Minute No. 475
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – May 3, 2022

Item No. 2 Recognition of World Oceans Day

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment and adopted the following:

1. That the City of Winnipeg recognizes the 30th anniversary of World Oceans Day on June 8, 2022, and supports national and international efforts to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030.

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

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – May 3, 2022

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 18, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment, and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 3, 2022 the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment considered the Council Motion of April 28, 2022 and recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the City of Winnipeg recognizes the 30th anniversary of World Oceans Day on June 8, 2022, and supports national and international efforts to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030.

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

COUNCIL DECISION:

On April 28, 2022, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,
Seconded by Councillor Santos,

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – May 3, 2022

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

WHEREAS Wednesday, June 8, 2022, is the 30th annual World Ocean's Day. World Oceans Day is the United Nations day for celebrating the role of the ocean in everyday life and inspiring action to protect it;

AND WHEREAS countries around the world, including Canada as a prominent leader, have committed to protecting 30% of their ocean territory by 2030 in order to reverse nature loss in the ocean and safeguard at-risk marine life;

AND WHEREAS the ocean is home to hundreds of species at risk, vulnerable ecosystems, and is a crucial carbon sink shielding us from the worst of climate change;

AND WHEREAS the ocean produces over half of the world's oxygen and absorbs 50 times more carbon dioxide than our atmosphere. Therefore protecting the ocean is in the interest of all life on Earth, and communities both coastal and inland, as it is essential to our shared future;

AND WHEREAS it is the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada, under various pieces of legislation and regulation, to establish marine protected areas in consultation with Indigenous Peoples. Many Indigenous nations and communities are leading in the conservation of the ocean, and have been stewards of the ocean since time immemorial;

AND WHEREAS it is important for municipal leaders to demonstrate support for actions to safeguard the ocean, as they have for action on climate change and other environmental matters of national importance;

AND WHEREAS in celebrating the ocean, and protecting its habitats and ecosystems, we can together raise the profile of ocean conservation's critical role in improving planetary health and slowing the crisis of species collapse and ecosystem decline;

AND WHEREAS Nature Canada is urging municipalities across Canada to pass this resolution, in order to demonstrate their support for World Ocean's Day and the world's oceans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg recognizes the 30th anniversary of World Oceans Day on June 8th, 2022 and supports national and international efforts to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030.