



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: David Komaïke
Director of Engineering

DATE: October 28, 2019

SUBJECT: Mutual Aid Agreement Renewal: Joe Rich Fire Department and Big White Fire Department

Voting Entitlement: All Directors – Weighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – LGA 210.2

Purpose: To renew an established Mutual Aid Agreement for emergency response relating to fire suppression incidents at Big White Resort (Regional District of Kootenay Boundary).

Executive Summary:

The mutual aid agreement will continue the provision of assistance between Joe Rich Fire Department and the Big White Fire Department for fire suppression incidents only. The agreement will be for a 5-year term for the period starting October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2024.

Staff recommends that the agreement be renewed thus continuing improved firefighting capabilities for both Fire Protection Areas at no additional cost.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Regional Board approve the renewal of the Mutual Aid Agreement between the Regional District of Central Okanagan (Joe Rich Fire Department) and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (Big White Fire Department) for a 5-year period (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2024).

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DK/K", is written over a light blue grid background.

David Komaïke
Director of Engineering Services

Approved for Board Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Reardon", is written over a light blue grid background.

Brian Reardon

Prepared By: Ross Kotscherofski

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan: Embraces the Regional Board objectives of:

- Relationships – By building stronger relationships with our member municipalities.
- Collaboration – Seeking opportunities to partner with others in addressing shared needs and pursuing common interests.
- Resiliency – Anticipate, prepare for and adapt to challenges and changing circumstances.

Background:

The existing Mutual Aid Agreement was created in 2014 in response to an identified need for additional resources within both the Joe Rich and Big White Fire Protection Areas. The agreement ensures that adequate labour and equipment will be available to meet the ever increasing need for firefighting capacity in both service areas. Although structure fires are low in frequency, when they do occur, they are labour intensive and require multiple resources. Mutual Aid is intended to benefit public interest in the event of a disaster that is or is likely to be beyond the capability of a single party. The Mutual Aid Agreement has proven to be a viable option to ensure a cost effective, adequate response for larger structure fires and fire suppression activities.

Road rescue is not included as part of the agreement and will continue as in the past, by approval of EMBC requests and the issuance of a Task number for cost recovery.

Financial Considerations:

No additional costs are expected to be incurred by either Department, as the projected number of responses would appear comparative over the span of the agreement. However, in the event that a disproportionate number of responses might occur or other reasons demand, the agreement does allow for either Party to terminate with appropriate notice. Each Department will be responsible for their own costs for the response but would be indemnified by the requesting Department.

Alternative Recommendation:

That the Regional Board accepts the report on the Mutual Aid Agreement Renewal: Joe Rich Fire Department and Big White Fire Department, for information.

Attachment(s):

Big White-Joe Rich Mutual Aid Agreement Oct 1, 2019-Sept 30, 2024.doc