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REPORT TO GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 01, 2022

SUBJECT Regional Grants-in-Aid Board Policy

ISSUE SUMMARY

To update the Regional Grants-in-Aid Board Policy.

BACKGROUND

The CRD has a long established policy of not awarding Regional Grants-in-Aid (GIA). The current policy is derived from a February 23, 1994, Board policy resolution, which directs staff to “establish a no grants policy regarding regional grant-in-aid, other than those regional grants-in-aid from a single jurisdiction”. At the February 2, 2022, Governance meeting, staff were directed to remove provisions in GIA levied against taxpayers of an individual municipality and maintain the “No Regional GIA” position. Additionally, staff were directed to ensure GIA for Electoral Areas remain status quo. Staff have confirmed Electoral Area authority is accounted for in separate services through Supplementary Letters Patent and will not be impacted by a Regional GIA policy.

The CRD continues to receive requests for Regional GIA, most recently in support for the Ukrainian Canadian Cultural Society of Vancouver Island. Appendix A is an updated Regional GIA Board Policy in alignment with current language and corporate standards to support the long standing practice and direction from committee this past winter.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Governance Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Regional Grants-in-Aid Policy be adopted.

Alternative 2

The Governance Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Board rescind the “No Regional GIA” Board Resolution Policy, and direct staff to develop a coordinating program with guidelines including an evaluation process and budget which does not exceed 10¢ per \$1,000 on the net taxable value of land and improvements in the regional district, and where the Board remains the decision-maker in granting funds to eligible projects.

IMPLICATIONS

Service Delivery and Financial Implications

Alternative 1

The policy attached in Appendix A executes Board direction from February 2022 and brings the previous 1994 Board Policy Resolution into alignment with current corporate standards and templates of the CRD. There are no financial implications with this alternative.

Alternative 2

The Board could consider raising funds for Regional GIA as part of the annual service review and budget process where staff would prepare defined service mandates and develop a coordinating program with guidelines similar to Electoral Area GIA services. Resources and capacity would be needed to administer a Regional GIA program. The Board would remain the decision-maker over which eligible projects are awarded funding.

Section 374(9) of the *Local Government Act* limits expenditures for Regional GIA to 10¢ per \$1,000 on the net taxable value of land and improvements in the regional district. Cost apportionment would include all municipalities, electoral areas, and First Nations. Based on the 2022 assessment base, the maximum requisition for a Regional GIA service would be approximately \$16.5 million or \$87.50 per average household. Actual requisition would be determined through the annual budgeting process.

The aforementioned process mirrors the electoral area model and provides a structured and transparent program to consider all Regional GIA applications. There could be concern that by providing a Regional GIA program, the CRD will consider requests that are outside its service authority or mandate.

CONCLUSION

The CRD has a long established policy of not awarding Regional Grants-in-Aid (GIA). At the February 2, 2022, Governance Committee meeting, staff were directed to remove provisions in GIA policy levied against taxpayers of an individual municipality and maintain the “No Regional GIA” position which is included in the updated Regional Grants-in-Aid policy found in appendix A.

RECOMMENDATION

The Governance Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Regional Grants-in-Aid Policy be adopted.

Submitted by:	Rianna Lachance, BCom, CPA, CA, Senior Manager, Financial Services
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: Regional Grants-in-Aid Policy