



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Brian Reardon, CAO

DATE: March 11, 2021

SUBJECT: North Westside Provincial Restructure Planning Grant Committee Update

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

Purpose: To report out and update the Board on the work being done by the North Westside Provincial Restructure Planning Grant Committee.

Executive Summary:

The Regional Board approved the North Westside Provincial Restructure Planning Grant Committee terms of reference on January 14th, 2021. The objective of the Committee is to provide input and recommendations in support of a Regional District of Central Okanagan Provincial Restructure Planning Grant. Their scope of work included:

1. Liaise with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to determine what requirements must be met in making an application for a Provincial Restructure Planning Grant; and
2. Inform and make recommendations to the Regional Board pertaining to this objective.

After receiving background material and input from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, a facilitated workshop on the scope, roles, and resources needed to undertake a Provincial Restructure Study was completed. Following deliberations on the matter the Committee unanimously approved the recommendations below.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Regional Board request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for funding and support to undertake and governance and services study for the North Westside portion of Okanagan West Electoral Area;

AND THAT the Regional Board outline a suggested scope of study to include the following three elements:

- To document and assess the current state of local governance and service delivery in the North Westside
- To understand the concerns and interests of North Westside residents with respect to governance and delivery, and
- To identify and assess future governance and service delivery options for the community.

Should the Board approve the preceding “*Recommendations*” the North Westside Provincial Restructure Planning Grant Committee will have completed its work and fulfilled its mandate.

As such a motion to dissolve the Committee would be in order;

Suggested Subsequent Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board thank the Committee members for their work and dissolve the North Westside Provincial Restructure Planning Grant Committee.

Respectfully Submitted:



Brian Reardon, CAO

Background:

The Regional District received a request for a letter of support for a Provincial Restructure Planning Grant from the North Westside Communities Association in August, 2020. Our office has been corresponding with the Communities Association representative and Ministry personnel to confirm details on how best to move forward with a request for Provincial Restructure Planning Grant funding. Our efforts were delayed due to the UBCM Convention and then the calling of a Provincial Election.

Our office received correspondence from the Director of Governance and Structure Branch at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs dated December 8th, 2020 that outlined process associated with the Provincial program.

On January 14th, 2021 Regional Board Chair Given created the North Westside Provincial Restructure Planning Grant Committee and the Regional Board approved it's Terms of reference. The objective of the Committee is to provide input and recommendations in support of a Regional District of Central Okanagan Provincial Restructure Planning Grant.

The Committee's scope of work included:

1. Liaise with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to determine what requirements must be met in making an application for a Provincial Restructure Planning Grant; and
2. Inform and make recommendations to the Regional Board pertaining to this objective.

The inaugural meeting of the North Westside Provincial Restructure Planning Grant Committee was held on January 20th, 2021. Attendees at this meeting included all Committee members, support staff and representatives from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. This information sharing meeting was followed by a second meeting held on February 26th, 2021 held in a facilitated workshop format to explore the scope, roles, and resources needed to undertake a Provincial Restructure Study.

Minutes of these meetings are provided for the Board's information.

Financial Considerations:

There are no financial implications to making a request for Provincial funding and support to undertake and governance and services study however should that request be approved there will be a need to allocate staff resources and associated funding to follow through with that study.

This type of study requires considerable financial support and staff resources from both the Province and the Regional District. Although the Province may provide a grant for this study it will be Regional District employees who will undertake a “Request for Proposals” process to retain the services of a subject matter expert to conduct the study and manage the process through to completion.

The Province provides most, not all, of the funding for this study. Considerable staff time from the Ministry will also be required.

The Regional District provides most, not all, of the staff time to manage the funding and seeing the process through to completion. Financial resources will be required from the Regional District based on the approved scope of the study which has yet to be determined.

The Consultant’s role will be based on the approved scope of the study by the Province as well as the limits of work defined in the RDCO Request for Proposal documents.

The Communities Association will have a role in terms of public outreach and participation on a separate Community Restructure Study Committee.

Organizational Issues:

If approved by the Province, this initiative will need to be added to the 2021 work plan. It is premature to add anything to this year’s Financial Plan. If required, a budget amendment can be brought forward for Board approval mid-year.

External Implications:

This initiative will gain attention of North Westside residents in Electoral Area West and local media. A communications strategy and public engagement process will form part of the consultant’s scope of work. The Regional District will supplement the consultant’s communications plan and will need its own communications plan for the study.

Alternative Recommendation:

None recommended.

Attachment(s): Committee Terms of Reference
Committee Minutes of January 20, 2021
Committee Minutes of February 26, 2021