

DATE: July 7, 2020

FILE: 1855-01

TO: Chair and Directors
Committee of the Whole

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Russell Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: Grant status report

Purpose

To provide an update regarding grant applications and the status of approved grants.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer

This report is provided for information only.

Executive Summary

For the period Jan 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020, the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) received notification of approval or had the condition of confidentiality lifted for the following grant applications:

- BCATI – Gull Road Trail Hornby Island – \$35,000
- BC Hydro – TreeCanada Community Tree Planting Program One Spot Trail - \$3,700
- UBCM – Poverty Reduction Planning & Action - \$100,000
- UBCM – CEPF Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training - \$100,000
- UBCM – 2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program (CRI) Fire Smart Community - \$43,900

The following grant projects were completed during the period:

- UBCM – Community Child Care Planning Program \$75,000
- JIBC Community Public Safety Award EOC Essentials Course \$2,000
- NDMP – Coastal Flood Mapping Grant \$500,000
- Min of Sport & Cultural Development Onsite Sewage System Mandatory Maintenance \$10,000
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing GLID to CVRD service \$10,000
- Canadian Tire Jumpstart Grant - \$7,680

The following grants were applied for during the same period:

- ICIP – Denman Island Water Treatment Project – Estimated Grant \$1,462,933
- ICIP – Baynes Sound Sewer Extension Project Phase 1 – Estimated Grant \$20,441,253
- BCATI – Multi Modal Transportation Network Estimated Grant \$47,500

A summary status report is attached as Appendix A, detailing the current grants and grant applications for the CVRD.

Prepared by:

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Concurrence:

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Policy Analysis

Bylaw no. 89 delegates grant funding opportunities to the corporate financial officer or deputy when the opportunity,

- is concurrent with the current financial plan and would not require a financial plan amendment;
- is consistent with the corporate work plan or is included on the work plan;
- has been reviewed with member municipalities, the K'ómoks First Nation and other agencies, as applicable, and identifies any partnering opportunities, reduces duplication of effort and competition between member municipalities and other local groups;
- applies to regional priorities; and
- is approved by the corporate financial officer following review and consideration of relevant criteria.

Options

This report is for information only.

Financial Factors

The approved grants are included in either the capital or operational budget for the appropriate service in the 2020-2024 financial plan with the exceptions of the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure (BCATI) Grant, TreeCanada grant and UBCM Poverty Reduction grant which were recent additions. For many projects, the grant funding is one of the major factors in the decision matrix to proceed with the project scope and timeline.

Legal Factors

Each grant agreement has its own terms and conditions regarding eligible expenses, claim submission and reporting requirements for both financial transactions and project progress.

Regional Growth Strategy Implications

The Regional Growth Strategy is part of the initial grant exploration process. Grant funding opportunities are evaluated against the eight Regional Growth Strategy policies identified:

- Housing: Ensure a diversity of housing options to meet evolving demographics and needs;
- Ecosystems, natural areas and parks: Protect, steward and enhance the natural environment and ecological connections and systems;
- Local economic development: Achieve sustainable, resilient and dynamic economic that supports businesses and entrepreneurship;
- Transportation: Develop accessible, efficient, affordable and connected multi-modal transportation network;
- Infrastructure: Provide affordable, effective and efficient infrastructure that conserves land, water and energy resourced;
- Food system: Support and enhance the agriculture sectors and increase local food security;

- Public health and safety: Support a high quality of life through the protection and enhancement of community health, safety and well-being; and
- Climate change: Minimize regional greenhouse gas emissions and plan for adaptation.

Intergovernmental Factors

Grant funding opportunities are usually a combination of federal, provincial and regional funds with individual grants participating at different levels of the funding mix.

Occasionally funding opportunities arise that will allow for partnership between the K'ómoks First Nation or other municipalities.

Interdepartmental Involvement

Not relevant.

Citizen/Public Relations

Some of the grant agreements require permanent or temporary signage or some form of public acknowledgment of the funding.

Attachments: Appendix A – Grant Status Report – June 30, 2020

Appendix A
Local Government Grants - Comox Valley Regional District
Status Report at June 30, 2020

| Approved Grants | Grant Amount | Costs | Grant Scope/Description | Jurisdiction | Expiry | Project Status - June 30, 2020 |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------|--|---------------------------|-----------|--|
| New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund | | | | | | |
| New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund (NBCF-SCF) -Comox Strathcona Waste Management Regional Organics Composting Facility Project | \$5.5M | \$8.5M | Grant supports the development and build of a regional organics composting facility and transfer station for the CSWM area. The project will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase waste diversion • extend life span of current landfill • reduce GHG • create employment opportunities | CSWM service area | 31-Mar-21 | Site selection for the facilities has been finalized. Request for proposals is on-going with recommendation of contract award in September 2020. Design planned to be completed by Dec. 31, 2020 and construction by Dec. 31, 2021. |
| Canada-BC Clean Water Wastewater Fund | | | | | | |
| Canada-BC CWWF Funding - Black Creek - Oyster Bay Water Supply Security | \$564,815 | \$680,500 | Grant supports drilling and constructing a 6" test well and a 12" production well for the Oyster River water treatment facility. | Electoral Areas C & D | 31-Jul-20 | An extension of the grant funding until March 31, 2021 has been approved by the Ministry. CVRD and SRD staff are working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff to resolve the current impasse. |
| ICIP - Comox Valley Water Treatment Project Phase 3 - Construction | \$62,895,228 | \$110,600,000 | Grant supports Phase 3: Construction of the Comox Valley Water Treatment Project and The Extension of Water Services South Project | Regional Water | 31-Mar-23 | IFC Drawings have been submitted and construction is ongoing at all sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw water pump station Electrical Building being Completed • Raw water transmission main - 60% of pipe installed from lake to treatment plant • Treated water transmission main - 16% of pipe installed from treatment plant to chlorination building |
| Infrastructure Planning Grants | | | | | | |
| Min. of Municipal Affairs and Housing | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | Grant supports a feasibility study - Composting Toilet Residuals Management on Hornby Island | Area A Hornby Island | 31-Mar-21 | The consulting team initiated the study in August 2019, and the first phase consisting of community outreach and engagement was completed in fall 2019. Technical research and analysis of options is in progress. Completion of the study is targeted for summer 2020. |
| Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - UBID Infrastructure Assessment Study Update | \$7,500 | \$10,000 | Grant supports updating an existing infrastructure assessment study for the UBID as part of a conversion study. | Area A Baynes Sound | 10-Aug-20 | Project work includes governance review, infrastructure assessment and communications to compare a conversion with continuing as an improvement district. Public engagement expected in summer 2020 |
| Other Grants | | | | | | |
| Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations-Administrative Invasive Plant Grant-Coordination & Awareness-Phase 5 | \$37,500 | 37,500 | Grant supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enforcement of current invasive plant and noxious weeds bylaws • development of an educational awareness program • coordination with other organizations • establishing an invasive plant, noxious weed reporting system. | Electoral Areas A, B, & C | 31-Mar-21 | Final year of three-year grant. Activities started in Spring 2020 and are ongoing. |
| Vancouver Island Health Authority (Island Health) - Community Wellness Granting Program | \$98,933 | \$98,933 | Grant supports the development and establishment of new community wellness programs and initiatives with a focus on creating positive health outcomes within the community. | Regional | 07-Mar-20 | This grant continued to support top-up incentives for residents to switch to cleaner heat sources through the Wood Smoke Reduction Program. |
| Vancouver Island Health Authority -- Comox Valley Community Health Network (CVCHN) | \$240,000 (\$80,000 - 3 Years) | \$240,000 | Grant supports the development of shared understanding, shared priorities, and shared actions to address the social determinates of health and modifiable risk factors in the Comox Valley region. | Regional | 31-Mar-21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things slowed down during the beginning of the pandemic. We focused our energies on front line support for our communities most vulnerable members: the homeless, isolated seniors and those that are food insecure. • The funds from the City of Courtenay have been successfully transferred to the Regional District as we begin our work on the Community Drug Strategy. • The students at VIU have completed their consultation on the Glacier View Lodge Affordable Housing project, a final report will be shared with our stakeholders at the end of the month. • We are hosting community conversations to provide an opportunity for community members to "debrief" about their experiences during the pandemic. We will be sharing a final report of these conversations with our partners at Island Health and the Regional District. • We are engaging with a new group that is developing in the Comox Valley to support Climate Action, Resilience Comox Valley is currently in the development stage and a key relationship with the K'omoks First Nation is being held central to the process |
| BC Ministry of Environment & BC Lung Association-- Provincial Woodstove Exchange Program | \$29,000 | \$29,000 | Grant supports offering rebates to residents who replace old, inefficient, non-CSA/EPA heating units with more efficient heating ones, such as, pellet stoves, gas stoves, and heat pumps. Grants also supports hiring of a contractor to promote the program and educate the public on burn-it-smart techniques. | Regional | TBD | Wood Smoke Reduction Coordinator continued to promote the program, coordinate rebate applications, and educate on smart burning techniques. |

Appendix A
Local Government Grants - Comox Valley Regional District
Status Report at June 30, 2020

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|---|--------------|-------------|--|---|-------------|--|
| Vancouver Island Health Authority (Island Health) | \$35,000 | \$35,000 | Grant supports increasing the rebate amount for those exchanging their wood burning appliances for cleaner energy options such as heat pumps. The rebates target conversions in high emission neighbourhoods. | Regional | 31-Mar-20 | The CVRD identified West Courtney and the Village of Cumberland as the wood smoke hot spot areas. Residents in these areas were offered a generous top-up rebate of \$2500 for exchanging a woodstove to an electric heat pump to promote better air quality as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions. |
| Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC. Agricultural Watershed Planning pilot program - lower Tsolum River watershed agricultural planning | \$35,000 | \$70,000 | Grant supports phase two of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a water budget, identifying ground and surface water volumes and interactions • access environmental flow needs and on-farm storage opportunities • engage with Province in Water Sustainability Planning, and align to guidelines for the establishment of an Agricultural Water Reserve and a Water Sustainability Plan. | Electoral Area 'C' Wolf Lake - Lower Courtenay River/Tsolum River Watershed | 31-Dec-20 | In July 2019, the CVRD was awarded \$35,000 to conduct Phase 2 work. Work has initiated, and will be ongoing throughout the year, with a final Phase 2 report expected by late 2020. Project completion date approved to Dec 31, 2020 |
| UBCM - Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | Grant will support the development of a youth cultural camp in partnership with the Wachaiy Friendship Centre. | Regional | Summer 2020 | Program starts summer 2020 |
| Northern Development Initiative Trust - Hornby and Denman Islands Connectivity Strategy | \$15,000 | \$36,517 | Grant will support securing technical expertise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for accessing digital readiness • for developing a feasible Digital Roadmap • for Business planning and Implementation | Area A Hornby and Denman Islands | 16-Aug-20 | The CVRD received \$15,000 from Northern Development Initiative Trust May 2020 |
| UBCM - Housing Needs Reports Program (Comox Valley Regional Housing Needs Report) | \$105,000 | \$150,000 | Grant will support a regional housing report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create understanding of our Regional Housing Profile • lay groundwork for a Regional Housing Strategy | Regional | TBD | Final presentations are being delivered to each Council and the Board. The April 1st forum was postponed and is being rescheduled. |
| Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy - (Organics Infrastructure Program) OIP | \$908,724 | \$1,364,450 | Grant will support Regional Compost Facility - Increasing capacity: changed estimates in tonnages processed. | Regional | 31-May-21 | Site selection for the facilities has been finalized. Request for proposals is on-going with recommendation of contract award in September 2020. Design planned to be completed by Dec. 31, 2020 and construction by Dec. 31, 2021. |
| Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Restructure Planning Grant UBID | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | Grant supports the assessment of the UBID's current governance and administration of water, fire protection and street lighting services in Union Day. | Area A Baynes Sound | 30-Oct-20 | Project work includes governance review, infrastructure assessment and communications to compare a conversion with continuing as an improvement district. Public engagement expected in summer 2020 |
| BC Hydro - TreeCanada Community Tree Planting Program | \$3,700 | \$10,500 | Grant will support the creation of hedgerow next to the One Spot Trail to screen neighbouring cattle farm operations and create bird habitat | Area C | 30-Sep-20 | Planting is scheduled to start August 2020 |
| UBCM - Poverty Reduction Planning & Action | \$100,000 | \$200,000 | Grant will support the development of a local poverty reduction assessment and strategy that addresses the priority action areas identified in TogetherBC: Housing, families, children and youth, income and social supports. | Regional | 01-May-21 | Grant was approved June 2020. |
| UBCM - CEPF: Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | Grant will support Fire Departments' purchases of new or replacement equipment. | Hornby Island Denman Island Oyster River Fanny Bay | 12-Feb-21 | Grant approved February 2020. Conditions of confidentiality lifted March 7, 2020. |
| 2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program (CRI) Fire smart Community Funding Supports - UBCM | \$43,900 | \$43,900 | Grant will build on the CWPP and support the creation of a formal process for educating communities and neighbourhoods on how to become Fire Smart Communities and Fire Smart Champions. | Regional | TBD | Grant approved January 2020. Conditions of confidentiality lifted Feb 28, 2020. Project is moving forward, adjusting to context of COVID. |
| Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure - BC Active Transportation Infrastructure | \$35,000 | \$50,000 | Grant will support construction of the Gull Road trail, a 2.2 meter wide multi-use gravel trail that will start at St. John's Road and end at Fowler Road on Hornby Island | Area A Hornby Island | 31-Dec-20 | Application Submitted February 2020 |
| Completed Grants | Grant Amount | Costs | Grant Scope/Description | Jurisdiction | Expiry | |
| UBCM - Community Child Care Planning Program | \$75,000 | \$90,000 | Grant supports an independent consultant and focus group activities to develop a Comox Valley Community Child Care Space Inventory and Action Plan. A partnership of Courtenay, Comox and the CVRD. | Regional | 11-Mar-20 | UBCM is reviewing the final report. |

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|---|---------------------|--------------|--|---------------------------|----------------|---|
| JIBC Community Public Safety Award Supported by BC Hydro | \$2,000 | TBD | Grant supports the offering of the EOC Essentials Course | Regional | 31-Mar-20 | Final Report Submitted March 2020. |
| National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) - Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) | \$500,000 | \$516,500 | Grant will support a flood mapping project for the Regional District's coastline, including a portion of the Oyster River floodplain. | Regional | TBD | Final report submitted June 2020 and EMBC is reviewing it. |
| Federation of Canadian Municipalities- Municipal Asset Management Program - Asset Management planning for Water and Wastewater Services | \$50,000 | \$336,060 | Grant supports the development of corporate-wide asset management plans and policies for the implementation of a fully integrated asset management system. Water and wastewater services are a priority, as these services provide water and convey wastewater for approximately 45,000 residents. | Regional | 01-Aug-18 | The final report has advanced to the final stage of approvals. |
| Min. of Community, Sport and Cultural Development- Infrastructure Planning Grant Program - Onsite Sewage System Mandatory Maintenance Program | \$10,000 | TBD | Grant supports a study to evaluate the feasibility of implementing an onsite sewage system and mandatory maintenance program for the electoral areas. | Electoral Areas A, B, & C | 31-Mar-20 | The study is complete and was presented to the EASC at the May 11, 2020 meeting. A claim form was submitted to the Province on March 31, 2020. |
| Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing | \$10,000 | | Grant supports the conversion study of the Graham Lake Improvement District becoming a CVRD service. | Denman Island | TBD | The final report was received in December 2019. GLID is now working with the CVRD on a grant application for upgrades to the water treatment technology, based on the completed conversion study. |
| Canadian Tire Jumpstart Grant | \$7,680 | \$7,680 | Grant supports youth access to recreational programs | Regional | Jan-April 2020 | Program completed March 2020. It was unaffected by COVID |
| Applications Submitted /To be Submitted - No status received to date | Grant Amount | Costs | Grant Scope/Description | Jurisdiction | Expiry | |