



**Date:** 04/05/2020

**To:** South Cariboo Joint Committee

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

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

**Date of Meeting:** South Cariboo Joint Committee\_May11\_2020

**File:** 8030-03

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## Short Summary:

South Cariboo Wheelchair Accessible Wilderness Trails – Cariboo Strong Funding Request

## Voting:

By Consensus

## Memorandum:

The Cariboo Regional District submitted a Rural Dividend grant application in August of 2019 for \$100,000 to support the development of three new wheelchair accessible wilderness trails to expand the existing network in the region.

The proposed trails included in the application were at locations in the South Cariboo including Forest Grove, the Mountain Spruce Community Park on Mahood Lake Road and Valentine Lake recreation site. The project has a total budget of \$130,000, which is consistent with the last two successful Rural Dividend submissions for trail development efforts. As always, the low-mobility trail projects have community partners to support ongoing maintenance and for these locations partners include the Forest Grove and District Recreation Society, the Mountain Spruce Community Centre Society and Rec Sites and Trails BC for Valentine Lake.

Unfortunately, the province announced that the Rural Dividend program for 2020 was canceled in order to direct funding towards communities impacted by mill closures resulting from the major downturn in the forest sector.

However; in April 2020, the Region received notice that the trails application had been reconsidered as an important economic development and recovery project related to the Covid-19 situation. The request for \$100,000 has been approved with project implementation to be completed by March of 2023.

In order to proceed with the project and the full development plan, \$30,000 in matching funding will be required and staff have identified the South Cariboo allocation of the Cariboo Strong program as an excellent opportunity.

The South Cariboo allocation of Cariboo Strong funding, which originated as a \$133,000 contribution from the Cariboo Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition was targeted at trail development and other economic development planning activities.

Currently, \$47,360 of the South Cariboo funding has been allocated and \$84,640 remains to support appropriate projects.

### **Attachments:**

Cariboo Strong funding summary for the South Cariboo

### **Financial Implications:**

The proposed trail projects are not included in any existing Regional District function budgets and would be funded entirely from project grants, including the Rural Dividend and Cariboo Strong programs. Ongoing maintenance of the proposed trails is to be undertaken by the respective community partners, with support from the Regional District where possible and required.

### **Policy Implications:**

The Regional District Board delegated approval authority for Cariboo Strong grant funding to the respective joint committees in the north, central and south Cariboo. The Board approved the initial Rural Dividend grant application for this project and the Cariboo Strong funding from CCBAC was specifically targeted at trail development projects.

### **Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

- ☐ **Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- ☐ **Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- ☒ **Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- ☐ **Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

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### **CAO Comments:**

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### **Options:**

- 1) Endorsement of the recommendation
- 2) Receipt only
- 3) Defer

**Recommendation:**

That the agenda item summary from Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services, dated May 4, 2020, regarding Cariboo Strong funding to support implementation of the South Cariboo Wheelchair Accessible Trails Project, be received. Further, that \$30,000 from the South Cariboo allocation of Cariboo Strong grant funding be approved for the project.