

Report to Council



Date: January 23, 2017
File: 1840-01
To: City Manager
From: Lindsay Clement, park and Landscape Planner
Ted Sophonow, Parks, Beaches & Sportsfields Supervisor
Subject: Okanagan Basin Water Board

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Park and Landscape Planner and Parks, Beaches & Sportsfields Supervisor with respect to two 2017-2018 Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) – Water Conservation and Quality Project Grants.

AND THAT Council authorizes staff to apply for a 2017-2018 OBWB – Water Conservation and Quality Project Grant for 'Boyce-Gyro Park Bio-swale Pilot Project' and also for 'Irrigation Connection Point Retro-fit Project'.

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the 2017-2018 OBWB – Water Conservation and Quality Project Grants on behalf of City Council, if the application(s) is successful.

Purpose:

To consider staff's recommendation to apply for two 2017-2018 OBWB – Water Conservation and Quality Project Grants.

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. This year the board is putting a special focus on projects which address: Drought and Flood Preparedness, Water Flow Monitoring, Groundwater Studies, Restoration and 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. This includes applications from local governments and all non-profit/community groups or improvement districts.

Staff are proposing the following applications to the Okanagan Basin Water Board be submitted for the February 17th, 2017 deadline;

'Boyce-Gyro Park Bio-swale Pilot Project'

The 'Boyce-Gyro Park Bio-swale Pilot Project' aims to effectively manage stormwater for a popular waterfront park parking lot through the use of planted bio-swales as part of a 2017 capital project for the City of Kelowna. The capital project, 'Boyce-Gyro Park Parking Lot and Improvements' includes the replacement of an existing gravel lot with a new paved lot to accommodate 130 stalls and a drop off area.

The 'Boyce-Gyro Park Bio-Swale Pilot Project' would aim to significantly reduce or eliminate any permanent irrigating of the parking lot's landscaping (excluding trees), while at the same time reducing requirements on existing stormwater infrastructure – managing water where it falls. Water conserved through the application of xeric landscaping practices could be measured and recorded. There is a high volume of visitors to this park, therefore the location for these bio-swales and any associated monitoring would have a great reach to the public in terms of providing education as well as setting an example.

Currently, no City parking lots are equipped with bio-swales that manage stormwater. The City does, however, have two locations where roadside bio-swales have been installed and are filtering run-off. These swales are both on a permanent irrigation system.

The 'Boyce-Gyro Park Bio-Swale Pilot Project' would be a pilot within the City for parking lot applications of bio-swales, water conservation monitoring, and using temporary irrigation methods.

'Irrigation Connection Point Retro-Fit Project'

The City of Kelowna has approximately 350 irrigation points of connection. Less than a third of these POCs (Point of Connections) have functioning flow monitoring capabilities. The aim of this pilot project is to increase the number of POC upgrades this year with current technology to include flow monitoring. Flow monitoring will increase water conservation levels and reduce property damage liability through the detection and elimination of excess or unexpected flow caused by line breaks, valve failures and sprinkler vandalism. Historical use reports will be generated and a heightened awareness of water consumption through live usage data will be realized.

Internal Circulation:

Divisional Director, Infrastructure
Divisional Director, Civic Operations
Parks and Buildings Planning Manager
Park Services Manager
Infrastructure Delivery Manager
Grants and Partnerships Manager

Existing Policy:

OCP Policy 7.17.2 Water Conservation: Conserve water by improving the efficiency of existing irrigation systems, improving park construction standards, designing for water conservation, using non-potable water and converting park and civic building landscapes to reduce the amount of irrigated turf where appropriate.

OCP Policy 7.21.1 Best Practices: Minimize water consumption by following best practices for water conservation including metering, public education and equitable rate structures, toward increased resilience to drought.

OCP Policy 7.23.1 Run-off Volumes: Manage runoff volumes generated by urban development to minimize changes in water flow and impacts to watershed health.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

The Infrastructure Division has made a budget request for 2017 for the 'Boyce-Gyro Park Parking Lot Improvements Project', of which will form part of the funding for the implementation of the planted bio-swales.

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:

L. Clement, Park and Landscape Planner

Approved for inclusion:



Alan Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure

cc Divisional Director, Infrastructure
Divisional Director, Civic Operations
Parks and Buildings Planning Manager
Park Services Manager
Infrastructure Delivery Manager
Grants and Partnerships Manager