



BOARD REPORT

TO: Chair and Directors

File No: 5280 05 06

SUBJECT: Scotch Creek/Lee Creek Mosquito Control

DESCRIPTION: Report from Ben Van Nostrand, Team Leader, Environmental Health Services, dated August 1, 2019. Mosquito control treatment in the Hilliam Road area of Scotch Creek on Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band lands.

RECOMMENDATION #1: THAT: the Board receive for information the Parks Permit Application Decision Rationale report from the Ministry of Environment as it relates to nuisance mosquito control treatment within two provincial parks in Electoral Area F, this 15th day of August, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION #2: THAT: the Board write a letter to the Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band requesting confirmation of support for continued nuisance mosquito control treatment in the Hilliam Road area of IR#4 in Scotch Creek, this 15th day of August, 2019.

SHORT SUMMARY:

On July 11, 2019, the CSR D received notice from BC Parks (Ministry of Environment) that its application to conduct mosquito control within two provincial parks, Shuswap Lake and Tsútswecw (formerly Roderick Haig Brown), in the Scotch Creek/Lee Creek area had been denied. The report concludes that nuisance mosquito control is not necessary for the preservation or maintenance of the recreational values of either Shuswap Lake Park or Tsútswecw Park. The report also indicates that through the First Nations consultation process, the Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band (LSLIB) did not support mosquito treatment in provincial parks, due to potential environmental conflicts.

LSLIB staff have also expressed similar concerns to the CSR D regarding mosquito control within IR#4 in the Hilliam Road area. The CSR D conducts mosquito control in IR#4 through a servicing agreement with LSLIB.

The CSR D’s mosquito control contractor has indicated that if the CSR D is not able to treat for mosquitoes in both the provincial parks as well as the Hilliam road area of Scotch Creek, then the Scotch Creek/Lee Creek mosquito program should be abandoned, due to the inability to treat this large area of mosquito habitat.

VOTING: Unweighted Corporate LGA Part 14 (Unweighted) Weighted Corporate Stakeholder (Weighted)

BACKGROUND:

The CSR D has provided mosquito control within two provincial parks in Scotch Creek/Lee Creek area. Shuswap Lake Provincial Park and Tsútswecw Park have been part of the treatment area from 1994 to 2015, through a Letter of Authorization issued by BC Parks. Since 2012, BWP Consulting (BWP), the CSR D’s mosquito control contractor for the Scotch Creek/Lee Creek area, has contacted BC Parks on an

annual basis to request permission to treat nuisance mosquitoes in the two parks. In 2012, BC Parks staff issued permission for treatment which included the statement that they had "no issues with current program". Since 2013, BC Parks has continued to issue permission for mosquito control treatments in both parks, including authorization for helicopter larviciding in 2014 and 2015 along the boundary of Tsútswecw Park next to Cottonwoods RV Park.

On May 30, 2016, BWP sent an email to BC Parks staff to provide an update on mosquito control activities in Scotch Creek/Lee Creek service area and to once again request authorization to treat the flooded areas in Shuswap Lake Provincial Park and Tsútswecw (including a helicopter treatment of a strip of water next to Cottonwoods RV Park).

In response to BWP's 2016 treatment request, BC Parks staff replied with the following email:

"I reviewed all available up-to-date internal directives and have spoken with our Regional Conservation Specialist, it is clearly not within BC Parks mandate or policies to treat mosquito larvae for human nuisance control. We have in that past issued permissions based on local health authority directives i.e.: public warnings for control and avoidance of mosquitos for human health and safety reasons (caused infectious viral spread from mosquitos). Unless there is a clear "health and human "safety concern brought to my attention, then I will be unable to issue a Permit for larvicide treatment within Shuswap Lake Park or Roderick Haig Brown this season. I apologize for any confusion or inconvenience that this may have caused."

BC Parks would no longer issue the annual letter of authorization for mosquito control treatment in the parks if it was not for public health reasons. They recommended the CSRD apply for more formal Parks Use Permit to seek authorization for mosquito treatment. The permit application was submitted in December 2016 and was not adjudicated in time for the 2017 treatment season, so the two parks were not treated that year. In 2018, the Regional Manager from the Ministry of Environment issued a letter of authorization for the CSRD to conduct treatment in Shuswap Lake Provincial Park only, while the permit application remained under review. After significant pressure from the Electoral Area F Director, the Shuswap MLA and CSRD staff, the Ministry finally responded to the 2017 permit application on July 11, 2019 with its decision; the denial of the permit and therefore no treatment at provincial parks in the area.

Although the LSLIB Council has provided support for the program to date, LSLIB management has recently expressed concerns with the treatment program on Band lands along Hilliam Road. BWP has advised that should the LSLIB wish to discontinue to treat the area along Hilliam Road, coupled with the decision from BC Parks to prohibit treatment in the two provincial parks, the program would be ineffective as the majority of mosquito habitat is located in these areas. As a result, in order for the Board to consider viability of the program, it would be prudent to seek clarification from LSLIB Council on their desire for continued treatment in the Hilliam Road area.

FINANCIAL:

The inability to provide mosquito control treatment within BC Parks will result in cost savings to the program. The current servicing agreement with LSLIB includes a provision and fee for mosquito control services within IR#4 along Hilliam Road. If the LSLIB does not wish to continue with the service, this

agreement will need to be updated to reflect this change and the entire Area F mosquito nuisance program should be discontinued.

KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:

A recent decision by BC Parks which prohibits mosquito treatment within the two provincial parks in the Scotch Creek/Lee Creek area, will negatively impact the current mosquito control program. There is still a benefit to residents to treat outside of the park boundaries in the area, however, should the LSLIB discontinue the service along Hilliam Road, the program will no longer be effective and should be abandoned. Confirmation from the LSLIB Council on acceptability of the CSRD's mosquito nuisance control program in and around Hilliam Road is required for future program planning.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter will be drafted from the Board Chair's to the LSLIB Chief and Council which will include a copy of this Board report for reference.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

The Board support the recommendations.

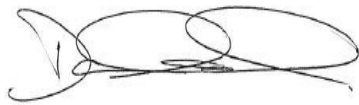
BOARD'S OPTIONS:

1. *Endorse the Recommendation(s).*
2. *Deny the Recommendation(s).*
3. *Defer.*
4. *Any other action deemed appropriate by the Board.*

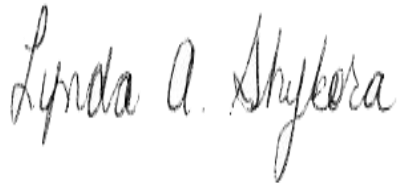
Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2019_08_15_Board_OM_Scotch_Creek_Lee_Creek_Mosquito_Control_LSLI B.docx
Attachments:	- 109214_Shuswap_T_decision_rationale_Mosquito_Control.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Aug 1, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Darcy Mooney - Aug 1, 2019 - 12:52 PM



Lynda Shykora - Aug 1, 2019 - 1:21 PM

No Signature - Task assigned to Charles Hamilton was completed by assistant Lynda Shykora

Charles Hamilton - Aug 1, 2019 - 1:22 PM