



Date: 03/07/2018

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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

File: 7100-02

Short Summary:

Low Mobility Wilderness Trails Network Expansion Project Application to the BC Rural Dividend Program

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 BC Rural Dividend 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 Project Development funding stream and one application under the Single Applicant or Partnership funding stream per Electoral Area or unincorporated community in each intake.

Applications may also be categorized as destination trail projects, for which Rural Dividend's limit on infrastructure costs (25% of total project costs) will not apply.

In 2016, the Regional District received a \$10,000 BC Rural Dividend Project Development grant for the creation of a low mobility trails assessment and inventory study to locate and assess potential wheelchair accessible trail sites in the Chilcotin, central Cariboo and portions of the south Cariboo in order to expand the regional network.

In 2018, using the development study as a guide, the three trails are to be developed into low mobility trails at three different sites: Big Lake Community Hall, Moffat Falls Recreation Site and Bull Canyon Park. Following development of these trails, the network will feature 22 accessible wilderness trails throughout the Cariboo Chilcotin.

Three additional trail sites examined in the 2016 study can be developed in 2019, which will involve partnership with local community groups. The trail sites recommended for development in 2019 are:

Nimpo Lake Community Trails and Anahim Lake Trail Network with West Chilcotin Tourism Association and the Bullion Pit historic site with the Likely and District Chamber of Commerce.

Construction of these recommended low mobility trails is an appropriate project for a Single Applicant destinations trails project application.

The application is based on site plans and partnerships with these community groups, but if during the course of project delivery a particular trail is unable to be completed or additional funding is secured then other new trail opportunities may be explored.

A project coordinator retained on a contract basis will be necessary to assist the groups, provide guidance on standards, suppliers, and grant program requirements. The project coordinator position is part of the grant funding application.

Other funding for the project, which has a total value of \$130,000, is proposed to come from the Northern Development Initiative Trust (\$30,000).

The Regional District has embraced the development of a low mobility trails network in the Cariboo Chilcotin to increase outdoor wilderness recreation opportunities for people of all mobility levels and to create a niche market to help diversify the local economy.

Attachments:

None

Financial Implications:

The BC Rural Dividend program requires that projects include a minimum of 20% matching funding. Other funding for the 2019 project, which has a total value of \$130,000, is proposed to come from the Northern Development Initiative Trust, similar to the matching funds provided for the 2018 projects.

Policy Implications:

The Low Mobility Wilderness Trails Network Expansion Project meets identified strategic and business plan goals. The proposed trail sites are located in Electoral Areas F and J, which together have a population of 5,164, 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
- 3) Defer

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services, dated July 3, 2018, regarding the BC Rural Dividend grant program, be received. Further, that an application for \$100,000 be submitted under the Single Applicant funding stream for development of low mobility trails at the Nimpo Lake Community Trails site, Anahim Lake Trail Network and the Bullion Pit Historic Site near Likely.