



Date: 24/04/2019

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board
And To: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Lore Schick, Deputy Corporate Officer/Executive Assistant
Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_May03_2019
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Short Summary:

Request from Director Forseth – FireSmart Employee Program

Voting:

Stakeholder Vote - Weighted - All Electoral Areas

Memorandum:

Director Forseth has submitted the following:

“As a result of the 2017/2018 BC Wildfires – there has been a significant effort in BC to promote the FireSmart program, particularly for those living in rural areas, outside municipalities, in addition to local governments working to create a CWPP or Community Wildfire Protection Plan. There is already the Quesnel CWPP (adopted) and Quesnel Forestry Initiatives Program including the FireSmart education program for property owners; Williams Lake CWPP (adopted) and CRD Staff are working to secure funding to have a fully completed CWPP for the Electoral Areas

I have recently fielded inquiries from my own constituents about the Cariboo Regional District having a FireSmart homeowner education program wherein an individual would work with the property owner to come up with a workplan to have their property become FireSmart. There is recognition by one insurance company that properties that are FireSmart, upon a FireSmart Canada certificate, can receive as much as a 10% discount on their rural property insurance

Of the 27 Regional Districts’ in BC – only a handful of RD’s have a FireSmart program of some type. While I would not recommend using the FireSmart service provided by the Regional District of Central Kootenay, given its’ wide service area and scope, I would like to see our Cariboo Regional District take a look at the model that the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George uses, which is:

a dedicated person that increases awareness of FireSmart programing through outreach efforts so that individuals can be proactive in protecting their property and mitigating the potential impacts of wildfire.

The RDIFFG's FireSmart initiative is costing their Emergency Preparedness Service in 2019 which is funded by their 7 Electoral Areas roughly \$45,000 for a six month trial from April – October 2019

While the BC Wildfire Service does, on request, put on community presentations in regards to FireSmart, they will not go onto individual properties to provide advice on how to FireSmart your own property, at this time

I don't recommend we have our VFD's provide this service as not all CRD taxpayer supported Fire Departments cover the entirety of our Electoral Areas

I have flagged this item with the CAO in advance of writing this memorandum for the consideration of the Board and he is aware of the FireSmart program offered by both the RDCK and RDIFFG. I also flagged this item at our last Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting as an item that would be coming forward to the entire Board for consideration.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Receive this memorandum and take no further action
- 2) Request Staff to investigate options (funding/scope of service) for a FireSmart Property Education Program for all Electoral Areas and report back at the October 24th, 2019 Finance/Budget Committee meeting for consideration of inclusion in the 2020 Budget
- 3) Request Staff to investigate options (funding/scope of service) for a FireSmart Property Education Program for the Central/South Electoral Areas only (Areas D,E,F,G,H,J,K,L) and report back at the October 24th, 2019 Finance/Budget Committee meeting for consideration of inclusion in the 2020 Budget
- 4) Any other direction the Board determines to be appropriate

I recommend Option #3 to the Board...

Attachments:

None

Financial Implications:

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Policy Implications:

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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:

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Options:

- 1) Receipt
- 2) Receipt and further action
- 3) Defer

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Lore Schick, Deputy Corporate Officer/Executive Assistant, dated April 24, 2019, regarding a request from Director Forseth for a FireSmart Employee program, be received. *Further action at the discretion of the Board.*