u>

In 2010, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation provided the program with a fourth consecutive year of funding support. Surrey School District #36 also provided funds for the program with a second year of funding after being unable to contribute in 2008.

Proposed 2011 SHaRP program

In 2011 the SHaRP program will include 4 teams of students with each team being responsible for one of the following areas:

- Watershed Enhancements;
- Community Education;
- Agricultural Stewardship; and

- Media & Public Relations.

A fifth team focusing on Industrial Education will be included if sufficient external funding is secured.

The program will run between the months of May and August and may be extended into the fall months, similar to 2010, to complete planting projects and to support community event participation. The extension of the program into the fall is contingent on sufficient funding being secured.

A description of the proposed 2011 SHaRP Program is contained in Appendix I.

Funding for the 2011 SHaRP Program

The SHaRP program fulfills two roles, namely fish habitat protection/restoration and summer youth employment/training. There is currently \$323,500 budgeted from City sources including Engineering Capital Projects, Nature Matters, and the Drainage Utility. This funding is required for program management, student salaries, materials and services necessary to support the program.

Engineering Capital Projects are a significant source of SHaRP's funding, as it is more cost efficient for these projects to fund the SHaRP program to complete the environmental works in compared to retaining external contractors.

Funding has been confirmed for the 2011 program so as to allow for the hiring of 22 students. Staff is continuing to search for external funding partners to further augment the program.

The following is a summary of confirmed and potential funding sources for 2011:

City Funding	
- Engineering Capital Projects	\$103,500
- Nature Matters	\$ 50,000
- Drainage Utility	<u>\$170,000</u>
<i>Confirmed Funding Sub-total</i>	\$323,500
Potential Funding Partners	
- Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation	\$ 21,848
- Ministry of Environment	\$ 5,000
- School District #36	\$ 25,000
- Agriculture Environment Wildlife Fund	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
<i>Potential Funding Sub-total</i>	\$61,848

In 2007, 2009 and 2010, SD #36 provided an annual contribution of \$25,000 to the SHaRP program. In 2007 and 2008, the Ministry of Environment provided an annual contribution of \$20,000 to the program.

In 2010, \$45,920 of external funding was secured to support the SHaRP program. If all potential external funding is achieved for the 2011 program as identified above, 26 student employees will be hired as documented in the following table.

Table 1

SHaRP Program Funding	No. of Students	Student Salary Program
Confirmed Funding to Date from Surrey	22	\$242,500
Confirmed Funding & Optimistic Amount of Ext. Funding Secured (\$ 61,848)	26	\$ 285,300

2011 Consultant Assignment

Engineering Department staff will oversee the 2011 SHaRP program with the day-to-day management of the program contracted to a consultant.

A Request for Expressions of Interest was issued by the Engineering Department with a view to retaining a consultant to provide management services for the 2011 SHaRP program. Only one consultant, Dillon Consulting Ltd. (Dillon), expressed an interest in the assignment. Dillon has managed the program in all previous years of the Program's existence and performed the work very effectively. The price that has been quoted by Dillon to manage the program in 2011 is comparable to previous years' costs. Dillon is responsible for hiring the students to the program and provides the student labour at their cost.

Dillon has developed a comprehensive training program for the students and is intimately familiar with the community events and stewardship groups which SHaRP works with each year. For several years, they were also successful in securing funding on the City's behalf through Human Resources Development Canada. Over the years, Dillon's program management costs have not changed significantly. Their efficiency and knowledge of the program has lead to good value for the City.

It is recommended that Dillon Consulting Ltd. be awarded the contract to manage the SHaRP program in 2011 given their experience with the program over the last 15 years.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The City's SHaRP program supports the Social and Environmental Pillars of the City's Sustainability Charter in relation to the following goals:

- SC5: Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents;
- EN12: Enhance and Protect Natural Areas, Fish Habitat and Wildlife Habitat;
- EN6: Enhancement and Expansion of the Nature Matters Programs; and
- EN17: Enhance Biodiversity.

The program provides training for youth while implementing initiatives that protect and enhance the natural environment across the City.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Award Contract 4811-901/02 related to management of the 2011 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$88,000 including HST and contingencies;
- Award Contract 4811-901/03 for the student salary component of the 2011 SHaRP program to Dillon Consulting Ltd. in the amount of \$242,500 including HST and contingencies; and
- Approve an expenditure authorization limit for the student salary component of the 2011 SHaRP program of \$285,300 including HST and contingencies to allow for potential external funding.

Vincent Lalonde, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

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Appendix I - Proposed 2011 SHaRP Program

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Proposed 2011 SHaRP Program

The five work areas described in the following paragraphs were selected as the focus for the 2011 SHaRP program on the basis of their contribution to enhancing existing City projects, restoring and enhancing creek and stream locations, and the benefits that would accrue to the general public and government agencies.

- **Watershed Enhancement**

The team's focus will be to complete in-stream enhancement work and plantings that complement ongoing City projects. The team will work extensively to complete enhancement works in riparian areas that are required as part of the City's commitments to fulfill planting requirements to satisfy Fisheries and Oceans Authorizations associated with past capital work projects. By linking the needs of Surrey capital works projects and the abilities of the SHaRP team, the City is able to obtain better value to complete these required works. The team will also continue to undertake stabilization of erosion sites identified in the ravine assessment report completed in 2009, and complete restoration works at riparian sites identified by the general public and stewardship groups.

The team will also focus on providing ongoing enhancement works within the creek relocation initiative and wetlands created for the Campbell Heights development throughout the SHaRP season. The benefit to having a dedicated team within the Campbell Heights area throughout the season rather than the intensive 3-week period that SHaRP teams usually conducts is that this team will be a visual deterrent to the people that are entering the Campbell Heights Enhancement Area to conduct off-road activities while also providing education to other users of the area (i.e., dog walkers) of the harm that can be caused to the sensitive habitat areas.

- **Community Education**

The focus for the Community Education team will continue to be directed at raising awareness of natural areas and fish habitat within Surrey. The team will attend various community events and deliver education programs at day camps throughout the spring and summer. The team will also organize neighbourhood awareness days to inform residents in neighbourhoods of the local natural areas and creeks and sustainable practices that can be implemented in their daily tasks. New display materials and programs will be developed that will focus on various environmental initiatives that are a part of the overall Nature Matters initiative; the new displays and programs will be utilized throughout the year by the Nature Matters initiative.

- **Agricultural Stewardship**

The Agricultural Stewardship team will continue to be active in the agricultural community. In the nine years that this team has been part of SHaRP, they have expanded their scope from on-farm, in-stream projects to include community outreach, education, and participation in agricultural events. The team worked on several projects in partnership with local community groups and provided information to the local farm community on property stewardship. The team conducted an extensive resident contact program for landowners living on Twin Creeks within the Little Campbell Watershed. The team also conducted invasive plant removal

activities to eradicate invasive plants from City property adjacent to agricultural property in order to reduce the potential of invasive plant impacts on crops, and to increase the interaction of the general community with the agricultural community. In 2011, we hope to continue to develop partnerships within the farming community and to work closely with the Surrey Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to ensure that their initiatives within Surrey are achieved.

- **Media & Public Relations**

The Media & Public Relations team presents the visible component of the program that is essential to the overall success of SHaRP. This team actively searches for opportunities for multimedia coverage to highlight the environmental initiatives accomplished by Surrey through various programs, such as SHaRP. In 2011, the media team will search for media attention across a wide cultural base in order to spread the stewardship message to more audiences, will help host joint events with other 'Nature Matters' initiatives throughout the summer, and will create a database of video footage of SHaRP works to be used in web tools highlighting the program.

- **Industrial Education (Subject to External Funding Being Available)**

The Industrial Education team was not a part of the 2010 SHaRP program due to reduced funding sources. If sufficient external funding materializes, the team will target industrial areas within Surrey and go door to door, providing educational information to businesses. The team will also gather information to add to the City database that is being developed to help track pollution and spill events when they occur in the City's storm sewer system and/or watercourses.

It should be noted that areas targeted in 2009 by the students had resulted in industrial park tenants contacting the City regarding pollution concerns associated with neighbouring tenants; this would indicate that the education initiatives within the targeted areas played an important role in community awareness and responsibility.