

**DATE:** March 23, 2021

**FILE:** 1850-20/2021

**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Electoral Areas Services Committee

**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

*R. Dyson*

**RE: 2021 Rural Community Grant Considerations**

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### **Purpose**

To present the Rural Community Grant applications received to date for consideration.

### **Recommendations from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

1. THAT the 2021 Rural Community Grants be awarded for the amounts to the organizations as follows:

Note: Appendix A in the staff report dated March 23, 2021 will be used by the committee to confirm the funding awards for this resolution.

2. THAT the following organizations be approached for consideration of multi-year funding agreements through the Rural Community Grant Program commencing in 2023 for a period of up to four years;
  - Beaufort Watershed Stewards
  - Blazing Paddles Dragon Boat Society
  - Comox Valley Land Trust
  - Comox Valley Project Watershed Society
  - Denman Island Climate Action Network
  - Denman Island Preschool Society - Blackberry Lane Children's Centre
  - Little River Enhancement Society
  - Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards
  - Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society
  - Oyster River Enhancement Society
  - Roy Creek Salmonid Enhancement Society
  - Strathcona Wilderness Institute
  - The Alberni Project Society
  - Tsolum River Restoration Society
  - Youth and Ecological Restoration Program

### **Executive Summary**

- The Comox Valley Regional District completed a review of all its grant funding programs and services in 2020 in an effort to standardize processes, establish more formalized criteria and to ensure increased transparency and clarity to both the public and to any non-profit organizations seeking or receiving funding.
- In August 2020 a rebranding of the now former Grant in Aid program as the Rural Community Grant (RCG) program was approved;

- The program included moving towards election cycle multi-year agreements for some traditionally long-standing grant-in-aid recipients, which is expected to be in place this fall dependent on the recommendations of this report.
- The RCG program was launched in January 2021; any non-profit community organization may apply for funding that benefits the general community.
- Applications to the RCG program will continue to be considered on a year-to-year basis for any organization not supported under the multi-year agreement stream, and therefore ongoing funding support should not be anticipated.
- RCG applicants will receive written notice on the status of their funding request once the Elector Area Directors have met and completed their adjudication and funding allocation.
- Funding awards will be dispersed after August 1, 2021, unless otherwise stipulated.
- Electoral Areas Services Committee members are asked to review the attached listing of submissions and advise of their funding commitment.

Prepared by:

*D. DeMarzo*

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Doug DeMarzo  
General Manager  
of Community Services

Concurrence:

*K. Douville*

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Kevin Douville  
Manager of Financial Planning

Enclosure: Appendix A – 2021 Rural Community Grant Applications

Column	Organization	Purpose	Requesting	Denman Island Paid From Function No. 123	Hornby Island Paid From Function No. 124	Electoral Area A Paid from Function No. 120	Electoral Area B Paid from Function No. 121	Electoral Area C Paid from Function No. 122	Total Funds Granted2	Considerations
1	Anderton Therapeutic Gardens Society	to assist with construction of a children's garden accessibility as well as garden and office/kitchen roof improvements	\$2,000.00						\$0.00	
2	Association for Denman Island Marine Stewards	to assist with a professional media IT contractor to support Website and Facebook management	\$4,000.00						\$0.00	
3	BC Shellfish Growers Society	to assist with hosting two ecosystem forums	\$5,000.00						\$0.00	
4	Beaufort Watershed Stewards	to assist stream monitoring programs for streams in Area A	\$2,000.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
5	Black Creek Old Age Pensioners	to assist with programs supporting seniors and Halbe Hall facility maintenance	\$4,500.00						\$0.00	
6	Blazing Paddles Dragon Boat Society	to assist with supporting members of the Comox Valley Head Injury Society and recreational programs	\$1,500.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
7	Comox Valley Head Injury Society	to assist with added resources for increased program costs including food and supplies	\$1,000.00						\$0.00	
8	Comox Valley Land Trust	to assist with their land protection program, and build local climate resiliency by protecting, restoring and connecting sensitive ecosystems in a watershed approach.	\$10,000.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
9	Comox Valley Pipe Band Society	to assist with equipment and supplies for new and existing band members	\$2,775.00						\$0.00	
10	Comox Valley Project Watershed Society	to assist with outreach and education activities and transition to online platforms; COVID-19 safe delivery	\$3,500.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
11	Comox Youth Climate Council	to assist with lasting youth connections in all aspects of climate change	\$3,000.00						\$0.00	
12	Denman Community Land Trust Association	to assist with rezoning and subdivision application fees to support land purchase for affordable housing	\$14,420.00						\$0.00	Encourage group to continue utilizing their BC housing funding
13	Denman Island Climate Action Network	to assist with promoting climate change mitigation initiatives on Denman Island	\$3,425.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
14	Denman Island Community Education Society	to assist with building a covered recreation space	\$3,000.00						\$0.00	
15	Denman Island Growers and Producers Alliance	to assist with the safe operation (COVID) of the Farmers Market	\$3,000.00						\$0.00	
16	Denman Island Old School Committee - Denman Island Residents Association	to assist with improvements to the Denman Old School facility to support the bat colony in the attic while ensuring continued public safety	\$8,425.00						\$0.00	
17	Denman Island Preschool Society - Blackberry Lane Children's Centre	to assist with affordable childcare spaces and related operating expenses	\$5,000.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
18	Fallen Alders Community Club	to assist with upgrading washrooms	\$15,000.00						\$0.00	
19	Fanny Bay Community Association	to assist with program delivery and operating expenses	5,000.00						0.00	
20	Fanny Bay Seniors Society	to assist with operating and maintenance costs	\$5,000.00						\$0.00	
21	Friends of Strathcona Park	to assist with completing an 18 month study of accesses around and within Strathcona Park	\$10,000.00						\$0.00	
22	Guardians of Mid-Island Estuaries Society	to assist with a Canada Goose egg addling program	\$5,000.00						\$0.00	
23	Hornby Community Radio Society	to assist with building accessibility improvement	\$2,500.00						\$0.00	
24	Hornby Island Arts Council	to assist with transitioning to COVID safe programing (digital presentations)	5,000.00						0.00	
25	Hornby Island Economic Enhancement Corporation	to assist with a down payment for the purchase of a modular building from SD 71	\$15,000.00						\$0.00	Could be a reserve request from HICEEC from service 556
26	Hornby Island Housing Society	to assist with septic system upgrades	\$3,000.00						\$0.00	Encourage group to enter request into BC housing prioritization database

27	Little River Enhancement Society	to assist with rehabilitation of Little River and Scales Creek watersheds	\$10,000.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
28	LUSH Valley Food Action Society	to assist with some costs of coordinating and facilitating the 2021/20 activities of the Comox Valley Food Policy Council	\$24,000.00						\$0.00	CVRD is providing the curling facility free of charge this year
29	Merville Community Association	to assist with insurance costs (requested payment ASAP)	\$12,000.00						\$0.00	
30	Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards	to assist with education, outreach, and habitat enhancement	\$2,500.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
31	Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society	to assist with operating costs for the provision of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation services	\$10,000.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
32	Oyster River Enhancement Society	to assist with hatchery programs, operations and maintenance expenses	\$10,000.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
33	Roy Creek Salmonid Enhancement Society	to assist with building repairs and maintenance to support operations	\$9,000.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
34	Royston Community Club and Recreation Commission	to assist with the continued restoration general building maintenance	\$7,000.00						\$0.00	
35	Saratoga Miracle Beach Residents Association	to assist with mosquito abatement measures within the Saratoga Beach Area as well as supporting operational expenses relating to their mandate as a community society (requested payment ASAP)	\$10,800.00						\$0.00	
36	Strathcona Wilderness Institute	to assist with program delivery and travel expenses for volunteers	\$5,000.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
37	The Alberni Project Society	to assist with historic commemorations	\$2,000.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
38	Tsolum River Restoration Society	to assist with the recovery plan for the Tsolum River	\$10,000.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
39	Youth and Ecological Restoration Program	to assist training at risk youth in ecological inventory techniques within the CVRD area	\$5,000.00						\$0.00	2023 agreement candidate
									\$0.00	
		<b>Total Funds Requested</b>	<b>\$259,345.00</b>							
									\$0.00	
		<b>Total Funds Allocated</b>		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
									\$0.00	
		<b>Total Funds Available (to be confirmed)</b>		\$14,388.00	\$20,686.00	\$38,466.00	\$54,900.00	\$114,459.00	\$242,899.00	
		<b>Total Funds Remaining</b>		\$14,388.00	\$20,686.00	\$38,466.00	\$54,900.00	\$114,459.00		