



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Marilyn Rilkoﬀ
Director of Financial Services

DATE: February 2, 2021

SUBJECT: RDCO 2020 Usage of the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments
Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Weighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – LGA 210*

Purpose: To approve RDCO’s 2020 usage of the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments.

Executive Summary:

In 2020, the RDCO received a COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments of \$1.107 million. This grant is to be used primarily in 2020 and 2021. As per the eligible use of funds criteria, \$481,017.62 of the grant has been allocated in 2020 to offset costs incurred for response and recovery, and lost revenues related to the pandemic. The remainder of the grant will be budgeted for use in 2021.

A schedule attached to this report shows the 2020 allocations to various cost centres to offset costs and lost revenues. Due to the amount of work involved, 2020 budget amendments will only be made to cost centres where allocations of over \$20,000 were made. In some cases, amendments were done previously.

In accordance with the grant requirements, the annual financial statements will also include schedules showing how the funds have been spent.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Regional Board approves the RDCO’s 2020 Usage of the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments in the amount of \$481,017.62 in accordance with the report presented February 11, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

Marilyn Rilkoﬀ CMA CPA
Director of Financial Services

Approved for Board’s Consideration

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Contribute to Sustainable Communities through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial Sustainability through Assets and Service Provision• Nurturing Responsible Growth and Development• Protect and Promote our Environment
Financial:	Financial relief to various cost centres to offset additional costs due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

Background:

In November 2020, the RDCO, like other local governments, received a COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. RDCO's grant was \$1.107million.

The grant calculation for regional districts included a flat funding amount of \$300,000 plus two "per capita" funding amounts. The first per capita amount was \$3.10 for the total regional district population with a funding limit of \$900,000. The second per capital amount was \$8.13 for rural populations.

Eligible costs for services include:

- Addressing revenue shortfalls
- Facility reopening and response costs
- Emergency planning and response costs
- Bylaw enforcement and protective services like fire protection and police
- Computer and other electronic technology costs (to improve interconnectivity and virtual communications)
- Services for vulnerable persons (e.g. persons living with disabilities, mental illness or addictions, persons experiencing homelessness or other vulnerabilities)
- Other related costs.

Regional Districts have two reporting requirements:

- As part of the 2021 audited financial statements, the Regional District must provide a report on how the funds were allocated to various regional and local services.
- Annual reporting on how the grant funds were spent in that year. This will be a schedule to the financial statement, under section 377 of the *Local Government Act*. The schedule will include the amount of funding received, the use of those funds, and the year-end balance of those unused funds. Annual reporting must continue until the funds are fully drawn down.

Primary uses of the Grant at RDCO:

- Expenses for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Cleaning and Sanitizing products and equipment.
- Social Distancing barriers, signage, etc.
- Foregone revenue (i.e. Late fees, Parks Rental & Program Revenues).
- Additional temporary washrooms and cleaning in parks.

- Computer and electronic technology costs to improve interconnectivity and virtual communications for the public, and to enable staff to work remotely when required.
- Emergency Management Response Team staff costs, and staff costs for administering COVID related initiatives.

Financial Considerations:

A schedule is attached showing the application of \$481,017.62 of funds to various cost centres in 2020, along with a description of the expenses or lost revenues offset.

A budget amendment to show the grant and increased expenses will only be done if more than \$20,000 was applied to a cost centre, or if other budget changes are being made. Due to the amount of work that would be involved for less material amounts, the other cost centres will not be amended. Some amendments were also done previously.

Alternative Recommendation:

None.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- General
- Organizational
- Policy
- Legal/Statutory Authority
- Organizational Issues
- External Implications

Attachment(s):

Schedule of Cost Centres – 2020 RDCO Allocation COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments