

--	--

Planner: L. McDOUGALL

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS PLANNING &amp; ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 6, 2017</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>J. M. FLEMING MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SINGLE SOURCE PURCHASE FOR COMPLEX ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION WORKS IN WESTMINSTER PONDS / POND MILLS ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREA</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
-----------------------

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner regarding the complex ecological-restoration works in Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills Environmentally Significant Area, east of the tourism building a single source purchase for the implementation of complex, ecological-restoration works by St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre for \$68,781.00, excluding HST, **BE APPROVED** in accordance with Section 14.4 (e) of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
--

April 2016, Corporate Services Committee - [Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program Contribution Agreement](#)

<b>PURPOSE</b>
----------------

This report is submitted to seek Council's approval to retain St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre to implement the complex ecological-restoration of a 3.5 hectare area in Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) east of the Tourism building. This work will allow for, and greatly enhance the success of an accessible boardwalk and trail project being implemented in 2017 as part of a Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program Grant awarded to the City. This area is currently infested with over 80% invasive, non-native Buckthorn with an overstory of potentially hazardous, standing-dead Ash trees.

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
-------------------

The focus of the work will be to implement the *Ecological Restoration Plan for Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills ESA Saunders Cabin Area by St. Williams Nursery & Ecology Centre* reviewed by staff, EEPAC, TFAC, and UTRCA, and presented by St. Williams and staff at a Community Meeting in September 2016. The ecological restoration project will:

- manage invasive species, notably Common and Glossy Buckthorn
- mitigate hazards posed by dead Ash trees to the planned boardwalk
- allow accessible boardwalk and trail implementation to proceed in the preferred location as determined by a site visit with the Trails Advisory Group
- provide enhanced viewing opportunities to Saunders Pond from the boardwalk
- re-establish healthy, native plant communities with enhanced biodiversity and habitat for the protection of the ESA consistent with the natural heritage objectives in the London Plan and the Conservation Master Plan for the ESA

--	--

Planner: L. McDOUGALL

Financing:

St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre provided a quote of \$68,781.00, excluding HST to complete the complex ecological-restoration works. The Source of Financing for the work is available in Capital Budget Project No. PD2247 which includes funds from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Grant.

**DETAILED RATIONALE SUPPORTING THE DECISION**

St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre is the preferred firm to provide the City with a complete service for a full ecological restoration solution on a complex and time sensitive project associated with the Federal Canada 150 Grant. St. Williams has a proven track record on a wide range of projects across Ontario for all levels of government and respected clients including the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Western University. Their expertise is planning and implementing high-quality, ecological restoration projects that maximize the attainment of realistic and sustainable ecological restoration and biodiversity conservation goals in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre:

- are able to fully implement the ecological restoration and provide a solution to a complex ecological situation in a high profile location in an ESA
- have special knowledge, expertise, skills, licences and ability to secure permits
- have a proven track record across Ontario with respected Conservation partners
- are the only major supplier that verifies source-identified native seed and plants as true Ontario wild-type by seed zone
- have the ability to carefully time the work in order to synchronize it with the requirements for the accessible boardwalk and trail work under the Canada 150 Grant

Specifically, the rationale from Section 14.4 of the City of London’s Procurement of Goods and Services Policy support the Single Source recommendation for selecting St. Williams:

- e) St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre were retained by the City as the ecological consultants on the restoration project, and drafted and presented the *Ecological Restoration Plan for Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills ESA Saunders Cabin Area*, and, have special knowledge, skills, expertise and experience to implement this complex restoration project.

<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>
<b>L. MCDUGALL, MES, OALA, RPP ECOLOGIST ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; PARKS PLANNING</b>	<b>A. MACPHERSON, OALA MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; PARKS PLANNING</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>	
<b>JOHN M. FLEMING, MCIP, RPP MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER</b>	