

# Request for Decision



To: Committee of the Whole

From: **Development, Engineering & Planning**

Date: January 14, 2019

Subject: British Columbia Conservation Foundation (BCCF) – WildSafeBC Program for 2018

Recommendation: **THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council supports staff submitting the grant application for a WildSafeBC Community Coordinator for the 2019 season and commits \$8,500 from the Wildlife Management budget to match and supplement grant funding for decision at the January 14, 2019, Regular Meeting.**

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## Background

WildSafeBC has launched its seventh season and may again provide funding to assist with the hiring of a Community Coordinator for 2019. During 2013 - 2017 the Grand Forks coordinators engaged in activities aimed at reducing human-wildlife conflict through education, innovation and cooperation. Keeping WildSafeBC and its message of attractant management in the public eye was the focus for the 2013-2017 seasons as well as providing concrete solutions to human-wildlife conflict through educational displays, door-to-door visits, presentations with field experts, media releases, community Facebook page, etc.

In 2018, WildSafeBC was delivered by 28 programs in many communities and regional districts throughout BC. Looking forward to the 2019 season, WildSafeBC would like to continue to collaborate with community partners to make concrete solutions available for local wildlife issues through education.

Partnering organizations, such as the City, contribute a minimum of \$4,000.00 towards the program delivery costs and the BCCF provides \$8,668.00 that is allocated towards wages for the Community Coordinator to work, part-time, in the community during the period May through November. The hiring, training and supervision of Human Resource aspects of the program are managed by the BCCF. Additionally, the BCCF provides \$2900 in training and related expenses as well as a community toolkit containing resources for the delivery of the program including brochures, bookmarks, posters, door hangers, tattoos, Junior Ranger kits, display boards, banners and various props.

The application process and timeline for 2019 are as follows;

- 1) Jan. 2: Application forms sent out to prospective partners
  - 2) Feb. 1: Application forms are due by 4:30 pm PST
- Applications are ranked according to a matrix that considers items such as:
- Monetary support above the base \$8,668.00 (accounting for population served as well)

- The amount of in-kind support provided such as office space, printing and photocopy privileges, a designated phone (or phone number), and a computer.
  - The number of years the community has had a program in place
- 3) Mar. 29: Successful applicants are notified;
  - 4) Apr. 30: Funding payments are due for partner's share of the program;
  - 5) May 1: Communities with returning coordinators start their program;
  - 6) May 13: New coordinator training (in Kamloops);
  - 7) May 21: New coordinators begin work in the community;
  - 8) Nov. 30: Program ends (typical date).

Communities have the opportunity for contributing additional funds including a wage top-up for the position to ensure that a quality individual can be hired into the Community Coordinator position. For the 2017 season, the City contributed a wage top-up of \$4.81 per hour plus extra funding to help cover expenses for a total commitment of \$8,500. The City was not selected in 2018 to receive funding for this position.

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## Benefits or Impacts

### General

The objective is to continue with the initiative of the Grand Forks Deer Committee to hire a WildSafeBC Community Coordinator.

### Strategic Impact



#### Community Engagement

- Wildlife management is an important issue to the citizens of the City and Council would be continuing a proactive educational campaign aimed at reducing human-wildlife conflicts.



#### Community Livability

- Continuing to mitigate the impact of wildlife on the community.



#### Fiscal Responsibility

- The minimum financial commitment for the program is \$4,000.00. Wage top-up and extra expenses (including in-kind) have been committed in all previous years. The program would be funded through the Wildlife Management budget.

### Policy/Legislation

The Official Community Plan states that protecting the natural environment is an important sustainable principle to guide the community and one of the objectives is to promote city-wide environmental stewardship and education.

## Attachments

- 1) WildSafeBC Program: 2019 Application Form
  - 2) WildSafeBC Financial Worksheet 2019
  - 3) 2019 WildSafeBC Grant Options
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### **Recommendation**

**THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council supports staff submitting the grant application for a WildSafeBC Community Coordinator for the 2019 season and commits \$8,500 from the Wildlife Management budget to match and supplement grant funding for decision at the January 14, 2019, Regular Meeting.**

### **Options**

1. THAT Committee of the Whole accepts the report.
2. THAT Committee of the Whole does not accept the report.
3. THAT Committee of the Whole refers the matter back to staff for further information.