Minute No. 461
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – July 8, 2020

Item No. 3 Herbicides and Weed Removal in Storm Water Retention Ponds

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to re-open the fountains in storm water retention ponds which are not currently operational, utilizing funds from vacancy management.

2. That the continued operational costs for fountains in storm water retention ponds be referred to the 2021 Budget Review Process.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 15, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment, with the following amendment:

- In Recommendation 1, delete ", and utility savings from non-operational pools, including wading pools"

and submitted the matter to Council.

The following persons submitted communications in support of the matter:
- Kat Dawson submitted a communication dated July 14, 2020
- Calla Lofvendahl submitted a communication dated July 14, 2020

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 8, the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment submitted the following to the Executive Policy and Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to re-open the fountains in storm water retention ponds which are not currently operational, utilizing funds from vacancy management, and utility savings from non-operational pools, including wading pools.

2. That the continued operational costs for fountains in storm water retention ponds be referred to the 2021 Budget Review Process.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

The following persons submitted communications in support of the matter:

- Myrna Dobson submitted a communication dated July 1, 2020
- Calla Lofvendahl submitted a communication dated July 7, 2020
- Councillor Lukes, Waverley West Ward, submitted a communication

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 22, 2020, the Assiniboia Community Committee passed the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment be requested to direct the Winnipeg Public Service to prepare a financial and environmental summary on the additional costs during the 2020 season of herbicides and weed removal in storm water retention ponds which are no longer being aerated due to fountain closures, and include the following:

1. The type of herbicide used in ponds and the environmental impact;

2. The increase in volume of herbicide used on ponds which are no longer being aeriated due to fountain closures;

3. The financial increase incurred by using more herbicides on ponds which are no longer being aeriated due to fountain closures;

4. The number of times weed removal equipment has been used during the 2020 season to mow ponds which are no longer being aeriated due to fountain closures;

5. The financial increase of using the weed removal equipment to mow ponds which are no longer being aeriated due to fountain closures;

6. The projected cost to reopening the fountains in retention ponds after a four year closure, including repairs and maintenance.