



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Marilyn Rilkoﬀ
Director of Financial Services

DATE: March 22, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Community Works Fund Usage Approval

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Weighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority LGA 210.1*

Purpose: To seek approval from the Regional Board to utilize the Gas Tax – Community Works Funds towards the completion of projects in the Central Okanagan West and Central Okanagan East Electoral Areas.

Executive Summary:

UBCM Community Works Funds are provided to local governments to assist in funding local infrastructure needs. Projects described in the attached proposal are eligible for funding through the Gas Tax – Community Works Fund in both Central Okanagan West and East Electoral Areas. As a requirement of the Community Works Fund program, the Regional Board is required to approve the list of new projects and expenditures.

The funding requests for the Gas Tax – Community Works Fund for the new 2021 projects in both the West and East Electoral Areas are as follows:

- \$224,646 for Central Okanagan West (leaving a balance of \$3,030,788 in uncommitted funding for 2021).
- \$170,000 for Central Okanagan East (leaving a balance of \$470,817 in uncommitted funding for 2021).

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Regional Board approves the use of \$394,646 of Gas Tax – Community Works Funds to complete the proposed projects listed in this report and as reflected in the RDCO 2021-2025 Five-Year Financial Plan.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

Marilyn Rilkoﬀ, CPA CMA
Director of Financial Services

Approved for Board's Consideration

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

Brian Reardon, CAO

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	The use of Community Works Funds for projects in Central Okanagan East and West Electoral Areas contribute to the Strategic Priorities of Environment and Sustainable Communities.
Financial:	Consistent with the proposed RDCO 2021-2025 Financial Plan. Authorization of the Regional Board is a requirement to utilize Community Works Funds. Without authorization, the projects cannot proceed.

Background:

The Regional District of Central Okanagan receives Federal Community Works Funding (Gas Tax) for the Central Okanagan West and East Electoral Areas. The distribution of these funds to the various local governments in BC is through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), they manage the funds on behalf of the Federal Government of Canada. Each year UBCM distributes to local government, their share of Community Works Funding based on population.

In 2021 the RDCO will receive at least \$749,846. Central Okanagan West's share would be \$556,618, and Central Okanagan East's share would be \$193,229.

Previously approved funding for projects in Central Okanagan West totaling \$33,183.11 for the Killiney Beach Water System Improvement Plan was not required to fund the projects, and has been returned to Central Okanagan West's uncommitted total.

The overall funding available in the Community Works Funding account that has not been committed and is available for 2021 projects is \$3,255,508 in Central Okanagan West, and \$640,817 in Central Okanagan East.

Attached to this report is a breakdown, by Electoral Area, of the CW Funds and interest received and used from 2006 – 2020, as well as previously approved projects to which the Board has committed funds.

In 2021, as described below, there are 3 projects totaling \$224,646 in Central Okanagan West, and 5 projects totaling \$170,000 in Central Okanagan East. The Department Heads for the projects have ascertained that each of these projects meets the required eligibility project criteria identified by the Community Works Funding agreement, which include:

- Local roads, bridges
- Highways
- Short-sea shipping
- Short-line rail
- Regional and local airports
- Broadband connectivity
- Public transit
- Drinking water
- Wastewater
- Solid waste
- Community energy systems
- Brownfield redevelopment
- Sport infrastructure
- Recreational infrastructure
- Cultural infrastructure
- Tourism infrastructure
- Disaster mitigation
- Capacity building

In order for staff to proceed with the projects identified in the attachment, it is required as part of the Community Works Funding agreement to receive approval of the Regional Board. This approval is in addition to the approval given for the 2021-2025 RDCO 5 Year Financial Plan.

Electoral Area Central Okanagan West New Projects Proposed to be Funded by Community Works Funds \$224,646 Total:

- 143 – Westside Parks Capital Projects (Budget Binder – Tab 5 – Pages 11-12):
 - 2021 Funds Requested: \$45,000
 - Star Park Trail Additional Amount \$30,000
 - Killiney Park Protection Reinforcement \$15,000
- 095 – SWM: Solid Waste Collection (Electoral Areas) (Budget Binder – Tab 5 – Pages 69-70):
 - 2021 Funds Requested: \$179,646
 - Transfer Station Improvements \$179,646

Electoral Area Central Okanagan East New Projects Proposed to be Funded by Community Works Funds \$170,000 Total:

- 121 – Ellison Heritage Community Centre (Budget Binder – Tab 5 – Pages 1- 2):
 - 2021 Funds Requested: \$50,000
 - Exterior Upgrades \$50,000
- 123 – Joe Rich Community Hall (Budget Binder – Tab 5 – Pages 3 - 4):
 - 2021 Funds Requested: \$65,000
 - Exterior Painting \$65,000
- 144 – Eastside Parks Capital Projects (Budget Binder – Tab 5 – Pages 13 - 14):
 - 2021 Funds Requested: \$25,000
 - Three Forks Trail Improvements \$25,000
- 303 – Falcon Ridge Water System Capital Projects (Budget Binder – Tab 5 – Pages 41 - 42):
 - 2021 Funds Requested: \$30,000
 - Water Supply Intake \$15,000
 - Intake Restoration \$15,000
 - If approved, the remaining uncommitted CWF balances for 2021 would then be as follows:
 - Central Okanagan West: \$3,030,788
 - Central Okanagan East: \$ 470,817

Financial Considerations:

It is anticipated that approval for the identified CWF funded projects will be concurrent with the approval of the RDCO 2021-2025 Financial Plan.

Projects cannot proceed without approval of the Regional Board to utilize Community Works Funding.

Alternative Recommendation:

The Board could elect to approve only some of the above projects. If that is the case, a resolution would also be required to incorporate any change into the adoption of the RDCO 2021-2025 Financial Plan. The current financial plan includes the projects and CWF. In most situations, this would mean also removing the capital project, or portion thereof, entirely for now.

Attachment(s):

RDCO 2021 Budget Information:

- 2006 – 2020 History of RDCO Community Works Funds Receipt and Usage – CO West Projects
- 2006 – 2020 History of RDCO Community Works Funds Receipt and Usage – CO East Projects