



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

To: Regional Board
From: Director of Community Services
Date: February 23, 2023
Subject: UBCM Disaster Risk Reduction Grant Application for Climate Action

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority (LGA s.208)*

Purpose: To request Regional Board support for a Disaster Risk Reduction grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

Executive Summary:

The UBCM Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation funding stream supports eligible applicants to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks through the development of accurate foundational knowledge of natural hazards and implementation of effective strategies to prepare for, mitigate and adapt to those risks.

Staff have prepared a climate action planning project grant application. A Board resolution supporting the application is required to be eligible for the \$150,000 grant funding. If funded, the project will aim to help the Regional District identify systematic approaches to reduce projected climate risks and emissions through an integrated strategy that embeds climate preparedness, hazard reduction, and sustainability throughout policy, planning, and decision-making.

Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board supports the \$150,000 UBCM Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation grant application for the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Integrated Planning Project.

Respectfully submitted by: Jing Niu, Environmental Planner; Mareike Mimi Miller, Asset Management Analyst

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Cashin".

Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

Attachments:

- Climate Adaptation Grant Consultation Memo
 - Regional Board Presentation
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Strategic Plan Alignment:

Priorities: Environment, Sustainable Communities, Transportation and Mobility

Values: Resiliency, Collaboration, Transparency, Good Governance

Background:

The Union of British Columbia (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding streams intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies. The funding is provided by the Province of BC and administered by UBCM. The Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) funding stream supports eligible applicants to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate related risks through the development and implementation of:

- Accurate foundational knowledge of the natural hazards they face, and the risks associated with BC's changing climate; and
- Effective strategies to prepare for, mitigate, and adapt to those risks.

Staff have prepared and is seeking Board support for a grant application for \$150,000 to support climate action planning. This funding stream can contribute up to 100% of the cost of eligible activities under designated maximums.

Funding criteria for this grant prioritizes consultation with First Nations and provides the Regional District with an opportunity to strengthen early and on-going consultation throughout the climate action planning process. Staff has initiated preliminary engagement and consultation with regional First Nation partners through discussion with the Regional District Indigenous Advisor and direct communication demonstrating the intension of the climate action planning initiative (Attachment 1).

Climate action planning is about increasing Regional District's resiliency through a changing climate. While the RDCO is committed to baseline greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and supporting policies (Regional Growth Strategy, Climate Action Charter), the Regional District needs a cohesive plan on how to achieve these commitments and prepare our community.

The proposed project aims to help the Regional District identify systematic approaches to reduce projected climate risks and emissions through an integrated strategy that embeds climate preparedness, hazard reduction, and sustainability throughout policy, planning, and decision-making. The project will help the RDCO advance resilience and sustainability goals while saving money and optimizing capacity.

Considerations:

Financial: Should the RDCO be successful in its application, 100% of the cost associated with the Disaster Risk Reduction Integrated Planning Project would be sourced from grant funding.

Organizational/External: This funding will assist in advancing the following projects and policies in the areas of resiliency and sustainability:

- Regional Evacuation Planning Framework (2022)
- Regional Floodplain Management Plan – Phase 3 (2021)
- Climate Projections for the Okanagan Region Report (2020)
- RDCO Green Vehicle and Equipment Policy (2020)
- Regional Floodplain Management Plan – Phase 2 (2019)
- Regional Floodplain Management Plan – Phase 1 (2016)
- Regional Growth Strategy - Our Climate (2013)
- Climate Action Charter (2007)
- Community Wildfire Resilience Plan (currently underway)
- Regional Natural Asset Inventory (currently underway)
- Regional Agricultural Strategy (currently underway)
- Okanagan Lake Protection Strategy (currently underway)
- Extreme Heat Risk Mapping (proposed for 2023)

Legal Statutory Authority: The Local Government Act requires Regional Growth Strategies to include greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and policies and actions proposed for the regional district with respect to achieving those targets.

Conditions not applicable:

- Alternative Recommendation

Approved for Agenda



Brian Reardon, CAO