

DATE: December 29, 2017

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: DAVE DYER, GENERAL MANAGER, ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS

SUBJECT: Infrastructure Planning Grant Program- January 2018 Applications

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Staff submit a grant application under the *Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Infrastructure Planning Grant Program (IPGP)* for funding of an available \$10,000 for each of the following projects in order of priority:
 1. Groundwater at Risk of Containing Pathogen– Risk Analysis
 2. Salt Vulnerable Areas Action Plan
 3. Winnipeg Stormwater Management and Treatment Plan
2. THAT the City's Financial Officer and General Manager of Engineering and Public Works be authorized to sign the grant application documents and any contract documents should grant approval be received.

PURPOSE:

This report was prepared to seek Council's support for three applications under the *Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development Infrastructure Planning Grant Program*. The three applications include: Groundwater at Risk of Containing Pathogen– Risk Analysis; Salt Vulnerable Areas Action Plan; and Winnipeg Stormwater Management and Treatment Plan.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The Official Community Plan (OCP) provides the framework with Council's strategic priorities of promoting a healthy community and maintaining public infrastructure. Promoting and protecting the natural environment in the community enhances social, economic and environmental benefits.

BACKGROUND:

Groundwater at Risk of Containing Pathogen– Risk Analysis

The City of Prince George owns and operates three (3) high capacity production wells located along the edge of the Nechako River. PW 601, 605 and 660 are all located within the Nechako Aquifer 92 IA; capable of supplying the majority of the City's water for domestic and industrial purposes. The average yearly production volume for these three wells totals approximately 17.5 million m³, 95% of the City's total consumption volume.

Due to the close proximity of the surface water body and the potential hydraulic connectivity to the Nechako River surface water body, the City will be completing a Ground Water at Risk of Containing Pathogens (GARP) risk assessment for all three collector wells. This assessment will summarize the findings of the investigation and to

identify further requirements to implement a long-term monitoring plan which meets the requirements of the BC Ministry of Health GARP guidance document.

Salt Vulnerable Areas Action Plan

The intention of this project is to identify and inventory salt vulnerable areas within the City of Prince George and prepare an action plan to implement protection or mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce road salt impacts on vulnerable areas as required by Environment Canada. Salt vulnerable areas include drinking water sources (ie. groundwater) and aquatic life habitats (ie. lakes, watercourses and wetlands). These areas are highly susceptible to road salts due to their solubility and persistence in aquatic environments. Road salts are classified as toxic under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999)* as they impact water chemistry which in turn affects freshwater aquatic plants and invertebrates. In addition, chlorides are highly persistent in groundwater sources. Prince George has multiple fish bearing watercourses and groundwater drinking water sources; therefore, as road networks continue to expand, proper salt management in vulnerable areas is essential for sustainable development, environmental protection and public health and safety. The action plan will identify salt vulnerable areas, prioritize these areas and identify the best available techniques to reduce salt loading. In addition, an environmental monitoring plan will be included in the action plan to measure the reduction of road salts on salt vulnerable areas.

Winnipeg Stormwater Management and Treatment Plan

The Winnipeg stormwater system provides drainage to a substantial portion of the downtown core. Stormwater is conveyed through piped infrastructure to the Hudson's Bay Wetland and the Fraser River, both fish bearing watersheds. The existing stormwater system has been severely impacted by the high accumulation of sediment materials, which has caused surcharging of the stormwater system during major rainfall events. The accumulated sediment poses environmental concerns as the material contains elevated contamination levels. In order to address capacity issues, stormwater quality issues and reduce maintenance requirements, the City is looking to complete a Stormwater Management and Treatment Plan. The plan will look into methods to remove the high volume of sedimentation and contaminants entering the stormwater system and the removal of existing sediments in the pipe, with the end goal of improving the water quality in the fish bearing watershed. This project also has the potential to integrate educational/recreational opportunities such as hiking trails, wild fowl viewpoints and riparian greenspaces

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The IPGP program receives applications on a continuous basis with the deadline for this funding round being January 15, 2018.

The funding model for this program is as follows:

Project Budget	Grant Funding
First \$5,000 or less	100% of approved costs
Next \$10,000 or less	50% of approved costs

Groundwater at Risk of Containing Pathogen– Risk Analysis- The proposed budget for this project is \$20,000. With the grant, the City's cost would be reduced to \$10,000.

Salt Vulnerable Areas Action Plan- The proposed budget for this project is \$50,000. With the grant, the City's cost would be reduced to \$40,000.

Winnipeg Stormwater Management and Treatment Plan- The proposed budget for this project is \$30,000. With the grant the City's cost would be reduced to \$20,000.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

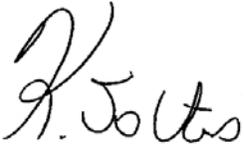
Administration requests Council's authorization to apply for grants under the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, *Infrastructure Planning Grant Program* for the three projects detailed above.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Dave Dyer,
General Manager, Engineering and Public Works

APPROVED:



Kathleen Soltis, City Manager
Meeting date: January 8, 2018