



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

DATE: July 27, 2020

SUBJECT: UBCM – Community Excellence Awards Application

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority- LGA 208.1*

Purpose: To request Board support for a UBCM – Community Excellence Awards Application under the Sustainability category.

Executive Summary:

Since 2004, through the Community Excellence Awards, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) recognizes its members that have implemented projects or programs that demonstrate excellence in meeting the purposes of local government in BC. Staff is currently preparing an application to submit for consideration in the 2020 Community Excellence Awards under the category of Sustainability for the Regional Floodplain Management Plan.

A Board resolution supporting RDCO's application is required as part of the application package. Accordingly, this matter is now before the Board for its consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Regional Board approves submitting an application under the Union of BC Municipalities – 2020 Community Excellence Awards under the category of Excellence in Sustainability for the Regional Floodplain Management Plan.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

Prepared by: Brittany Lange, Environmental Planner

Approved for Board's Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Rilkoff".

Marilyn Rilkoff, Deputy CAO

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Supporting the award application achieves the Regional Board Strategic Priorities 2019-2022 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Values: Collaboration, Regional Perspective, Resiliency, Good Governance.• Strategic Priorities: Sustainable Communities, Environment.
Policy:	Supporting the grant application complies with the Regional Growth Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our Water Resources, Our Health, Our Climate.

Background:**Community Excellence Awards**

The Community Excellence Awards recognize and celebrate UBCM members that have implemented projects or programs that demonstrate excellence in meeting the purposes of local government in BC. The purpose of the awards is to showcase projects or programs that demonstrate excellence in a selected category, and to encourage local governments to learn from the success of other members in order to implement changes in their own communities.

The awards are only open to UBCM members, including local government and First Nation members. There are four different categories, including:

1. Excellence in Governance
2. Excellence in Service Delivery
3. Excellence in Asset Management
4. Excellence in Sustainability

This application is focused on profiling the works completed under the Regional Floodplain Management Plan. The deadline for submissions is July 10, 2020, however, UBCM has granted the RDCO an extension and the Board's resolution can be received up until August 14, 2020.

Regional Floodplain Management Plan:

The RDCO represents one of the fastest growing areas in Canada over the past 20 years, and growth shows no signs of slowing down. The RDCO is a "waterfront community", characterized not only by many kilometres of lake shoreline, but also numerous watercourses that mostly originate in the upland forested watersheds around the region. The proximity to water means that flooding of developed areas can occur due to a combination of natural conditions and land use activity, and more flooding is to be expected with climate change. As such, the RDCO is committed to proactive management of flood hazards.

In response to this risk, the three-phase Regional Floodplain Management Plan (RFMP) has been initiated with the purpose of reducing flood risk, improving emergency response, and increasing resiliency to climate change. The overall objective of this framework was to develop a better understanding of flood risk within the RDCO in order to reduce the likelihood of damage from flooding. The three phases are as follows:

Phase 1 included the development of a Regional Floodplain Management Plan, finalized in 2016, that identified flood hazards and established the scope and priorities of Phase 2 and 3.

Phase 2 is nearing completion and focused on delineation and confirmation of the flood-prone streams and floodplains identified in Phase 1. Through funding from RDCO, OBWB, UBCM and NDMP, plus partnerships with local government agencies, the following projects have been completed or are currently underway:

- LiDAR and Aerial Image Acquisition for the Okanagan Valley Watershed.
- Okanagan Mainstem Flood Mapping.
- Dam Inundation Studies for Ideal (Belgo) Lake Dam and Crooked Lake Dam.
- Peachland / Trepanier Creeks Floodplain Mapping Project.
- Mill Creek Flood Mitigation Planning & Mapping Project.
- Mission Creek Flood Mitigation Planning & Mapping Project.
- Okanagan Lake Protection Strategy.
- Climate Projections report for the Okanagan.
- The proposed joint initiative by RDCO and City of West Kelowna to complete the dam inundation study for Rose Valley Reservoir.
- The joint RDCO and Okanagan Basin Water Board initiative to engage a multi-stakeholder committee (Okanagan Flood Mapping Project Coordination) that participated in the Okanagan Lakes Flood Level Mapping project.

Phase 3 seeks to use the information collected through Phases 1 and 2 to create mitigation strategies. Mitigation strategies may include:

1. avoidance and non-structural mitigation through development of stream-specific bylaws, watershed-specific development permit areas, policies for allowing exceptions to flood bylaws or Development Permit Areas, and rezoning; and
2. warning systems, education and public awareness. The project will include an extensive outreach component to gain input from member local governments, Syilx communities in the region, stakeholders and the public to ensure that the proposed mitigation options are acceptable and supported.

This final phase was recently awarded \$150,000.00 in grant funding through the UBCM Community Emergency Response Fund under the stream Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping & Flood Mitigation Planning.

Further, in May the RDCO was awarded the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) Award for Community Excellence in Environmental Sustainability for the Okanagan Flood Mapping Project Coordination (see Appendix 'A').

Demonstrating Excellence in Environmental Sustainability

Through each Phase completed under the RFMP, the RDCO has demonstrated the importance of this program in meeting the RDCO's purpose as a local government by focusing on good governance, providing stewardship of public assets, and fostering environmental sustainability. This is shown through proactively planning to better prepare for and adapt to future changes in climate and the associated impacts that flooding has on the community.

Taking a proactive and regional approach offers the benefit of strengthening and building on the foundation of regional and provincial knowledge sharing and consistency. The RDCO has demonstrated exceptional leadership by bringing partners together from up and down the valley to focus policy and planning efforts on identifying potential flood hazards.

Works completed to date will assist with future land use decisions, mitigation planning, future flood risk assessment, or other flood-related works.

Furthermore, this project has incorporated a long-term sustainability approach by considering the cultural, social, economic, and environmental impacts associated with flood hazards and risks. This work is critical to maintaining wellbeing, including robust ecosystems, a thriving community, and a vibrant economy. Early efforts to prepare infrastructure and communities to the impacts climate change, such as increased precipitation and flooding, will reduce regional reliance on continued emergency management activations and support the ability of the region to thrive over time.

Conclusion:

It is recognized that the RDCO is somewhat ahead of the other regional districts and some of their member municipalities with respect to flood planning and readiness for mitigation planning. We believe that the work completed under this project, as an example, pilot and template, will be of significant benefit to other communities in the Okanagan Valley, the BC Interior, and the Province where there are few examples of comprehensive floodplain management frameworks as well as non-structural flood mitigation planning.

Alternative Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board receive the report regarding the UBCM – Community Excellence Awards for information.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- *Financial*
- *Organizational*
- *Legal/Statutory Authority*
- *External*

Attachment(s):

- Appendix 'A' – SILGA Community Excellence Award