

Report

Date January 9, 2024

File:

Subject 2024 Grant-in-Aid – Cowichan Estuary Restoration & Conservation Association

PURPOSE

To review the 2024 Grant-in-Aid application for Cowichan Estuary Restoration & Conservation Association (CERCA) and recommend the amount to be approved.

BACKGROUND

Council's Grant-in-Aid Policy (Attachment 1) invites applications from non-profit societies operating within the Municipality under the categories of tourism, economic development, social/environmental services, sports groups, and arts and culture. The grants can be used for capital, operating or one-off special event purposes.

Applications were received in October and reviewed by the Committee of the Whole on November 7, 2023; however, this application was hand-delivered prior to the October 31, 2023, deadline and was missed by staff in the review and presentation process.

DISCUSSION

Council has currently approved \$246,750 in grants-in-aid for 2024. The current application for CERCA falls under the social/environmental category. They have requested a grant of \$2,900; the application states that their request will cover part of CERCA's 2024 budget shortfall of its Microplastics Project Phase II implementation.

Additionally, staff feel that adding a small dollar amount to the 2024 Grant-in-Aid budget for any requests that may come in throughout 2024 would be prudent. Adding a little extra to the budget line will give Council the ability to grant any requests should they come in and Council so choose to fund them. Staff is recommending an amount of between \$3,500 - \$7,500 as this will have little impact on taxes.

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council:
 - 1) Approve the 2024 Grant-in-Aid application from Cowichan Estuary Restoration & Conservation Association in the amount of *[\$insert amount here]*; and,
 - 2) That *[\$insert amount here]* be added to the 2024 Grant-in-Aid budget.
2. THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council:
 - 1) Deny the 2024 Grant-in-Aid application from Cowichan Estuary Restoration & Conservation Association; and,
 - 2) That no amount be added to the 2024 Grant-in-Aid budget.

IMPLICATIONS

The 2024 budget currently includes \$246,750 for grants-in-aid, which is a 0.05% increase in taxation from 2023. If Council chose to fund CERCA’s application of \$2,900, a 0.01% increase in taxation would be required.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council:

- 1) Approve the 2024 Grant-in-Aid application from Cowichan Estuary Restoration & Conservation Association in the amount of \$[insert amount here]; and,
- 2) That \$[insert amount here] be added to the 2024 Grant-in-Aid budget.

Report prepared by:

Teri Vetter


Teri Vetter
Director, Financial Services

Report reviewed by:



Talitha Soldera
General Manager, Corporate Services

Approved to be forwarded to Council:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- (1) Grant-in-Aid Policy
- (2) Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association (CERCA)