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**REPORT TO THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018**

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**SUBJECT**     Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)

**ISSUE**

Capital Regional District (CRD) Board authorization is required to enable submission of grant applications to the ICIP Community, Culture and Recreation (CCR) and Rural and Northern Community (RNC) programs.

**BACKGROUND**

At the UBCM Convention in September 2018, the provincial government announced two grant programs under the ICIP. The chart in Appendix A provides an overview of the ICIP funding envelopes.

The CCR program (\$135M) provides funding for projects that upgrade and build sports facilities, trails, local community centres and spaces for arts and culture. It will also support health and educational facilities that uphold the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

The RNC program (\$95M) provides funding for capital infrastructure projects in communities with a population of 25,000 or less and provides additional funding towards projects in communities with populations of 5,000 or less. Primary outcomes focus on infrastructure related to: food security; reliable road, air or marine infrastructure; broadband connectivity; efficient and reliable energy; Indigenous health and educational facilities. Secondary outcomes focus on infrastructure related to: community, culture and recreation; local public transit; resilience to natural disaster events; and, environmental quality.

For each of these programs, there is a limit of one application per community cluster/service area. Multiple submissions from a single organization do not need to be ranked. There is no cap on the maximum allowable funding amount per project; however, the programs will be aiming for a fair distribution of grant funding. Applications are due January 23, 2019, and must include a Board resolution worded according to the grant program's specifications. For these two grant calls, four projects have been proposed:

PROGRAM	LOCATION*	PROJECT	\$ REQUEST	APPENDIX
CCR	SSI	1. Fernwood Elementary School Athletic Field	\$ 584,850	B
CCR	SGI	2. Mayne Island Trail Development Phase 1	\$2,213,300	C
RNC	SGI	3. Miners Bay Dock Improvements	\$ 600,000	D
RNC	JDF	4. Wilderness Mountain Supply Improvement	\$5,315,000	E

(\*) JDF: Juan de Fuca Electoral Area; SGI: Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area; SSI: Salt Spring Island Electoral Area

In keeping with the CRD External Grants Process, all four proposals have been reviewed according to key determinants of success such as alignment with grant program objectives and CRD priorities. After review, all three Electoral Area Directors recommend submitting all four proposals.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### **Alternative 1**

That the Capital Regional District submit grant applications for four proposals, as endorsed in the following resolutions:

- 1) That the Capital Regional District Board (the Board) authorize staff to submit an application for grant funding for *Fernwood Elementary School Athletic Field Upgrade* through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Community, Culture and Recreation Program; and that the Board supports the project and commits to its share (\$250,650) of the project.

**AND**

- 2) That the Capital Regional District Board (the Board) authorize staff to submit an application for grant funding for the *Mayne Island Regional Trail – Phase 1 Development* to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Community, Culture and Recreation Program; and that the Board supports the project and commits to its share (\$1,023,000) of the project.

**AND**

- 3) That the Capital Regional District Board (the Board) authorize staff to submit an application for grant funding for *Miners Bay Dock Improvements* through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Rural and Northern Communities Program; and that the Board supports the project and commits to its share (\$30,000) of the project.

**AND**

- 4) That the Capital Regional District Board (the Board) authorize staff to submit an application for grant funding for *Wilderness Mountain Supply Improvements* through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Rural and Northern Communities Program; and that the Board supports the project and commits to its share (\$345,000) of the project.

### **Alternative 2**

That the report be referred back to staff for further analysis.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **OPERATIONAL**

All four proposals fit their respective grant program criteria and align with CRD priorities. The CRD's capacity to meet its obligations if awarded any or all of the grants is confirmed in the attestation section of Appendices B-E.

### **RETURN ON GRANT EFFORT INVESTMENT (ROGEI)**

ROGEI is a ratio of grant outcomes in relation to grant effort. Absent compelling reasons to exclude any of the proposals, and while submitting all of them is an option, it is important to manage expectations regarding grant outcomes if that option is pursued. Grant programs are oversubscribed with highly qualified projects; therefore, the probability of 100% ROGEI by submitting all proposals is remote.

Grant pursuit outcomes are unpredictable and shaped by forces outside the CRD's control. The CRD's grant experience over the years reveals three key grant award patterns:

- (1) Multiple asks can result in 0 wins;
- (2) Multiple asks can result in only 1 win, which is, typically, the lowest or near lowest ask;
- (3) Focus on one solid ask leads to success.

The 2018 External Grants Outcome Report, presented to the CRD Board in June 2018, highlights significant lessons learned which have resulted in continuous improvement of the CRD External Grant Process to achieve better grant pursuit outcomes (see Appendix F).

### **EQUITY IN GRANT ACCESS**

As grant award patterns demonstrate, grant outcomes tend to be higher when the CRD focuses on a top priority request. Evidence to support this approach occurred in 2017 when one application to the Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund yielded \$1.2M for the SEAPARC Recreation Centre Expansion – *a first ever significant CRD gas tax win to benefit a rural area*. The current grant call could yield a similar result: 1) By applying to CCR for the Mayne Island Trail Development project that will kick-start construction of the world class *Experience the Gulf Islands* eco-tourism vision; and (2) By applying to RNC for the Wilderness Mountain Supply Project that will restore safe drinking water to that community.

### **CONCLUSION**

All four proposals qualify for ICIP participation. They align with the objectives of their respective grant programs and with CRD priorities. Organizational capacity to meet obligations if the CRD is awarded any or all of the grants requested has been confirmed with adjustments to approved service plans.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Capital Regional District submit grant applications for four proposals, as endorsed in the following resolutions:

- 1) That the Capital Regional District Board (the Board) authorize staff to submit an application for grant funding for *Fernwood Elementary School Athletic Field Upgrade* through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Community, Culture and Recreation Program; and that the Board supports the project and commits to its share (\$250,650) of the project.

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Appendix A: Investing in Canada Infrastructure – Program Chart  
Appendix B: Fernwood Elementary School Athletic Field Upgrade  
Appendix C: Mayne Island Trail Development Phase 1  
Appendix D: Miners Bay Dock Improvements  
Appendix E: Wilderness Mountain Supply Improvement  
Appendix F: 2018 CRD External Grant Outcomes–Excerpts