Date: June 9, 2020
Submitted by: Economic Development Office
Subject: Staff Costs to Assist in the Establishment of the Salish Sea Research and Education Society

Purpose
To provide an estimate of staff costs required to assist in the establishment of the Salish Sea Research and Education Society, a new marine conservation science and education non-profit organization.

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT the Manager of Economic Development allocate up to 20 hours to assist in the establishment of the Salish Sea Research and Education Society as recommended in the report dated June 9, 2020 from the Economic Development Office regarding Staff Costs to Assist in the Establishment of the Salish Sea Research and Education Society.

Background
At the March 10, 2020 Regular Council meeting, Council received a presentation from Friends of Open Water Research regarding a proposal for a new non-profit society to continue the work of the Open Water Research Station. Council passed the following resolution:

RC20/150
THAT staff report back to Council with costs associated with assisting Friends of the Open Water Research Station in the establishment of a non-profit society, in intergovernmental outreach, and in 2020 fundraising efforts.

Discussion
The UBC Open Water Research Station (OWRS) opened in 2003 at Reed Point Marina to undertake groundbreaking research with Steller sea lions whereby the pinnipeds were able to swim and dive unrestrained in Burrard Inlet and Indian Arm but were trained to return back to OWRS to enable researchers to download data and monitor animal health. The research was funded through grants, support from the Vancouver Aquarium (Ocean Wise), and smaller contributions from other parties. In 2020, operations were suspended due to financial constraints.
Friends of the Open Water Research Station, a group of local residents with backgrounds in sustainability, environmental advocacy, education, and academia, is proposing to re-establish a marine conservation science and education centre as a new non-profit organization called the Salish Sea Research and Education Society (SSRES).

The operations of the SSRES would be centred on three broad mandates: research and conservation, education, and community outreach. The long term vision for the society is to provide immersive, environmental education and experience in scientific techniques for children and youth; serve as a training facility for undergraduate and graduate students; engage and connect diverse communities including institutions, residents, visitors, municipalities, indigenous communities, and educational bodies; and conduct research on the effects of climate change, ocean acidification, and industrial development on local aquatic ecosystems and marine mammals. The draft proposal and budget for the SSRES are contained in Attachments 1 and 2, respectively.

The first phase, however, consists of re-establishing a research centre at Reed Point Marina, developing and launching educational programs, broadening the network of partners, and establishing an operational budget through fundraising. The proponents of SSRES indicated that the City could provide assistance for the following:

- Board development and governance;
- Grant application assistance; and
- Securing a letter of support from the City that would help SSRES establish a foundation from which partner and donor engagement could be initiated.

At this time, no direct financial resources are being requested from the City, only staff time.

If Council approves the recommendation, the manager of economic development would provide staff assistance to the society. Approximately 15 to 20 hours would likely be required to fulfill commitments for the first phase.

Should further staff resources be required or requested after the first phase has been completed, Council will be notified.

Other Option(s)
THAT the report dated June 9, 2020 from the Economic Development Office regarding Staff Costs to Assist in the Establishment of the Salish Sea Research and Education Society be received for information.

Financial Implications
Staff time will cost an estimated $1,334 should all 20 hours be required.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives
There are no communications and civic engagement initiatives associated with this report.
Council Strategic Plan Objectives
Staff assistance for the establishment of the SSRES aligns with the Council Strategic Plan objectives of Economic Prosperity and Environmental Leadership.

Attachment(s)
  2. Year 1 Budget.

Report Author
Joji Kumagai
Manager of Economic Development
Report Approval Details

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<th>Document Title:</th>
<th>Staff Costs to Assist in the Establishment of the Salish Sea Research and Education Society.docx</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attachments:</td>
<td>- Attachment 1 - Salish Sea Research and Education Centre Proposal.pdf</td>
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<td>- Attachment 2 - Year 1 Budget.pdf</td>
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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Jun 10, 2020 - 5:19 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Jun 11, 2020 - 11:21 AM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Jun 12, 2020 - 10:57 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Jun 15, 2020 - 11:08 AM