

Report to Council



Date: February 17, 2016

Rim No. 0710-60

To: City Manager

From: Utility Planning Manager
Urban Forestry Supervisor

Subject: Okanagan Basin Water Board Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants - 2016- 2017

Recommendation:

THAT Council approves an application by staff to the Okanagan Basin Water Board for a 2016-2017 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant to restore and protect wetland habitat and breeding grounds for the American Avocet in the area of the Glenmore Landfill;

AND THAT upon confirmation of grant award, the 2016 Financial Plan be amended to include the receipt of \$30,000 for the American Avocet Wetland Restoration Project.

AND THAT Council approves an application by staff and the Okanagan Regional Goose Management Committee to the Okanagan Basin Water Board for a 2016-2017 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant to assess the impacts of waterfowl population on water quality;

AND FURTHER THAT upon confirmation of the grant award of \$10,000, the 2016 Financial Plan be amended to include the receipt of \$10,000 for the Water Fowl Water Quality Project.

Purpose:

To request support for pursuing grant funding from the Okanagan Basin Water Board's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Program to restore and protect wetland water habitat and breeding grounds for the American Avocet in the area of the Glenmore Landfill as well as to seek funding to conduct an impact assessment of the waterfowl population on water quality.

Background:

The purpose of the Okanagan Basin Water Board's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Initiative is to assist local government in addressing issues that enhance the valley-wide sustainable use of water.

Eligible activities include "Habitat Restoration Projects" that restore riparian or foreshore areas to improve water quality and other water quality projects.

As part of the application process, all applications must be accompanied by a Board or Council resolution from the respective Regional District Board and/or Municipal Council.

1) Avocet Wetland Habit Restoration- Request \$30,000 from OBWB (\$60,000 project)

The City has constructed a dam at the Glenmore landfill to support a wetland habitat for the American Avocet. The Pond was originally created to replace a habitat that was inadvertently created on top of the Southern portions of the landfill. The requirement to create an Avocet habitat is a requirement of the landfill Operations Certificate.

As the Northern parts of the landfill are being filled, the storage and processing areas for the recycling will need to be relocated in the South. These new storage and processing areas will begin to infringe upon the Avocet habitats that currently reside over the landfill. The Avocet pond that the City has constructed has not been well adopted by the Avocet. The wetlands, nesting areas, depth of the pond and the salinity of the water do not meet the Avocet's needs and the pond itself attracts other species of birds that could potentially feed on refuse in the landfill. Staff would like to investigate whether we could either enhance the Avocet Pond so that it is well used, or preferably enhance existing wetlands South of the landfill, or simply create a new depression and wetlands.

2) Assessing Impacts of Waterfowl Population on Water Quality - Request \$10,000 from OBWB (\$12,500 project)

This project will address the concern coming from potential contamination of lake water due to avian populations throughout the Okanagan basin.

It is envisioned that the project will take place throughout the 2016/17 year with seasonal surveys beginning in March 2016 for up to a year. The site specific survey's will monitor all waterfowl activity and provide species breakdown and provide habitat use and behavior. The final report will define recommendations for each municipality to implement in order to minimize contamination from waterfowl.

Internal Circulation:

Grants & Partnerships Manager
Financial Planning Manager

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

The full amount required to complete the Avocet Wetland Habit Restoration project as well as assessing the impact of waterfowl population on water quality are not part of the City's current financial Plan. The 2016 financial plan will require the addition of the following two grants with the remaining costs of the projects to be funded from the City's current budget:

- The Avocet Wetland Habit Restoration project is estimated to be \$60,000 of which \$30,000 will be funded from a grant with the remaining \$30,000 funded from the City's current Landfill Consulting and Professional Services budget.
- Assessing the impact of waterfowl population on water quality is estimated to be \$12,500 of which \$10,000 will be funded from a grant with the remaining \$2,500 funded from the City's current Integrated Pest Management Urban Forestry budget.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:

A. Reeder, Utilities Planning Manager

Approved for inclusion:



A. Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure

Attachment 1: Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program Application
2016-2017 American Avocet Wetland Habitat Restoration

Attachment 2: Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program Application
2016-2017 for Assessing Impacts of Waterfowl Population on Water Quality

Attachment 3: Central Okanagan Naturalists Club letter of support

cc: Divisional Director, Infrastructure
Financial Services Director
Grants & Partnerships Manager
Infrastructure Planning Dept Manager