



April 2, 2013

City Council Committee Report

TO: Mayor and Council

**FR: Richard Perchuk, Manager of Operations
Robert Halverson, Roads Supervisor**

**RE: Trapper Council Agreement – City of Kenora Nuisance Beaver
Program - 2013**

Recommendation:

That Council hereby authorizes an agreement between the Kenora Trappers Council and the City of Kenora, respecting nuisance beaver services for the period May 16 to September 15, 2013, inclusive; and further

That the Mayor and Clerk execute the agreement, together with the Kenora District Manager of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, authorizing the Kenora Trappers Council to act as an agent under Section 31(2) of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

Background:

In order to control beaver activity during the closed season the City of Kenora must enter into a Nuisance Beaver Agreement with the Kenora Trapper's Council, which is authorized by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). This agreement, which must be renewed annually, authorizes the trapping of beavers from May 16 to September 15 annually.

This service has proven itself over the years to be essential to the efficient and economical management of the City's rural roads system. Since entering into this agreement, a significant reduction in costs associated with beaver activity and drainage problems have been realized.

The City can only hire licensed trappers who are authorized by the Ministry of Natural Resources Kenora District, under clause 11(1)(c) of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act as a person who may trap for hire, gain or the expectation of gain. A copy of the Kenora Trapper's Council Authorization is attached.

In 2012 there were 19 beavers trapped at a total cost of \$1,235.00. There was no lowering of water charges in 2012.

The rates, which have not changed over the years, are comprised of a fee of \$65.00 per beaver pelt and a fee of \$15.00 per hour (maximum 3 hours) to lower the water level or open a dam at a specified site when requested. There is also a \$30.00 compensation fee when dispatch is requested and no beaver found.

The following provides a comparison of costs for service over the last three years:

Year	# Beavers Trapped	Trapping Charge	Lower Water Charge
2010	87	\$5,655.00	\$180.00
2011	7	\$455.00	\$60.00
2012	19	\$1,235.00	\$0

The Trapper Council indicated that the reduction in activity in 2011, when compared to 2010, was due to beavers moving on from regular sites, ponds had dried up or the beaver were taken on the trapper's quota at no charge to the City.

New to the 2013 agreement is the addition of clause No. 8 and the re-numbering of all subsequent clauses. On January 14, 2013 Council approved the amending of the Discharge of Firearms By-Law No. 148-2010 to provide Trappers with an exemption to the By-Law during times when they are managing their registered trap line area.

The Trapper Council remains responsible to reconcile all activity and expenditures for invoicing the City directly, as opposed to the individual trapper(s) billing the City.

Budget: 2013 Operating Budget

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

Resolution required.

Distribution: R. Perchuk, Rob Halverson, Trapper Council, MNR