



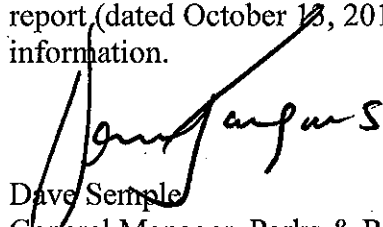
City of Richmond

Report to Committee

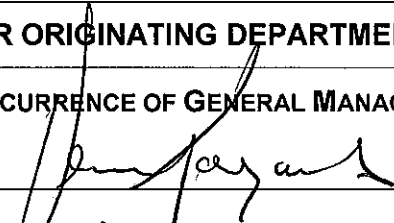


To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** October 13, 2010
From: Dave Semple
General Manager, Parks & Recreation **File:** 11-7200-20-
CGAR1/2010-Vol 01
Re: **Wildlife Management Strategy for Snow Geese and Widgeons on the West Dyke Referral**

Staff Recommendation

That the "Wildlife Management Strategy for Snow Geese and Widgeon on the West Dyke" report (dated October 13, 2010, from the General Manager, Parks & Recreation) is received for information.



Dave Semple
General Manager, Parks & Recreation
(604-233-3350)

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO DEPUTY	YES  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

At the June 29, 2010 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee Meeting the following referral was made to staff:

“That staff report back on a wildlife management strategy for snow geese and widgeons on the west dyke similar to what is being implemented at the Vancouver International Airport (YVR).”

This report responds to that referral.

Analysis

The Vancouver Airport Authority is required by Federal Regulations to have a Wildlife Management Plan, as wildlife activity poses a hazard to public safety.

City staff have met with YVR staff and reviewed their Wildlife Management Plan. Federal regulations mandate that YVR manage their lands and allows them to monitor activity within an eight (8) km radius of the airport grounds.

The YVR Wildlife Management Strategy has a three (3) pronged approach:

1. Monitoring and consultation by a professional biologist
2. Hazing technicians who utilized: sirens, pyrotechnics, dogs, lights, and control through a Scare or Kill permit issued from Environment Canada
3. Dog Hazing – YVR owns two dogs and hires handlers to work with the dogs on an ongoing basis

Only where there is an immediate public safety YVR does shoot wildlife. This method is authorized by Environment Canada via a Scare or Kill permit. If it becomes a hazard to public safety in the West Dyke, staff would consult with YVR and Environmental Canada on the next steps and course of action.

As outlined in the Council report, dated June 16, 2010, staff are implementing the Snow Geese Management Strategy which includes: dog hazing, winter covered crop programs, bright lights, lasers, air pistols, ongoing research and increased education initiatives.

Staff have reviewed the option of re-introducing Hunting by Permission along the West Dyke foreshore, as an additional method to control the snow geese and widgeons. In order to do this, the following steps would need to be taken:

1. Amend the Bylaw No. 4183, Discharge of Firearms; and
2. Work with the Hunting Advisory Committee to establish criteria for hunting and access to the West Dyke area.

Staff are not recommending this option for this season. In consultation with YVR staff, it is felt that hunting in the foreshore will simply move the waterfowl further inland more quickly.

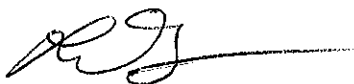
As a result of recent meetings with YVR staff, staff are recommending that the City work closer with YVR and coordinate waterfowl management efforts. This means that where YVR is implementing measures, they will contact the City. This allows the City to be prepared and in place so that when the waterfowl arrive, they can immediately be relocated. The overall goal is to coordinate efforts to move the waterfowl south, where the winter covered crops have been established in both Delta and Richmond.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact as the costs can be funded through the one-time funding for snow geese management.

Conclusion

That staff works closely with YVR to ensure a coordinated snow geese management program is utilized for 2010-2011. Staff will report back on the efficiency of this expanded program after the snow geese season in 2011.



Dee Bowley-Cowan
Acting Manager, Parks Programs
(604.244.1275)

DCS:dbc