



Meeting 2007 June 18

COUNCIL REPORT

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: COSMETIC HERBICIDE USAGE ON PRIVATE PROPERTIES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council authorize staff to undertake a public and stakeholder consultation process on the framework of a proposed bylaw to regulate the use of cosmetic herbicides on private properties as outlined in this report.
2. THAT Council authorize staff to seek public and stakeholder opinion on expanding the proposed draft elements of the bylaw to prohibit the use of all cosmetic pesticides on private properties except to control infestations.
3. THAT staff report back to the Environment Committee and Council on the outcome of the public consultation process and recommend the final elements of the bylaw for Council's consideration.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2007 June 12, received and adopted the *attached* report outlining the draft framework of a bylaw to regulate cosmetic herbicide usage on private property; financial/resource requirements for education outreach and enforcement of the bylaw; and a framework for public stakeholder consultation process to seek public opinion and feedback on the proposed framework of the bylaw and on expanding the proposed draft elements of the bylaw to prohibit the use of all cosmetic pesticides on private properties except to control infestations.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Dan Johnston
Chair

Councillor Pietro Calendino
Vice Chair

Councillor Lee Rankin
Member

COPY – CITY MANAGER DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING DIRECTOR ENGINEERING DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULTURAL SERV. CITY SOLICITOR
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE **DATE:** 2007 June 04

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 33000-05
DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: COSMETIC HERBICIDE USAGE ON PRIVATE PROPERTIES

PURPOSE: To provide the Committee and Council with
a) draft framework of a proposed bylaw to regulate cosmetic herbicide usage on private property;
b) financial/resource requirements for education outreach and enforcement of the proposed bylaw; and
c) framework for public and stakeholder consultation process.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend Council to:
 - a) authorize staff to undertake a public and stakeholder consultation process on the framework of a proposed bylaw to regulate the use of cosmetic herbicides on private properties as outlined in this report;
 - b) seek public and stakeholder opinion on expanding the proposed draft elements of the bylaw to prohibit the use of all cosmetic pesticides on private properties except to control infestations; and
 - c) request staff to report back to the Environment Committee and Council on the outcome of the public consultation process and to recommend the final elements of the bylaw for Council's consideration.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

At the January 15, 2007 Council Meeting, Council received a report from the Environment Committee on cosmetic herbicide usage on private properties. Arising from the discussion, Council approved the recommendations of the Committee and authorized staff to: a) continue with a strong educational program on sustainable landscape

To: *Environment Committee*
From: *DIRECTOR ENGINEERING*
DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
Re: *COSMETIC HERBICIDE USAGE ON PRIVATE PROPERTIES*

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maintenance, including provision of alternatives to cosmetic herbicides on private properties, and b) provide a further report outlining the framework of a bylaw based on Option 3 to restrict the use of cosmetic herbicides on private properties with exemptions and financial resource implications of implementing the bylaw.

The following report outlines the draft framework of a bylaw to regulate cosmetic herbicide usage on private property; financial/resource requirements for education outreach and enforcement of the bylaw; and a framework for public and stakeholder consultation process to seek public opinion and feedback on the proposed bylaw.

2.0 PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR HERBICIDE CONTROL BYLAW

Based on Council's direction, the proposed framework for herbicide control bylaw for private properties could include: a general definition and interpretation section; restriction of application methodology to spot treatment only; prohibition of herbicide use in sensitive area such as schools, universities, hospitals, adult care facilities, child care facilities, playgrounds in parks, adjacent to streams; and a section on when the bylaw may come into force. To meet the objectives of Option 3 as approved by Council, an amendment to the bylaw could be brought forward subsequently to allow some treatment of sensitive areas with restricted application methodology when justified by a qualified applicator who has undergone an accredited Integrated Pest Management program.

Enforcement of the bylaw along with a comprehensive education / outreach program will require annual funding of \$68,000 for one full time equivalent employee and education materials.

3.0 FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

With Council's concurrence, staff would undertake consultation processes this summer and early fall to seek public and stakeholder opinion on the proposed framework for herbicide control bylaw and report back appropriately to the Committee and Council. Taking into account presentations by Ms. Mae Burrows and Ms. Fran Haughian, Canadian Cancer Society, at the Environment Committee meeting on May 08, 2007, staff could also seek public and stakeholder opinion on expanding the proposed draft elements of the bylaw to prohibit the use of all cosmetic pesticides on private properties except to control infestations.

The consultation process will include a public meeting and a stakeholder meeting. Notices of the meetings will be placed in local papers, civic facilities and City web site. Invitation letters will be sent to stakeholders such as but not limited to landscape and pesticide applicator businesses, regulatory authorities, health authority, stream keeper

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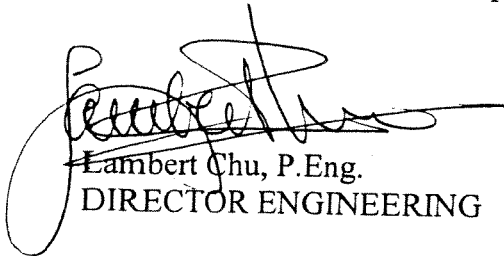
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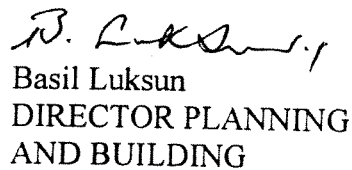
groups, utility companies, rate payers associations and institutions. Attendees will be requested to fill out the questionnaire and return it to the City. In addition, there will be staffed displays at local shopping malls and community centres.

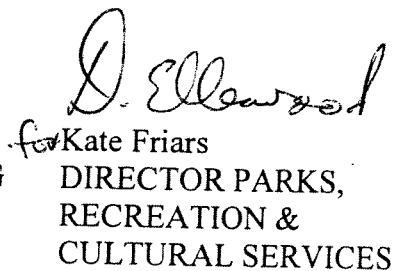
The proposed public and stakeholder consultation process will allow the City to gauge the level of support for the proposed framework of the bylaw and on expanding the proposed draft elements of the bylaw to prohibit the use of cosmetic pesticides on private properties. Staff will subsequently prepare a report to Environment Committee in late fall outlining the findings of the consultation process and the final bylaw for Council's consideration.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The City has long recognized that the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers has potential impact to human health and the natural environment. The City also has demonstrated its strong commitment to a comprehensive ecological approach to pest management. Given that a significant portion of pesticides used are herbicides, a strategic step was taken to look at restricting the use of cosmetic herbicides on private properties. The proposed public and stakeholder consultation process will allow the City to gauge the level of support for the proposed framework of the bylaw and on expanding the proposed draft elements of the bylaw to prohibit the use of all cosmetic pesticides on private properties except to control infestations.


Lambert Chu, P.Eng.
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING


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DIRECTOR PLANNING
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for Kate Friars
DIRECTOR PARKS,
RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

DD:cg

Copied to: City Manager
City Solicitor