

DATE: July 7, 2020
TO: Chair and Directors
Electoral Areas Services Committee
FROM: Russell Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer

FILE: 1855-03/Gas Tax

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: Community Works Fund Status Report – June 30, 2020

Purpose

To provide the committee with a Community Works Fund (CWF) status report for the period ending June 30, 2020.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer

This report is presented for information only.

Executive Summary

- The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) CWF program has an uncommitted balance at June 30, 2020 of \$4,366,649.29.
- During the period, the system modifications and water meter installation capital cost of up to \$451,000, for the Black-Creek/Oyster River water service expansion was approved. The approval is subject to the successful petition for service expansion to include properties currently serviced within the Watutco Water System.
- During the period, two “in-camera” motions were approved by the Comox Valley Regional District Board in regards to the re-allocation of previously approved CWF funds to a new project. Details of the project will be made public at a future board of directors meeting. For the purpose of this report and to provide transparency, the applicable allocation breakdowns are shown.
- During the period, the 2020 Community Works Fund payment of \$1,029,891.25, was received. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Government of Canada announced that the transfer of funds would be accelerated for 2020, and one full payment instead of two split payments would be made.
- The 2014 CWF agreement provides for the funds to be spent by 2024 on eligible costs for expanded investment categories which includes bridges, broadband connectivity, public transit, drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, community energy systems, brownfield redevelopment, sport, recreation, cultural and tourism infrastructure, disaster mitigation and capacity building.

Appendix A provides details of the June 30, 2020 Community Works Funds balances, allocated by electoral area, as well as funds expended in 2020 and remaining commitments.

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Background/Current Situation

Community Works Funds, a component of the federal gas tax program, are received semi-annually through UBCM. The current gas tax agreement funding program, effective April 1, 2014, has been streamlined into three programs: the CWF (by allocation), the Strategic Priorities Fund (application-based), and the Greater Vancouver Regional Fund with the goals to achieve three national objectives: productivity and economic growth, a clean environment and strong cities and communities.

Under the CWF agreement, the funds, including interest earned, are to be expended no later than March 31, 2024. The eligible project categories are local roads and bridges including active transportation; 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; recreation infrastructure; cultural infrastructure; tourism infrastructure; disaster mitigation; and capacity building.

The CWF received by the CVRD is allocated to the electoral areas based on population estimates as per board direction and held in a reserve fund as per Bylaw no. 2931. Allocation of funds to electoral areas is calculated based on the 2016 census data which is the most recent.

Policy Analysis

In compliance with the Gas Tax Community Works Fund agreement between the CVRD and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) signed by the CVRD on June 24, 2014, the CVRD is required to work to strengthen asset management during the term of the agreement and the CWF are to be used to pay up to 100 per cent of eligible costs of eligible capital projects or capacity building projects that support the three program benefits: beneficial impacts on communities of completed eligible projects; enhanced impact of gas tax funding as a predictable source of funding including incremental spending; and progress made on improving local government asset management.

The CWF projects are driven by the priorities identified by the CVRD Board. Some are corporate initiatives such as the relocation of the corporate office assets out of the floodplain or various water treatment plants/facilities, while others are operational initiatives such as upgrades or creation of parks and trails.

Options

The CVRD may choose to allocate all or part of the CWF for eligible capital projects or capacity building projects within the electoral areas or alternatively combine funds to undertake sub-regional or regional initiatives. The municipalities receive their own community works funds for their own initiatives.

Financial Factors

At this time, the CVRD CWF has an uncommitted balance of \$4,366,649.29. There are current commitments for projects of \$5,031,353.98

Appendix A shows the CWF allocations based on electoral area population as well as the committed funds.

The current CWF agreement expires 2024, and UBCM has released its projected funding allocations for 2020/21 to the end of 2024 which total \$4,304,581.

Legal Factors

Community Works Funds are provided to the CVRD electoral areas by the federal government under agreement with UBCM. The funds must be spent on eligible projects by eligible recipients and the CVRD is held accountable to UBCM for compliance with the agreement goals and outcomes. If it is determined by UBCM that a project is not eligible under the CWF criteria, alternate funding sources would need to be found.

Regional Growth Strategy Implications

Not relevant.

Intergovernmental Factors

The CVRD is required to file an annual report with UBCM by the June 1 each year. The report provides details about the projects for which CWF were spent in the preceding year and the interest earned and balance of CWF held in reserves. The 2020 report has been submitted as required.

Interdepartmental Involvement

Staff from community services, engineering services and executive management discuss potential projects that may be suitable for funding under the CWF program for presentation to the committee and/or board usually through the financial planning process. These recommendations are brought to the electoral area services committee and board for review and to commit the funds.

Citizen/Public Relations

The CWF agreement contains public relation requirements to assist in informing the public of the funding sources that enabled the new infrastructure projects.

Pending CVRD priorities, CWF may be advanced under agreement to eligible third party organizations for projects that meet the gas tax program outcomes.

Attachments: Appendix A – CVRD – CWF Schedule as at June 30, 2020

Comox Valley Regional District

APPENDIX A

COMMUNITY WORKS FUNDS (Agreement expiry: March 31, 2024)
As at June 30, 2020

	038		030		031		032	
	Total	Area A Denman-Hornby Islands	Area A Baynes Sound	Area B Lazo North	Area B Lazo North	Area C Puntledge - Black Creek	Area C Puntledge - Black Creek	
Balance forward - December 31, 2019	8,409,537.50	515,780.28	2,196,646.77	2,579,529.72	2,579,529.72	3,117,580.73		
2020 Approved funding								
2020 New Funds Receivable	1,029,891.25	97,980.06	226,059.44	318,738.43	318,738.43	387,113.32		
	1,029,891.25	97,980.06	226,059.44	318,738.43	318,738.43	387,113.32		
2020 Funds Available	9,439,428.75	613,760.34	2,422,706.21	2,898,268.15	2,898,268.15	3,504,694.05		
2020 Eligible Expenses to date								
Comox Valley sustainability strategies-implementation phase	-	-	-	-	-	-		
CVRD Corporate Office Relocation	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Denman Isand Ferry Trail	(16.25)	(16.25)	-	-	-	-		
Denman Water - Water Master Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-		
EA Greenway Projects - Area B Community Connections	-	-	-	-	-	-		
EA Greenway Projects - Lazo Road Greenway Development	(290.00)	-	-	(290.00)	(290.00)	-		
EA Playgrounds - Fanny Bay Playground	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Eagles Drive - Beach Stairs and Connector Trail	(13,952.50)	-	-	-	-	(13,952.50)		
In Camera - BOD March 31, 2020/April 7, 2020	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Hornby Island Arts Council (HIAC) - Arts Centre	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Jackson Drive sewer upgrade	-	-	-	-	-	-		
King Coho waste water treatment project	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Lower Lazo watershed drainage assessment	(646.50)	-	-	(646.50)	(646.50)	-		
Morrison Creek Conservation Area	(3,527.61)	-	-	-	-	(3,527.61)		
Nymph Falls Park - Annual Capital Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-		
One Spot trail improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-		
On-site septic management plan	(11,105.00)	(2,776.25)	(2,776.25)	(2,776.25)	(2,776.25)	(2,776.25)		
Rainwater management strategy implementation	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Regional water supply strategy	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Seal Bay Park trail improvements	(5,062.12)	-	-	(5,062.12)	(5,062.12)	-		
Tsolum River Agricultural Watershed Planning	(6,825.51)	-	-	(3,412.75)	(3,412.75)	(3,412.75)		
Total Expenditures at June 30, 2020	(41,425.49)	(2,792.50)	(2,776.25)	(12,187.62)	(12,187.62)	(23,669.11)		
CWF Balance as at June 30, 2020	\$ 9,398,003.27	\$ 610,967.84	\$ 2,419,929.96	\$ 2,886,080.53	\$ 2,886,080.53	\$ 3,481,024.94		
		Area A Denman-Hornby Islands	Area A Baynes Sound	Area B Lazo North	Area B Lazo North	Area C Puntledge - Black Creek		
Commitments								
Comox Valley sustainability strategies-implementation phase	(9,798.55)	-	(3,266.53)	(3,266.51)	(3,266.51)	(3,265.51)		
CVRD Corporate Office Relocation	(1,288,955.60)	-	(429,651.87)	(429,651.87)	(429,651.87)	(429,651.86)		
Denman Isand Ferry Trail	(156,890.55)	(156,890.55)	-	-	-	-		
Denman Water - Water Master Plan	(7,422.30)	(7,422.30)	-	-	-	-		
EA Greenway Projects - Area B Community Connections	(300,000.00)	-	-	(300,000.00)	(300,000.00)	-		
EA Greenway Projects - Lazo Road Greenway Development	(199,710.00)	-	-	(199,710.00)	(199,710.00)	-		
EA Playgrounds - Fanny Bay Playground	(100,000.00)	-	(100,000.00)	-	-	-		
Eagles Drive - Beach Stairs and Connector Trail	-	-	-	-	-	-		
In Camera - BOD March 31, 2020/April 7, 2020	(1,255,264.84)	-	(846,390.59)	(100,000.00)	(100,000.00)	(308,874.25)		
Hornby Island Arts Council (HIAC) - Arts Centre	(175,000.00)	(175,000.00)	-	-	-	-		
Jackson Drive sewer upgrade	(60,223.39)	-	-	(60,223.39)	(60,223.39)	-		
King Coho waste water treatment project	(101,250.00)	-	-	(101,250.00)	(101,250.00)	-		
Lower Lazo watershed drainage assessment	(35,958.62)	-	-	(35,958.62)	(35,958.62)	-		
Morrison Creek Conservation Area	(40,615.37)	-	-	-	-	(40,615.37)		
Nymph Falls Park - Annual Capital Projects	(150,000.00)	-	-	-	-	(150,000.00)		
One Spot trail improvements	(19,219.57)	-	-	-	-	(19,219.57)		
On-site septic management plan	(4,595.06)	(1,148.77)	(1,148.77)	(1,148.77)	(1,148.77)	(1,148.77)		
Rainwater management strategy implementation	(91,806.02)	-	-	(91,806.02)	(91,806.02)	-		
Regional water supply strategy	(81,988.46)	-	-	(40,993.73)	(40,993.73)	(40,994.73)		
Seal Bay Park trail improvements	(473,829.25)	-	-	(473,829.25)	(473,829.25)	-		
Tsolum River Agricultural Watershed Planning	(27,826.40)	-	-	(14,087.25)	(14,087.25)	(13,739.15)		
Watuco Water System - System Modifications and Meter Instal. (Subject to service expansion approval)	(451,000.00)	-	-	-	-	(451,000.00)		
Total Commitments at June 30, 2020	(5,031,353.98)	(340,461.62)	(1,380,457.76)	(1,851,925.40)	(1,851,925.40)	(1,458,509.20)		
Total Uncommitted CWF Available at June 30, 2020	\$ 4,366,649.29	\$ 270,506.23	\$ 1,039,472.21	\$ 1,034,155.13	\$ 1,034,155.13	\$ 2,022,515.74		