



Date: 23/09/2020

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_Oct02_2020

File: 1855-05

Short Summary:

Gavin Lake Forest Education Society Community Works Funding (CWF) Solar Panels Project and Enabling Agreement

Voting:

Corporate Vote – Weighted

Memorandum:

The Gavin Lake Forest Education Society has requested a Community Works Funding contribution of up to \$25,278 toward a \$35,278 project to install solar panels at the Gavin Lake Forest Education Centre.

This project's aim is to develop a grid-tied solar energy system by covering the south facing roof of the main washrooms building with solar panels. It is expected that the solar panels will produce a minimum of 41 kWh per day equating to energy savings of about 15,000 kWh annually. Any electricity reduction will help in the Society's goal to lower the carbon footprint of the camp and free up funds to be used for core youth programs.

The location for the panels was chosen by the Society for its excellent sun exposure and its high visibility. The Society is very interested in demonstrating alternate energy sources during its school programs and feels this would be a great opportunity for other small rural halls and organizations to explore PV solar systems. The Gavin Lake Forest Education Society has been a great partner with the Regional District in demonstrating innovative energy efficiency projects through previous CWF grants.

Because the facility is not owned by the CRD, a contribution agreement between the Regional District and the Gavin Lake Forest Education Society is required for this project by UBCM under its Gas Tax Sharing Master Agreement with the federal government. Under the terms of the agreement, the community group is responsible for managing the project, maintaining financial records, reporting on measurable results and retaining ownership of the asset for a minimum of ten years.

Attachments:

- 1) CWF project request package for the Gavin Lake Forest Education Society.
- 2) Request letter from the Gavin Lake Forest Education Society.

Financial Implications:

The proposal from the Gavin Lake Forest Education Society requests up to \$25,278 from the Community Hall Improvements envelope of the 2020 CWF program.

The Board approved the CWF funding schedule for 2020, including the Community Hall Improvements envelope which has a total of \$150,000 available. If this application from the Gavin Lake Forest Education Society is approved, \$25,278 will be committed through the Community Hall Improvements envelope, leaving a balance of \$50,992 available for community hall projects.

Policy Implications:

None. The Board approved the CWF funding schedule for 2020, including the Community Hall Improvements envelope. This project meets CWF criteria for improving energy efficiency.

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) Receipt; 2) Receipt and approval of the recommendation; 3) Rejection

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services, dated September 23, 2020, regarding a proposal from the Gavin Lake Forest Education Society for installation of solar panels at the Gavin Lake Forest Education Centre, be received. Further, that up to \$25,278 for the project be approved from the 2020 Community Hall Improvements envelope of the Community Works Fund and that the appropriate signatories be authorized to enter into the necessary contribution agreement.