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Report to Policy and Finance Committee
from Councillor Ian Buchanan

Wetland Restoration at Shandon Golf Course - Council Support for Staff Project

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- inform the Regional Council of how the Resource Policy Department intends to use the award money that it received for the “Regional Plans User Guide”; and
- request that the Council supports the award project.

2. Background

As Council is aware, the Resource Policy Department received the KPMG Innovation Award in 2000 for the publication “Regional Plans: A User Guide to the Rules of the Wellington Region”. A cheque for \$1000 accompanied the Award.

Resource Policy staff have decided that they would like to use the award money for an environmental project – one which could be ongoing and which involves the community. They have decided that a project to help Shandon Golf Course and Ducks Unlimited members restore a wetland at Shandon Golf Course is both worthwhile and appropriate. Restoration will involve planting over 500 wetland plants and removing weeds that are choking part of the existing wetland. It is estimated that to do this work well will cost \$2,000.

3. Comment

Wetlands are one of the Regions most threatened ecosystems. Through the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans, the Regional Council is actively working towards ensuring they are protected and restored.

The wetland restoration project by Shandon Golf Course and Ducks Unlimited is the result of a unique partnership between local government, private enterprise and an environment group. The concept of working in partnerships is in keeping with the Council's commitment to "Community Connections" and to the principles of Local Agenda 21. In time, we hope to encourage other golf courses and organisations that have wetlands on their property to begin a programme to restore these vital parts of our Region's biodiversity.

World Wetland Day is on 2 February and is an opportunity to highlight the importance of wetlands in the world. To celebrate World Wetland Day and as part of the restoration programme for the wetlands on the golf course, a planting day has been arranged. You will already have received an invitation.

4. **Conclusion**

The Council has already congratulated the staff on winning the KPMG Award. However, I believe that their intention to use the Award money on an environmental project is commendable and would like to suggest that the Council support their efforts through a monetary contribution. The Shandon Golf Course/Ducks Unlimited project is extra to budget and would not be carried out without the Award money. Consequently, I suggest that the Council match the \$1000 Award with a \$1000 contribution so that the full restoration can be carried out.

5. **Communication**

World Wetland Day and our celebration of it at the planting day at Shandon Golf Course will be promoted through national and local newspapers.

6. **Recommendation**

That the Regional Council provide \$1000 towards the wetland restoration project on Shandon Golf Course.

Report prepared by:

COUNCILLOR IAN BUCHANAN