

Report to Council



Date: September 28th, 2015
Rim No. 0610-01
To: City Manager
From: Andrew Hunsberger, Urban Forest Health Technician
Subject: Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Recommendation:

THAT Council approves staff applying for a grant through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative to update the City of Kelowna's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Purpose:

To request support for pursuing provincial funds through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) - Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative for updating our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Background:

The City of Kelowna has a well established Community Wildfire Protection Program. The program priorities are determined by our *Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)* which was last updated in 2011. The CWPP is based upon a 20-year planning cycle with anticipated plan updates every five (5) years.

The CWPP is a document that defines the risk from wildfires in an identified area, identifies measures necessary to mitigate those risks and outlines a plan of action to implement measures. The *Wildfire Fuel Mitigation Program* and the *FireSmart Education & Communication Program* are the two main facets of achieving the goals outline in the CWPP. They are now well established programs that drive our efforts to minimize the risk of wildfire in the city.

An update to a CWPP is necessary for a number of reasons. The most significant is due to continual growth and development in the wildland-urban interface where the risk of wildfires is most prevalent. The city has also experienced considerable forest health issues due to the most recent outbreak of pine beetle and the prolonged drought. These forest health issues have lead to tree mortality and subsequent increases in wildfire risk.

The UBCM can contribute up to a maximum of 50% or \$15,000 for the development of the plan. The remainder is required to be funded through community contributions. Examples of community contributions include; the development of a communications strategy, consultation with the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) Fuel Management Specialist, amendments to city plans, bylaws and policies that are specific to the CWPP and monetary contributions.

The update to the CWPP will be initiated in the winter of 2015-16 pending the funding and will be presented to council in the spring of 2016 prior to the wildfire season.

Internal Circulation:

Ian Wilson, Parks Services Manager
Maria Lee, Communications
Jeff Carlisle, Kelowna Fire Department
Todd Cashin, Subdivision, Agriculture and Environment Services
Lorna Gunn, Grants and Partnership Manager
James Moore, Long Range Policy Planning Manager

Considerations not applicable to this report:

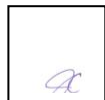
Legal/Statutory Authority:
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:
Existing Policy:
Financial/Budgetary Considerations:
Personnel Implications:
External Agency/Public Comments:
Communications Comments:
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:



A. Hunsberger, Urban Forest Health Technician

Approved for inclusion:



Joe Creron, Divisional Director, Civic Operations

cc: Ian Wilson, Park Services Manager