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## REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2019

### **SUBJECT**     BC Rural Dividend Program 2019 Intake

### **ISSUE**

Capital Regional District (CRD) Board authorization is required to enable submission of grant applications to the BC Rural Dividend Program for the *Southern Gulf Islands Connectivity Design Strategy*.

### **BACKGROUND**

The BC Rural Dividend Fund, initiated in 2016, has launched its sixth proposal call. The program aims to help rural communities with populations under 25,000 strengthen their community resilience, and support their social, cultural and economic viability. In previous rounds, the CRD has been successful in obtaining 6 grants totaling \$371,893.

PROJECT TITLE	ELECTORAL AREA	GRANT AWARD
SGI Regional Trails Engineering Design	SGI	\$ 100,000.00
SSI Shared Services Model Phase 2	SSI	\$ 90,750.00
SSI Feasibility Study on Shared Business Services Model Options	SSI	\$ 9,869.00
Port Renfrew Tourism Trail - Implementation Project	JDF	\$ 89,194.00
Port Renfrew Tourism Trail - Concept Development	JDF	\$ 10,000.00
SSI Rural Accelerator	SSI	\$ 72,080.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 371,893.00</b>

Funding is available according to three funding streams: (1) Project Development funding at 100% share to a maximum of \$10,000; (2) Single Applicant initiatives funding at 80% share to a maximum of \$100,000; (3) Partnership initiatives at 60% share to a maximum of \$500,000. The eligible project categories include: (1) community capacity building; (2) workforce development; (3) community and economic development; and (4) business sector development. In the Capital Region, an eligible applicant includes an unincorporated area with a population of 25,000 people or less.

For the current intake, the *Southern Gulf Islands Connectivity Design Strategy* (see Appendix A: Project Charter – Connectivity Planning in the Southern Gulf Islands) has been identified as an eligible project. The application fits under the Community and Economic Development Category and under the Single Applicant Funding Stream.

Applications are due August 15, 2019 and must include a Board resolution worded according to the grant program's specifications.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### **Alternative 1:**

That the Electoral Areas Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Capital Regional District Board authorize the submission of an application to the BC Rural Dividend Program for *Southern Gulf Islands Connectivity Design Strategy* and that the Board support this project through its duration.

**Alternative 2:**

That the Electoral Areas Committee recommend to the Regional Board:

That staff defer any further work on this initiative.

**IMPLICATIONS**

In keeping with the CRD's grant process, this project proposal has been analyzed to verify alignment between BC Rural Dividend Program goals and the CRD's planning framework.

Staff have confirmed organizational capacity to deliver the proposal outcomes. Additionally, the proposal complies with the grant program's application cap rule of one Single Applicant Initiative per unincorporated area.

This proposal is a good fit; the timing and purpose of this BC Rural Dividend Program grant call merges well with the CRD's organizational readiness and capacity to accomplish strategically aligned project outcomes.

**CONCLUSION**

The project proposal submitted for the sixth round of BC Rural Dividend funding aligns with both the grant program and CRD objectives. CRD organizational capacity to achieve the proposed project outcomes within the grant program timeframe of two years has been confirmed as per the project attestations in Appendix B.

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Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, JD, General Manager, Corporate Service and Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, CPA, CMA, Chief Financial Officer
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JS:ngm

Appendix A: Project Charter

Appendix B: Project Proposal – *Southern Gulf Islands Connectivity Design Strategy*