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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE AUGUST 25, 2014
FROM:	JOHN M. FLEMING MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER
SUBJECT:	WESTMINSTER WORKING GROUP – COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PROJECT, ECOLOGICAL STUDIES AND CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN FUNDING

RECOMMENDATIONS

That on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner the following request for funding to complete ecological studies for the Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills ESA **BE APPROVED** as per the attached source of funding (Appendix A).

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- May 29, 2012 Community Services Committee – Directed the Civic Administration to work with the Westminster Working Group to develop a proposal for a multiuse pathway from the Westminster neighbourhood to Commissioners Road and report back within 6 months.
- November 12, 2012 Update and next steps regarding the feasibility of a community connection from Parliament Crescent to Commissioners Road

BACKGROUND

In response to the request from the Westminster Working Group, City Council directed the matter to Civic Administration to work with the Westminster Working Group to:

Develop a proposal, and business case, for a multi-use pathway from the Westminster neighbourhood to Commissioners Road, and report back to the Community Services Committee (CSC) within six months; it being noted that a petition with approximately 200 signatures supporting this endeavour was submitted to the CSC (petition is available for viewing in the City Clerks' office); it being further noted that the CSC received a presentation from S. Sinclair, Westminster Working Group Member, with respect to this matter.

To carry out this project, Staff issued a Request for Proposal for consultants to undertake the Natural Heritage Inventory, Evaluation and Management Strategy for The Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills (WMP/PM) Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). Lowest bid was chosen – North South Environmental Inc. at \$93,049.00 plus HST. This work is complete.

Through this project we were able to address several recommendations for the WMP/PM ESA Conservation Master Plan (CMP), but more work is required to fully satisfy Council's direction, as the ecological studies determined that the community's planned pathway route should ideally be east of the CN tracks. The same consultant will be engaged to do the following work:

- Addressing comments and revising final reports
- Mapping of restoration and special features overlays
- Preparing monitoring plan
- Present study findings at CMP Community Update on October 2, 2014

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Their fee for the work is \$10,861.50 plus HST and therefore puts the total contract over \$100,000 requiring approval by Council.

PREPARED BY:	SUBMITTED BY:
LINDA MCDUGALL ECOLOGIST	ANDREW MACPHERSON, OALA MANAGER – ENVIRONMENTAL AND PARKS PLANNING
RECOMMENDED BY:	
JOHN M. FLEMING, MCIP, RPP MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER	