



COUNCIL REPORT
Development Services
For the July 23, 2019 Council Meeting

DATE: July 16, 2019

TO: Paul Gipps, CAO

FROM: Hailey Rilkoff, Planner I

RE: Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) Request for Support for the Okanagan Lake Protection Strategy

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

THAT Council support the Okanagan Lake Protection Strategy to foster regional collaboration, commitment and communication to address the importance of protecting Okanagan Lake; and,

THAT Council direct staff to provide a letter of support to Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program.

RATIONALE:

- Development has resulted in negative impacts along Okanagan Lake's foreshore resulting in a loss of natural shoreline.
- The City of West Kelowna has been involved in various projects with regional partners that have informed the projects development.
- Formal support will help foster regional collaboration, commitment and communication for this project and will provide elected officials with the opportunity to discuss and address local water challenges and the importance of protecting Okanagan Lake.

BACKGROUND:

In 2005, the development of a Lake Management Plan and multi-jurisdictional shoreline management was recommended by the Okanagan Lake Foreshore Inventory and Mapping (FIM) report. In the 2016 FIM report, it was identified that significant loss of natural shoreline due to development has occurred with only 41% of the natural shoreline remaining. This high degree of loss as been identified as having a negative impact on the ecosystems of Okanagan Lake and the ability to provide clean, and safe drinking water. In addition to negative impacts on fisheries and wildlife, recreation and tourism values in the area were also identified as being negatively impacted.

In 2018, stakeholders involved in the Okanagan Lake Management Strategy were brought together to discuss ways to improve land use planning and management, identify common

approaches, best management practices, and next steps to enhance shoreline management for Okanagan Lake. Stakeholders involved include the RDCO, RDOS, RDNO, Local Governments, Westbank First Nation, the Okanagan Nation Alliance, and the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association. The 2019 Okanagan Lake Protection Strategy will provide a multi-jurisdictional approach to addressing challenges in shoreline management and create a roadmap for the future.

The main objective of the project is to develop a better understanding amongst stakeholders of the most pertinent issues impacting Okanagan Lake. This initiative will result in consistent policies and programs throughout the region. While funding sources are still being finalized, the project is being funded through a variety of sources including grants and contributions from stakeholder partners. To date, the City has contributed staff time through participation in stakeholder meetings surrounding an Okanagan Lake Management Strategy.

BYLAW AND POLICY REVIEW

Regional Growth Strategy RDCO Bylaw

This initiative is supported by the objectives and policies of the Regional Growth Strategy.

Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw No. 0100

An objective of the Official Community Plan is to balance development and community use of the waterfront with the protection and enhancement of areas of natural foreshore habitat. Waterfront policies encourage the City to “*support and implement the recommendations of watercourse specific management plans such as the Okanagan Lake Foreshore Plan (2007) and the Central Okanagan Lake Foreshore Inventory and Mapping Report (2005)*”.

Waterfront Plan

The Waterfront Plan’s Vision is supported by five Waterfront Principles including, in reference to ecological net gain, that “waterfront improvements will respect shoreline ecology”. The Waterfront Plan echoes the issues identified by the 2016 FIM report including the identification that ongoing development pressures could contribute to further shoreline and habitat degradation.

NEXT STEPS

- May - August 2019: The Leadership Team and working groups will be established and a high level gap analysis will be completed for shoreline management.
- September - October 2019: Recommendations for enhanced shoreline management will be developed, Terms of Reference will be developed for an Okanagan Lake Management Strategy, a Communications and Engagement Plan will be developed and a workshop will be hosted to engage land use and environmental professionals.
- November – January 2019: The Communications and Engagement Plan will be implemented, approaches to implement the recommendations will be developed, and a framework with next steps towards a comprehensive Lake(s) Protection Strategy will be developed.
- January – March 2019: Findings, recommendations and next steps will be shared with stakeholders through presentations to elected officials and land managers and final reporting will be completed and distributed.

ALTERNATE MOTIONS:

1. **THAT** Council not provide support for the Okanagan Lake Protection Strategy.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Nancy Henderson, GM Development Services
Allen Fillion, GM of Engineering & Public Works
Tracey Batten, Deputy CAO
Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes ☐ No ☒

Attachments: OCCP Request for Support Letter