



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

To: Regional Board
From: Brian Reardon, CAO
Date: July 14, 2022
Subject: 2022 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Application – RDCO Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning Project.

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simply Majority (LGA S.208)*

Purpose: To consider a grant application to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for completion of an Extreme Heat Risk Mapping Analysis and Response Plan.

Executive Summary:

The Emergency Management Program is a regional service comprised of all municipal and electoral area jurisdictions along with Westbank First Nation who work together to provide a coordinated emergency response for events such as forest fires, floods, landslides, and extreme heat events.

As climate change is creating more frequent extreme heat events, identifying options to support our residents during times of extreme heat is becoming more vital. The Emergency Operations Centre is seeking to complete an extreme heat risk mapping analysis, risk assessments and a regional response plan and implementation strategy to help protect vulnerable populations in our communities.

Extreme Heat Risk Mapping will identify high risk areas in urban and interurban areas, determine the needs of neighborhoods with limited resources and/or transportation options and identify available resources and best locations for response preparedness. A Response Plan will identify the needs of the most vulnerable populations and provide resources to support them during heat events, develop short- and long-term extreme heat risk reductions goals, objectives, and strategies to meet the goals.

Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board supports the Regional District of Central Okanagan application to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for a \$153,545 grant to complete the Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning project.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Reardon".

Prepared by: Sandra Ballan-Brown, Corporate Services Executive Assistant

Attachment(s): 2022 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Application

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Priorities: Sustainable Communities, Environment

Values: Collaboration, Regional Perspective, Resiliency, Relationships

Background:

To support the Emergency Operations Centre, the RDCO is applying for funding to complete an extreme heat risk mapping analysis, risk assessments and a regional response plan and implementation strategy to help protect vulnerable populations in our communities. Risk assessments will identify the social, economic, and environmental impacts of extreme heat events including identifying urban heat islands, community and infrastructure vulnerabilities, and risk tolerance or “risk threshold” including populated areas proportionately at risk.

Extreme heat response planning will include community engagement, data relevant to areas from Interior Health mapping; considerations for heat-sensitive populations and targeted response actions to mitigate impacts with low to moderate income neighbourhoods. Adaptive responses allow a community to determine its vulnerabilities to extreme heat more accurately in high-risk areas, areas lacking infrastructure for cooling, and areas of vulnerable populations.

Specific activities undertaken as part of the proposed project include:

- Review of lessons learned during the 2021 heat dome and best practices learned from other jurisdictions
- Completion of an Extreme Heat Risk Assessment
- Completion of Extreme Heat Risk Map(s)
- Completion of an Extreme Heat Risk Response Plan including collaborating with Interior Health using their “HARS” report specific to:
 - Completion of health impacts of extreme heat in the elderly population assessment
 - Heat response in interior rural communities and who it affects assessment
- Create effective heat alert protocols and messaging for all residents
- Communications Plans – messaging prior and during an active heat event
- Working with the most vulnerable populations specifically related to (but not limited to) to identify their needs and provide planning and resources to support during heat events, develop short- and long-term extreme heat risk reduction goals, objective and strategies to meet the goals
- Presentation of extreme heat risk assessments, maps and plans to local governments, indigenous communities, community organizations and community groups. This includes seeking advice from Knowledge Holders and other experts (e.g., health authorities, biologists), and engaging community (e.g., service organizations, equity-denied populations, Indigenous organizations), Indigenous Nations, local governments, agriculture sector, critical infrastructure owners, etc

Outcomes could include a summary of discussions or letters of support from different parties identifying preferred options going forward

Considerations:

Organizational/External:

The identified project and grant submission supports the following strategic priorities: provides proactive and responsive governance; anticipates, prepares and adapts to challenges, and provides a regional perspective.

Financial:

Successful receipt of the Community Emergency Preparedness Funding will ensure the project completion.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Local Governments are eligible to apply for UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Funding.

Alternate Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board defer consideration of the Regional District of Central Okanagan application to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for a \$153,545 grant to complete the Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning project, for further information.
