

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 12, 2020
FROM:	KELLY SCHERR, P. ENG, MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES & CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	SINGLE SOURCE PHRAGMITES CONTROL ON ROADSIDES

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services & City Engineer, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the award of Phragmites Control on Roadsides:

- a) That approval hereby **BE GIVEN** to enter into a four year with two additional option years contract for phragmites control along roadsides to Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPCC);
- b) That Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all the administrative acts that are necessary in connection with these contracts;
- c) Approval hereby given **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation negotiating satisfactory prices, terms and conditions with the IPCC to the satisfaction of the Manager of Purchasing and Supply and the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services & City Engineer; and,
- d) Approval hereby given **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation entering into a formal contract or having a purchase order relating to the subject matter of this approval.

COUNCIL'S 2019-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

The following report supports the Strategic Plan through the strategic focus of Building a Sustainable City by protecting, enhancing waterways through implementing strategies and programs to conserve natural areas and features. This program will also improve infrastructure and road safety

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to establish a four (4) year term with two additional optional years single source contract with the Invasive Phragmites Control Center to provide a management plan and control program for the Road Operations & Forestry Division.

Phragmites australis is considered to be Canada's worst invasive plant and poses a significant threat to the City of London due to public safety and liability concerns, damage to infrastructure, and reduced biodiversity, aesthetic enjoyment and recreational opportunities in natural spaces. The current widespread and expansive establishment of Phragmites throughout the London area necessitates a comprehensive

strategy to achieve cost effective, long-term control.

The City has worked with Janice Gilbert, PhD Executive Director of the Invasive Phragmites Control Center (IPCC) since 2018 when she helped develop a management strategy to eliminate and control the spread of Phragmites in woodlands and other open spaces. Roadsides ditches are in need of a similar management plan and control program that will help ensure that the roadside ditches are functioning properly and to mitigate any sight lines issues that could occur at roadway intersections.

IPCC's offered services include:

1. Control program management to include reporting to city staff of control crew locations, weekly updates to city staff on areas treated, outreach undertaken, resolving site specific control logistics for crew, and ongoing assessments and monitoring.
2. Site specific control actions to include herbicide application, cutting in wet sites and dead stem removal where required.
3. Annual report to city staff to include location, number and size of areas treated, methods used, volume of herbicide applied, control results, and other pertinent information.

City staff have created an inventory of roadside phragmites that will be used to develop the strategy and control program.

The following is an example of the City data:



DISCUSSION

Purchasing Process

Civic Administration have reviewed the previously prepared phragmites management strategy and unique qualifications of the service provider in combination with the provisions of the purchasing by-law. It is recommended that the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre be awarded the contract as a single source as per the following Procurement of Goods and Services Policy provisions:

- Section 14.4 (d) There is a need for compatibility with goods and/or services previously acquired or the required goods and/or services will be additional to similar goods and/or services being supplied under an existing contract (i.e. contract extension or renewal); and,
- Section 14.4 (e) The required goods and/or services are to be supplied by a particular supplier(s) having special knowledge, skills, expertise or experience.

Financial Impact

The estimated annual expenditure is approximately \$100,000. Funding for this project is available in the approved operating budgets for Roadside Operations – Road Maintenance (50%) and Transportation Operations - Summer Maintenance (50%).

CONCLUSION

The recommended assignment with the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre builds upon previous work on open space management and allows Roads & Transportation to develop a phragmites management plan and control program to mitigate the concerns of this invasive species along roadsides.

PREPARED BY:	SUBMITTED BY:
JOHN PARSONS, C.E.T. DIVISION MANAGER, ROAD OPERATIONS AND FORESTRY	DOUG MACRAE, P.ENG., MPA DIRECTOR ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION
RECOMMENDED BY:	
KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG, MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER	

c: John Freeman, Manager of Purchasing and Supply
Invasive Phragmites Control Centre, PO Box 245, Langton, ON, N0E 1G0