Minute No. 225
Report – Executive Policy Committee – March 12, 2019

Item No. 2 Netley-Libau Marsh Pilot Project

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the City of Winnipeg commit to a $100,000 grant to the Netley-Libau Marsh Restoration Pilot Project, funded through the Water and Waste Utility.

2. That the Water and Waste Department be directed to continue to examine cost-effective ways to improve the health of Lake Winnipeg while the North End Pollution Control Centre proceeds, subject to written confirmation of funding from the Federal and Provincial governments.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

Carried

Pursuant to the Members of Council Code of Conduct By-law No. 19/2018, Councillor Allard advised that he would refrain from entering the discussion and voting on the matter, because of a potential conflict of interest, and left the Chamber.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 12, 2019, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is committed to improving the health of Lake Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS Netley-Libau Marsh is one of the largest coastal wetlands in Canada, which in a healthy state, could help control algae blooms in Lake Winnipeg by filtering out phosphorus and other nutrients and contaminants from the water that flows in and out of it;

AND WHEREAS Netley-Libau Marsh is no longer functioning as a healthy wetland; open water has increased dramatically over the past 30 years, resulting in a corresponding loss of nutrient-filtering vegetation;

AND WHEREAS The Netley-Libau Marsh Restoration Pilot Project would see dredged materials from the river placed into Hardman Lake to create sediment "vegetation shelves" where native vegetation could grow, helping to restore some of the water quality functionality to the marsh;

AND WHEREAS the Pilot Project seeks to improve water quality in the Lake Winnipeg basin., which will be multi-beneficial, relieving ice-induced flooding in the region while improving the ecosystem and allowing indigenous communities to revive cultural traditions, and if successful, could be followed by a broader effort to restore the marsh using dredged materials from the Red River;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg's contribution would join the contributions of $50,000 committed by the Mayors and Reeves of the South Basin ($30,000 cash, $20,000 in-kind), $7,000 from the Community Spirit Fund of Brokenhead First Nation, $125,000 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund, $125,000 from the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program, $70,000 from the federal government's Eco-Action Fund, $20,000 from the Winnipeg Foundation plus the use of the Provincial Government's Amphibex fleet;

AND WHEREAS the project could be a cost-effective plan to filter nutrients along with the large investments required in the North End Pollution Control Centre;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg commit to a $100,000 grant to the Netley-Libau Marsh Restoration Pilot Project, funded through the Water and Waste Utility.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Water and Waste Department be directed to continue to examine cost-effective ways to improve the health of Lake Winnipeg while the North End Pollution Control Centre proceeds subject to written confirmation of funding from the Federal and Provincial governments.

and submitted the matter to Council.