

DATE OF MEETING | May 21, 2019 |

AUTHORED BY | ROB LAWRENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER |

SUBJECT | **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL
INFORMATION SESSION** |

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide an overview of the recommendations presented to the Governance and Priorities Committee, during the Environmental Information Session held at the Governance and Priorities Committee meeting on 2019-MAY-13.

Recommendation

That the Governance and Priorities Committee receive the report titled “Recommendations from the Environmental Information Session” dated 2019-MAY-21, and accompanying presentation slide, for information.

DISCUSSION

At the Governance and Priorities Committee on 2019-MAY-13, City staff presented an overview of the City’s Environmental Management practices to the Governance and Priorities Committee. The presentation provided an overview of current practice, legislative context staff work within, and recommendations for improvements to the level of service. There are budget implications to all staff recommendations listed below. They will be provided at the time each recommendation is presented to council.

Below is an overview of the presentations and recommendations presented.

Environmental Management

Wildlife Conflicts

Ongoing wildlife conflicts with rabbits and geese are currently impacting residents and park users. Rabbits multiply quickly and can burrow and damage sports fields, trails and other park infrastructure. Geese compete with park users for field space, water parks and create health issues in dealing with their droppings.

Beavers play a healthy role in the environment but situations have arisen where impacts from beaver activity has negatively impacted park use and has led to increasing maintenance costs.

Urban Forestry

Urban Forestry staff work with developers, residents, and contractors to manage and implement City’s Urban Forest Management Strategy and Management and Protection of Trees Bylaw. Staff have identified a number of updates and changes that are needed in both the strategy and bylaw.

In order to more effectively manage the urban forest and address a range of emerging maintenance and restoration issues for the future, a urban forest canopy study will be needed that looks at overall canopy cover in the City and assesses tree health, as climate change progresses..

Staff Recommendations

- Amend the “Licencing and Control of Animals Bylaw 1995 No.4923”
- Repeal the staff ban on trapping made during the Oct 28th 2018 Council Meeting
- Conduct an Urban Forest Canopy Cover Study for the City
- Review and Update the Urban Forest Management Strategy (2010)
- Review the “Management and Protection of Trees Bylaw 2013 No.7126”
- Request one additional full time staff (Urban Forestry Technician)

Water

Water Services

The City has been effective in its water conservation measures to forestall major water storage investments. However, there is a need, in light of our changing climate, to review and update the Water Supply Strategic Plan to be better prepared for the future.

Stormwater

Staff reviewed how City policy and regulation has evolved to require more effective rainwater and stormwater management, as part of development. Going forward, there is a need to update and compile a number of existing bylaws that address removal and deposit of soil and erosion and sediment control during development. Updating our existing bylaws will lead to better management, awareness and enforcement that will benefit stream water quality.

Current Section 7 requirements of the Manual of Engineering Standards and Specifications (MoESS) have the potential to result in the generation of a number of small retention facilities each year that the City would need to permanently manage. Completion of sub-catchment studies to identify opportunities to develop fewer larger scale neighbourhood facilities in areas where development is expected, which will lead to more sustainable facilities that include environmental, social and recreational benefits to the immediate areas and wider City.

The Buttertubs Marsh Conservation Area was identified as part of a national pilot study on defining and assessing the value of municipal natural assets. Staff will be bringing a final report on this study and will include recommendations to complete an asset inventory that complements the City’s storm infrastructure. At a later point, staff would like to engage a consultant to development a more comprehensive strategy that integrates how we manage these assets as part of the overall asset management program.

Staff Recommendations

- Review and Update the Water Supply Strategic Plan
- Draft a Comprehensive Soil and Erosion Control Bylaw
- Report to Council on the Municipal Natural Asset Pilot Study with recommendations
- Conduct a storm sub-catchment study to determine opportunity and design requirements for a neighbourhood scale facility to support continued development in the target area of the study.

Solid Waste Management

Staff reported that diversion rates have stagnated to 64 – 65%. A waste composition study would identify what the remaining garbage is made up of and help develop: 1) additional educational efforts and reinforcement, and 2) new waste reduction opportunities.

Staff Recommendations

- Complete a waste composition study for the City

Climate Action

Corporate:

The Corporate Climate Change Plan (2007) provided the City initial direction in reducing the City's greenhouse gas emissions. In combination with using the Provincial Gas Tax Rebate Program, the City made a commitment toward being carbon neutral in its operations.

This has led to significant energy savings through a number of building retrofits and in the Council's Green Building policy, which directed staff to build new City facilities to a LEED equivalent standard.

The City continues to play a leadership role in how to green its vehicle fleet in a prudent and cost effective way.

Staff Recommendations

- Conduct a review of its current policies and programs around greening its fleet to ensure it remains a leader for the community

Community:

Since the Community Sustainability Action Plan was adopted in 2012, a number of initiatives have been implemented. The most significant impact has been seen through the implementation of the Transportation Master Plan in improving the mix of choice in travelling within the City.

The City has also focussed on providing a number of educational and incentive options for builders in the City. Currently, the Regional District and the City have an incentive for homeowners and builders to have an Energuide Home Energy Assessment completed. Additional rebates are available for a follow-up assessment that confirms improvement in the homes energy efficiency rating.

Currently, staff are working with a consultant to complete a Climate Resiliency Strategy for the City. The strategy will identify risks and vulnerabilities affecting city land use, infrastructure, and parks. The strategy will be completed by December 2019.

At this time, an amendment to the Building Bylaw is being prepared that will include requirements to meet the BC Energy Step Code, which will affect new construction for Part 9 and Part 3 buildings.

Given Council's new direction in declaring a Climate Emergency, staff support the need to review and update the Community Sustainability Action Plan.

Staff Recommendations

- Review and Update the Corporate Climate Action Plan
- Review and Update the Community Sustainability Action Plan
- Implementation of the Energy Step Code, as presented in the Building Bylaw Amendment

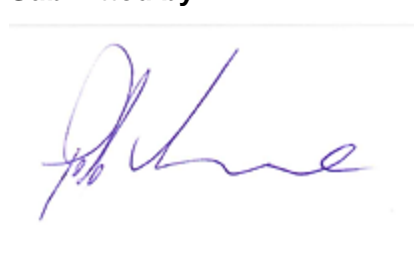
SUMMARY POINTS

- On May 13th, 2019, City staff presented an overview of the City's Environmental Management practices to the Governance and Priorities Committee
- The presentation provided an overview of current practice, the legislative context staff work within and recommendations for improvements to the level of service.
- Budget implications to all staff recommendations listed below will be provided at the time each council report is received

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - PowerPoint Side: Environmental Information Session

Submitted by:



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