

DATE: March 4, 2020

FILE: 1855-01

TO: Chair and Directors
Committee of the Whole

Supported by:

FROM: Russell Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer

R Dyson

RE: Grant status report

Purpose

To provide a quarterly 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 October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) received notification of approval or had the condition of confidentiality lifted for the following grant applications:

- Organics Infrastructure Program - Regional Composting Facility. Grant Amount \$908,724
- BC Lung Association and MOE – Provincial Woodstove Exchange Program \$29,000
- JIBC Community Public Safety Award supported by BC Hydro - Grant \$2,000

The following grant projects were completed during the period:

- Canadian Tire Jumpstart Grant – Various programs \$17,816
- MFLNR – Invasive Species Plant Grant – Year two of three-year grant \$12,500
- Community Re-Greening Program – BC Hydro for Hardy Road/Seal Bay \$4,000
- UBCM – CEPF portable back-up generator \$19,025
- CWWF Design Phase – Water Treatment Plant - \$4,359,990

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

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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 2019-2023 financial plan with the exceptions of the Child Care Planning Grant, which was a recent addition, and the Northern Development Initiative Trust, for which the CVRD is the sponsor of the grant. 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 – December 31, 2019

Appendix A
Local Government Grants - Comox Valley Regional District
Status Report at December 31, 2019

Approved Grants	Grant Amount	Costs	Grant Scope/Description	Jurisdiction	Expiry	Project Status - Dec 31, 2019
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-20	The ALC and the City of Campbell River have approved applications to construct a composting facility within Block J. A RFQ has been posted to BC Bid to select qualified proponents to design and construct the facility. An application has been submitted to NBCF for a grant extension. They are reviewing and a response is expected March 2020.
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 application for an extension of the grant funding has been made to the Ministry. CVRD and SRD staff met with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff in the first quarter of 2020 to discuss potential approaches towards resolving 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	The 90% design has been submitted by AECOM for the WTP in December. Construction is ongoing for the raw water pump station with pile drilling occurring onsite. At the WTP, site clearing, stripping, bulk excavation and pouring mudslabs, and site trailers have occurred.
Infrastructure Planning Grants						
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	A consulting team has been hired and study work is underway. Completion of the study is targeted for early 2020.
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, 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 mid-2020.
Asset Management Grants						
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	1-Aug-18	Final report was submitted in February 2019. Due to the large number of submissions, MAMP advised in early 2020 that they were still reviewing and will notify the CVRD if more information is required.
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 to start in Spring 2020.
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	7-Mar-20	The Wood Smoke Reduction Coordinator participated in community events to promote the Wood Smoke Reduction Program and smart burning techniques. Top-up incentives for cleaner heat sources have been provided to Wood Stove Exchange Program participants. Funding for the various air quality projects has been allocated through the end of 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.

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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	The Strategic Plan and Communications Strategy for the CHN are now completed and available on the CHN website: www.cvchn.ca .Six new membershave been recruited to the leadership team. Projects include: The Glacier View Lodge Affordable Housing Project, developing a Comox Valley Community Drug Strategy, partnering with the Early Years Collaborative to implement the Childcare Action, participating on the City of Courtenay's OCP, partnering with the Social Planning Society to increase collaborations with local governments, participating as a member of the Foundry Advisory Board and working to convene a Seniors Wellness Action Team.
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	Report was presented to the Board on Dec 17, 2019. Final Report and inventory to be forwarded to UBCM, accompanied by completed final report form, prior to March 31, 2020.
BC Ministry of Environment-- Provincial Woodstove Exchange Program	\$35,400	\$84,850	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.
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	CVRD staff is working on identifying hot spot areas to administer top-up incentives to exchange a woodstove to a cleaner energy source (i.e. electric heat pump).
Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC. Agricultural Watershed Planning pilot program - lower Tsolum River watershed agricultural watershed 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
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	Second progress report was submitted in December.
UBCM - Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation	\$10,000	\$10,000	Grant will support the development of a youth cultural camp in partnership with the Wachiyay 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	Application submitted July 11, 2019. Application approved Aug 16, 2019.
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	Phase 2 of project continuing: analyzing and consolidating data, and preparation of a preliminary findings report.
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	Course delivery slated for early March. Final report due March 31, 2020
BC Ministry of Environment-- Provincial Woodstove Exchange Program - BC Lung Association	\$29,000	\$85,150	Grant supports offering rebates to residents who replace old, inefficient, non-CSA/EPA heating units with pellet stoves, gas stoves, and heat pumps. Grants will also support hiring of a contractor to promote the program and educate the public on burn-it-smart techniques.	Regional	Dec-20	Grant approved November 2019. Program to start 2020.
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	TBD	Grant was approved Nov 22, 2019. Conditions of confidentiality lifted in early 2020.

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Completed Grants	Grant Amount	Costs		Jurisdiction	Expiry	
Canadian Tire Jumpstart Grant	\$17,816	\$17,816	Grant supports youth access to recreational programs	Regional	25-Nov-19	Final Report submitted Nov 2019
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations-Administrative Invasive Plant Grant-Coordination & Awareness-Phase 5	\$12,500	12,500	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	Year-two report submitted Jan 2020, and is being reviewed by the Ministry.
Community ReGreening Program - BC Hydro	\$4,000	\$4,000	Grant supports replanting trees in a portion of the Hardy Road parking area as part of the upgrade project at Seal Bay Park.	Baynes Sd Area B & C	31-Oct-19	Final report submitted Oct 2019 and funding received.
UBCM - Community Emergency Preparedness Fund	\$25,000	\$25,000	Grant supports the procurement of a portable diesel generator whose primary use is as an emergency back-up power supply to the regional EOC.	Regional	6-Mar-20	Final report submitted Jan 10, 2020. UBCM has reviewed it and will be issuing reimbursement of all eligible expenditures totalling \$19,024.95
Canada-BC CWWF Funding - Capital Projects Funding - Comox Valley Water Supply Treatment Project	\$4,359,990	TBD	Grant supports the planning, indicative design, and procurement of construction services for a new water supply system: including a new lake intake, pump station, water treatment plant, and conveyance piping for the Comox Valley Regional District.	Regional Water	31-Mar-20	Final claim submitted Nov 2019. Ministry is reviewing the final report
Applications Submitted /To be Submitted - No status received to date	Grant Amount	Costs		Jurisdiction	Expiry	