

Memorandum

To: Committee of the Whole

From: Brian Mallett, Director of Engineering and Public Works

Date: August 12, 2010

Re: Bylaw to Ban the Use of Cosmetic Pesticides within the City of Revelstoke

Recommendation:

That the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that the staff report Strategies and the Feasibility of Implementing a Bylaw to Ban the Use of Cosmetic Pesticides in Revelstoke be received as information.

Applicable Policy/Bylaw:

Background:

At its February 23, 2010 meeting, Council directed staff to investigate the feasibility of a bylaw banning the use of cosmetic pesticides within the City. Staff have investigated the feasibility of such a bylaw and prepared the attached report for Council's consideration.

Discussion:

In the preparation of the report, staff contacted three nearby communities that have enacted bylaws banning the use of cosmetic pesticides to gain insight on their experience with implementing such a bylaw. As indicated in the report, the 2 most common elements of successfully implementing a ban are the preparation of a comprehensive public awareness / education program and consideration of the impact upon local landscaping businesses.

In view of impact upon local landscaping businesses, staff have interviewed the 4 local landscaping business in Revelstoke as well as the superintendant for the Revelstoke Golf Course. Based upon these interviews such a ban and it would not impose a negative impact upon landscaping businesses within the City. It is important to note that the bylaw can only ban the use of these pesticides on residential property and land controlled by the City including the golf course. As indicated in the report many residents within the community would support the ban.

A preliminary draft of a bylaw to ban the use of pesticides is included in the report. The bylaw indicates which chemicals are permissible for use and situations where an exemption from the ban is possible. As indicated above the ban would include the Revelstoke Golf Course. Currently the golf course does not use herbicides but does need

to use fungicides in order to maintain the greens and fairways. The proposed bylaw would prohibit the use fungicides and as a result could significantly affect the ability to maintain the course in a suitable condition. In view of this, it is proposed that the golf course be exempted from the ban provided a certified Integrated Pest Management practitioner with a valid pesticide applications certificate manages the grounds keeping operations.

The report presents a comprehensive list of items that should be considered in a communication package. If Council decides to move ahead with this bylaw, the City should develop the communication package in conjunction with stakeholders in the community such as the North Columbia Environmental Society, local landscaping businesses, retailers, and possibly the Revelstoke Golf Course superintendent.

If the City decides to proceed with this bylaw and have it in place before the spring of 2011 then the Council will need to direct staff to carry out the following steps:

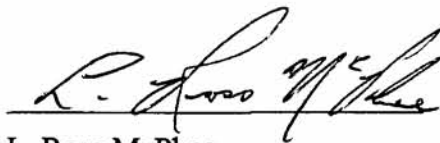
1. Complete a final administrative and legal review of the draft bylaw.
2. Present the final bylaw to Council for adoption
3. Develop a communication / public education plan as per the report.
4. Implement the communication / public education plan in time for the 2011 growing season.

At present the above items with exception of the implementation of the communication plan, can easily be completed before the end of 2010.



Brian Mallett, P.Eng.
Director of Engineering and Public Works

Concurrence:



L. Ross McPhee
Chief Administrative Officer

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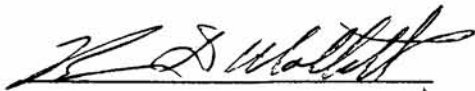
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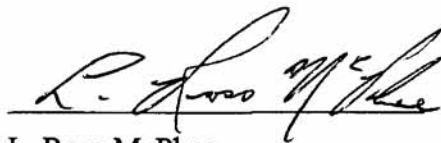
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