



**Date:** 04/07/2018

## **AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

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**To:** Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

**And To:** John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services

**Date of Meeting:** Cariboo Regional District Board\_Jul13\_2018

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### **Short Summary:**

Rural Dividend Fund Application – Esler Sports Complex New Road Access

### **Voting:**

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

### **Memorandum:**

The Cariboo Regional District received an advisory and guidelines that applications are now being accepted for the BC Rural Dividend provincial grant funding program's fifth intake.

The program assists rural communities with a population of 25,000 or less in strengthening their community resilience and supporting their social, cultural and economic viability.

The deadline for applications is July 31, 2018.

The Regional District may submit one application under the Single Applicant or Partnership funding stream per electoral area or unincorporated community in each intake. Non-profit organizations can apply directly, and it is expected that numerous non-profit groups throughout the Region will access the program.

The Partnership funding stream requires the applicant to have at least one eligible partner. All partners listed in the application are required to provide a partnership letter to the Rural Dividend confirming their role and commitment to the project.

The grant program funding will cover capital infrastructure costs up to a maximum of 25% of the total project cost.

The Cariboo Regional District has a 2018 Business Plan goal for the Central Cariboo Recreation and Leisure Services function to create design plans for a new access road into the Esler Sports Complex with a goal for construction to follow in 2019 subject to securing the necessary grant funding.

An RFQ for engineering design services is complete and the consultant has begun developing the concept plans in preparation for a road construction permit application to the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The design will be complete in August 2018 to allow for submissions to grant funding programs and work towards construction in 2019.

The proposed new access road will be approximately 1200m in length with 400m of upgraded on-site road combined with roughly 22,000 square metres of parking area improvements on the property. It is expected that the new access road will be an asphalt surface and meet all Ministry of Transportation design specifications to enable ongoing maintenance as a public road.

The Esler Sports Complex is an important field sports venue in the central Cariboo and used both by local associations and for hosting tournament events. The complex features the only developed sports fields in the greater Williams Lake area for soccer, slo-pitch and minor fastball, except for some limited use of school district facilities. Participation in these leagues totals more than 2,000 people, ranging from 5-year-old youth soccer players to seniors involved in slo-pitch and adult soccer. Combined, the leagues play more than 1,500 games per season at the complex.

Use of the Esler Sports Complex continues to grow, and additional improvements and capital investment will further increase traffic to and from the site; however, the current access is a winding, narrow residential route along Hodgson Road and is not adequate. Creating a safer, shorter access route directly off Highway 20 was a key component of a site development plan completed in 2007. The first step in construction of a new access road is creation of concept design plans to facilitate the permitting process and a project cost estimate to support securing grant funding. In addition to the access road, the project will also include on-site design development for parking and traffic flow around the sports fields.

The design consultant will also provide cost estimates to enable financial planning for the project and targeted grant applications. It is expected that the project will cost several million dollars and it is critical that the Regional District take advantage of grant programs as soon as possible, since multiple applications will be necessary.

The City of Williams Lake will be requested to serve as the official partner for the application as a participant in the CCRLS function.

**Attachments:**

None.

**Financial Implications:**

The application to the Rural Dividend Fund program is for \$500,000, which is the maximum allowable under the partnership stream and can be up to 25% of the project capital cost.

It is expected the cost estimate for the project to be between \$3-4 million depending on the engineering concept designs, especially for the Highway 20 connection and the on-site parking upgrades, which are in progress now.

Additional grant funding for the project will be also be required, with potential applications to Northern Development and federal infrastructure programs.

The proposed road access right-of-way contains substantial merchantable timber and this will also generate significant revenue to the project during construction.

The Central Cariboo Recreation function financial plan includes \$250,000 in capital funding budgeted in 2019 towards construction costs and also has \$627,000 in capital reserves that can support the project and be utilized for matching funding.

**Policy Implications:**

The Esler Sports Complex access road construction and on-site parking improvement project is identified as a 2018 Business Plan goal for design and cost estimate to support grant applications towards construction in 2019.

The Central Cariboo Recreation service has participation from portions of Electoral Areas D, E, and F and the City of Williams Lake, which together have a population of approximately 18,000 fulfilling the program’s requirement for the project to benefit communities of 25,000 or less.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

- Ensuring Sufficient and Sustainable Funding
- Building on our Relationships
- Providing Cost Effective High Quality Services
- Focusing on Being Well Governed

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**CAO Comments:**

I concur with the recommendation.

**Options:**

- 1) Endorse recommendation
- 2) Receipt and other action
- 3) Defer

**Recommendation:**

That the agenda item summary from Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services, dated July 4, 2018, regarding the BC Rural Dividend grant program, be received. Further, that an application for \$500,000 be submitted under the Partnership funding stream for construction of a new access road and on-site parking improvements at the Esler Sports Complex and that a letter be requested from the City of Williams Lake confirming partnership in the project.